

Special Interest Articles:

- Global Warming.
- A framework for sustainability.
- Building use one half of all energy.

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Screaming Earth News supports a community or regional approach to sustainability in the 21st Century. A regional, renewable and restorative view of reality rooted in economics and ecology.

Community Conversation

COLUMBIA, MO
November 5, 2006

About 30 people held a community conversation for two hours this afternoon at Kevin's World.

After a brief introduction, accompanied by refreshments, the people gathered formed three discussion groups. At the end of these discussions each group presented some of the ideas and

concerns they had discussed.

Two general discussion topics were addressed by each of the groups. The first topic was, "What are your views and understanding about global warming?"; and the second topic was, "What changes in nature have you observed in your own life?".

Comments by people who participated in this

conversation are shown in "quotation marks" in the Screaming Earth News articles below.

Global Warming

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience.

Screaming Earth News is being emailed to the people who participated in the community conversation and others who have expressed interest in regional problem solving.

Global warming was selected as a conversation starter simply because is people do not address this issue promptly, other issues will

become moot.

A necessary goal for society is to better understand the relationships between the economy, energy and global warming.

Our conversation often touched on the 3-part link between these three inter-related issues.

We discussed personal behaviors, including many forms of conservation – light bulbs, water and fuel. This led to regional thinking like creating sustainable regions all

over the state or country.

When individual needs are congruent with the entire community, the "Me vs. We" dynamic is reduced.

Global warming is not going away by itself. The average temperature of this planet will increase by one degree centigrade over the next decade. It is time to act.

For some current news see [this](#).

Agriculture & Food

Sustainable agriculture is good for the economy and health of this region. For example, organic food requires less fossil fuel energy to produce. And organic food is a thriving local enterprise.

“Encourage grocery stores to highlight local foods and food produced in Missouri.”, said one participant in the conversation.

The 100-mile diet is a good way to understand the energy component of what you eat. It is also a great way to have a “pot luck” to have a great meal and a good conversation. See [100 mile diet](#).

Do you know where what you eat comes from?

The Jefferson Institute Educational Farm is now under construction. See www.jeffersoninstitute.org



“Sustainability takes leadership. If not me, who? If not now, when?”

Business & Companies

The Sustainable Business Institute states, “Sustainability is the ability to meet today’s global economic, environmental and social needs without compromising the same opportunity for future generations. Business Sustainability is the opportunity for business to improve its profitability, competitiveness, and market share without compromising resources for future generations.”

Ideas from the first conversation include, “Industry actions make more impact than individual actions, so it only makes sense to discuss sustainability issues with the people you work with.

Support Real goods.

Work with Chamber(s) of Commerce, Business Schools and others to form new green

businesses.”

Create sustainable businesses. See [this](#) and [this](#).

Design & Construction

Building green homes is catching on.

Builders and buyers don’t care about energy consumption (global warming) of homes because the owners move often.

Retrofit existing housing stock to energy efficiency – create jobs

Follow LEED Guidelines. See www.usgbc.org.

Government

Gov-ern-ment - noun

“The political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states; direction of the affairs of a state, community, etc.; political administration:

Government is necessary to the existence of civilized society.”

In order for civilization to continue, human interaction with Mother Earth must be sustainable. There are many issues every region can address.

In Boone County: City-County collaboration in Visioning, and planning of all kinds.

“Visioning must go beyond Columbia – think of a sustainable region.”

Work with both the City and the County – adopt Architecture 2030. www.architecture2030.org

If market forces are not getting it done, policy change can change the math (incentives, credits) e.g. installing a wind machine; installing solar panels.

“There is a big disconnect between knowing the problem and acting on a large scale.”

“Forty-three states have a Renewable Energy Standard – Missouri is not one of them. Does the entire United States have to experience economic catastrophe for change to happen?”

Visioning – please participate. See www.GoColumbiaMo.com



Missouri State Capitol

Sustainable Economics

During the November 5th conversation, Natural Capitalism and Sustainable Capitalism were both recommended reading, as was the work of local thought leader John Ikerd. See: <http://hometown.aol.com/jeikerd/>

Try to understand upstream activities – are they sustainable?

The Power of the Plate
by Leigh Lockhart

Daily worries about The War and environmental

threats can make a girl feel helpless. What can I do? The problems seem so big and I am just one person. But then I remember that every day I CAN make a difference simply by the food choices I make. When I choose locally grown and produced foods I greatly reduce petroleum consumption (so that my lettuce travels 10 miles rather than 1200). When I buy from local farms I support a sustainable system of agriculture that uses fewer chemicals, protects water quality, and

supports humane methods of animal husbandry. And then I don't feel so bad.

The Worldwatch Institute states, “The spread of industrialism in the last two centuries has made life easier and longer for a growing share of humanity. But it is also taking a great toll on the health of the planet. Sustainable economics is about making the global economy sustainable without sacrificing the benefits of industrialism.”

