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SUNRISE

is a member of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada and is a chapter of the American Solar Energy Society.

We are a non-profit formed in 1996, promoting sustainable living practices that lead to a comfortable earth friendly lifestyle.


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Sustainable Community Tour

Sunrise hosted a new type of tour entitled “Northern Nevada Sustainable Community Tour” on May 12th. The purpose of this tour was to demonstrate the types of sustainable practices in place beyond the installation of active solar systems. The tour included the following components:

- A lecture by David Sweetman on the more technical aspects of his large solar and wind installations in Dyer, Nevada,
- A visit to the solar and wind demonstration installations at Sierra Pacific’s Neil Road facility,
- A visit to Mountain View Montessori, where the staff, students, and parents demonstrated the many things they do to make the school more sustainable including solar and wind power, organic gardening, reusable lunch and drink containers, recycling, and composting of food wastes,
- A lunch from a local restaurant that uses many local and organic ingredients,

- A visit to the only Energy Star rated homes in Northern Nevada being built by D.R. Horton homes and enjoying on average 35% less energy usage,

- A visit to Jason Gedes home which includes both solar electric and solar air heating installations.

The tour participants had the option to drive themselves or ride the tour bus to help reduce the energy used for transportation during the tour. Bus riders got to enjoy some great discussions led by new Sunrise member John Toth about the future of sustainability in our area. Regretfully, the tour had few participants. However; as organizer I believe the tour showed a great concept that will generate more participation with some better marketing. I trust we will see many more of our members at this years official Solar Tour and at the next Sustainable Community tour!

Philip Moore, Sunrise Secretary

Sustainable Roundup

Sunrise Sustainable Resources is happy to be a sponsor of the first annual Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Roundup in Minden on August 10-12. This three-day event includes nationally recognized speakers, local experts on green building, renewable energy and sustainable living, and plenty of food and entertainment.

Leading off the impressive panel of speakers will be Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons on Saturday, followed by presidential candidate Bill Richardson and Nevadan State Senators Dina Titus and Ralph Townsend on Sunday. On Friday evening at the Consumer Forum, speakers David Arkin, of Arkin-Tilt Architects, a firm specializing in ecological design, Brad Collins, Executive Director of ASES, Tom Stille, a landscape architect and permicul-

ture expert with Interpretive Gardens and Craig Witt, founder of Full Circle Compost will address energy efficient building, architecture, renewable energy, landscaping, agriculture and home gardening.

Saturday and Sunday will also be busy with five simultaneous tracks of workshops covering a variety of subjects such as ranching/gardening, alternative energy, green building, transportation, community planning, environmental issues and financial issues. As time allows, you can also visit over 50 booths demonstrating many aspects of sustainable living such as green building, energy efficiency, alternative energy, permaculture, finance, and local and/or organic foods.

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What is Sustainability (Part Three)

The Natural Step's Four System Conditions

1. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust.
2. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically subject to increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.
3. In order for a society to be sustainable, nature's functions and diversity are not systematically impoverished by physical displacement, over-harvesting, or other forms of ecosystem manipulation.
4. In a sustainable society, people are not subject to conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.

In the last two newsletters, we have defined sustainability as the serious and elegant framework that it is – it is not a feel-good 'buzzword', but is, with proper reflection, a way to navigate back to alignment with the world around us. We have overwhelmed all of our natural systems, so that they are in danger of being able to function in the way they have for millions of years, having done quite nicely without man's intrusions.

In describing the first of The Natural Step system conditions, it then becomes easier to discern the importance of 'not increasing concentrations of substances produced by society', as they cannot be assimilated back into nature, and are then cumulative in damage as a result. For example, coal-fired power plants emit large amounts of CO₂, use materials extracted from the earth's crust, and are also responsible for the production of undue amounts of mercury, which is toxic all along the food chain, from plankton all the way to us – because it does not dissipate, but builds up throughout. This is truly life threatening on all levels.

The third of the Natural Step conditions refers to all manner of over harvesting: the forests being clear-cut, the oceans being over-fished, minerals being strip-mined, and including man-made things that don't go away. An example would be the seafood restaurant in Miami that stopped serving his most popular dish, swordfish, as the proprietor discovered that he was being supplied with filets from 90 pound fish, only to discover on his own that swordfish do not propagate unless at least 140 pound - a true 'dead-end' as supply chains go.

These are the types of things that people can learn on their own, once they understand what these seemingly simple conditions actually mean to their world. The simplicity of The Natural Step (to Sustainability) system conditions transcends culture, geography, language, and politics. They lead only to understanding and self-guidance. These conditions form an accurate gauge: that once a person orients their true scientific

meaning, they can then decide for themselves the correctness of a particular policy or initiative, regardless of the bias or "spin" that may go along with its' introduction.