“Daily worries about The War and environmental threats can make a girl feel helpless.”

“Add the 2-E’s (Ecology and Economy) to the 3-R’s from kindergarten to graduate school.”

Education

Include “ecology” and “economy” from K through PhD. Contact the Board of Education.

Read Paul Hawkins, “Ecology of Commerce” Include sustainability leadership studies at MU, Lincoln, Stephens, Columbia College.

A Sustainability Education

Handbook for K-12 is available [here](#).

See the Education 2010 challenge at the Architecture2030 site: www.architecture2030.com

Environment

Several at the Sunday conversation noted working for environment is a social activity. However, being personally virtuous is a small dent in community consumption.

The frequent competition between agriculture, recreation, ecology,

growth or development for land must be addressed with a new win-win strategy. As we broaden the discussion of air pollution = global warming = impaired health, we will generate a sustainable land use strategy.

Develop business and

government partnerships to reduce CO2 emissions in the region.



Population Growth

With a current passenger list numbering 6.5 billion, spaceship Earth has more people than ever. The number of people on the planet has increased at an exponential rate, quadrupling in a little over one hundred years.

The United Nations, and population scientists worldwide, agree that the human population will increase to about nine billion by mid-century.

This means the number of human beings on Mother Earth is growing at the rate of about 6,500 per hour.

The United States expects to grow from 300 million to 400 million by 2050. Some in Missouri are concerned, “They might all move here!” Just kidding; but this net gain of 100 million is 259 per hour.



“Human population is growing at the rate of about 6,500 per hour.”

Columbia Renewable Energy Update

COLUMBIA
November 9, 2006

In 2004, with 78 percent of the vote, the citizens of Columbia, Missouri overwhelmingly approved a plan to require the city to increase its use of renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power, over the next 20 years. The measure will create a "Renewable Energy Standard" for Columbia requiring that the city's municipal utility company obtain 2 percent of its power from renewable energy by 2007, ramping up to 15 percent by 2022.

Columbia's successful ballot initiative makes

Columbia the only city in Missouri with a Renewable Energy Standard.

On November 9, 2006, City Manager Bill Watkins signed the agreement with Associated Electric to purchase the electricity from three wind turbines being erected in Gentry County by John Deere Windpower.

Additional information about Columbia's renewal energy standard is available [here](#).

Columbia officials are planning to use bioreactor technology at the landfill to break down

waste faster, extend the landfill's lifespan, and create gas for a potential LFG power project as part of the Renewable Energy Standard passed by Columbia voters in 2004. The project is expected to cost a total of \$3 million, construction is expected to be completed by mid-2007 with the facility operational by 2008.

Columbia is working with Missouri DNR on issues of adding grass and leaves to the landfill for this project.



Windmill tower being erected at Bluegrass Ridge in Gentry County, Missouri

Energy

Energy management systems at MU offer more efficient heating/cooling than elsewhere in Missouri.

Help Boone Electric and the City of Columbia by installing renewable energy in your home and business.

Show others how energy efficiency and energy conservation saves money and reduces global warming.

Make a carbon footprint for your city, county, and for different buildings you live

or work in. [Here](#) is a carbon footprint Calculator.

Install compact fluorescents bulbs in all fixtures. The Columbia compact fluorescent rebate program is [here](#). This program expires December 31, 2006.

Stop selling incandescent bulbs in Columbia and Boone County.

Work with Columbia and DNR for the biogas plant.

Become an energy independent region –

produce energy here for here.

Pay for energy saving expenses in homes with utility refunds.

Missouri is not included in the list of states with a Renewable Energy Standard: See the [map](#).

"Without renewable energy we have no renewable future."

Screaming Earth News

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E-MAIL:
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NOTE

Both the email and the web site
will be up and running by
December 1, 2006.

Thanks Jake!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ScreamingEarth.org

Notes

Any items that were discussed, but were omitted from this list, please email to npeckham@PWArchitects.com and corrections will be made.

If you would like to volunteer for any specific activity that may improve the sustainability of this

region, please do so. If your idea requires help, let us know and we will work to find others.

This Thanksgiving, give thanks to Mother Earth for all she has done for us.

"Big Canoe" has big plans for Columbia

Big Canoe is a Columbia economic & environmental sustainability organization that is creating a different vision for the places we live, including:

A demonstration center for food production, wildlife

habitat, native plants and outdoor education.

Gardening & conservation educational programs.

Nurturing local sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, appropriate

technology & affordable housing enterprises.

To join us, learn more about us, please contact Bryce Oates at bryce-crispies@yahoo.com or Greg Baka at g_baka2002@yahoo.com

Next Steps

Meeting: 2 pm on Sunday 12-10-06 at the Columbia Public Library.

Agenda: Sustainability Conversation, and a PowerPoint of Architecture 2030.

Participate in the City of Columbia Visioning "Big Meetings" at 6:30 on 11/28 & 11/30. See www.GoColumbiaMo.com

Drive less, Bike more.

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