The fourth and last is about human equity: The well-known author Paul Hawken thought that this one really ought to be the first, as sustainability is essentially about human behavior and its' impacts.

The importance of learning these principles for each of us is that if we are to forestall "systematically undermining our future capacity to meet our needs", then the 'other guy' (for some, we are the other guy) will have to learn them too . . . and live by them as well. We don't really have a choice to do otherwise, as we have already done for so long. Without considering human equity and justice, the other system conditions will continue to be violated – this is why Paul Hawken thought this to be the most important one of all. . .

We would encourage all of you to discuss with us the true meaning of sustainability to our lives, as most other current movements are in fact "subsets": global warming, green building, local and slow food movements, smart growth, waste management, the elimination of toxicities, etc. The better we understand, the more secure the solution, and the quicker we get back on track.

It's all about opening up those funnel walls to encourage a more beautiful and spiritual reverence for where we live, and how we live there. It's all about realizing our true human potential, versus being programmed in ways detrimental to all of life.

As William McDonough put it, we need "to care about all children of all species for all time"

Or, as Rachel Carson put it, "We can no longer afford to alienate the source of our power"

This is the true mandate for learning sustainability . . . life depends on it.

Garry Bowen, Principal, Markettexture, Member AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team

Quick and Easy Ways to Save Energy

People often assume that replacing their existing double pane, aluminum-frame windows will solve their comfort and home efficiency problems. Good windows do contribute to occupant comfort by preventing heat loss through radiation. However, because windows are so expensive they have a long pay back period in terms of energy savings. Unless the windows are poorly installed and leaky around the frames, it often isn't cost effective to upgrade them.

There are a number of measures that can and should be taken before deciding to make the very considerable investment in new windows.

First, consider how air moves. We live in a climate in which we spend more money to heat our homes than to cool them. Hot air rises. If there are holes in the ceiling, air will move through them causing cold air to be drawn in from lower level cracks and holes such as around doors and windows and even from the crawl space.

Go into your attic (I know nobody likes that part). Check around pipe and wire

penetrations and around your attic fans and chimneys. Chances are, you'll find plenty of gaps and holes that you can fill with expandable foam or caulk to seal your living space from the attic and stop that air loss. Fireplace chimneys can be especially troublesome. You have to make certain that the materials you use around them are fire rated, If you have a large hole around your chimney, use a cement product like Duraboard to form the attic floor and seal with fire rated caulk. Finally, check out your ceiling. Recessed lights can cost from \$5 to \$30 in energy loss. Standard recessed lights can be refitted with an air tight trim available from your local home improvement store. "Eyeball" type recessed lights and non-standard sized recessed lights will have to be changed, or an air-tight box built over them at the attic floor which then can be insulated.

Since you're already a mess from crawling around your attic, check out the crawlspace, too. You'll find plenty of holes in your floor to repair so you isolate your living space from the nasties that hang out down below.

Mary Winston, Home Performance Professional, Energy Masters, (775) 250-9796.

The Department of Energy estimates that in the average home, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.

New York Times, June 14, 2007

The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 to 30% per year, and the home is generally much more comfortable afterward.

US Department of Energy, A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

(continued from page 1) Sustainable Roundup

The whole family will be able to enjoy the day, with other activities going on both days including a Sunshine Tent for kids, a juried art show, movies such as "Inconvenient Truth" and Who Killed the Electric Car?" Stop by the silent auction and bid on some goods and services related to sustainable living. There will be music playing on a main

stage with plenty of food to enjoy throughout the day.

The "Roundup" is a great opportunity to learn about sustainable living and renewable energy while having a great time. Most of the events are free! See www.CVSustainables.org for more information. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Events

July 5, 2007, 6:30 PM

Sunrise BOD Meeting

August 11-12, 2007

Sustainable Roundup – Minden, NV

October 6, 2007

Northern Nevada Solar Tour – More details to follow

The 11th annual National Solar Tour held on October 7, 2006 and throughout the autumn months was a tremendous success.

- 88,300 attendees
- 3,700 buildings
- 2,100 communities
- 44 states plus Washington D.C.

American Solar Energy Society

GreenUp... *helps chart a path for a Sustainable Community...Verde Arriba!*

GreenUp!
GreenUpDays.org

In November, 2006, a Committee composed of volunteer-members from the Cities of Reno and Sparks and surrounding areas of Washoe County, UNR Academy for the Environment, Desert Research Institute, the University and Community College System in Nevada, Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), Nevada Office of Energy, Sierra Pacific Power Company, local businesses, local non-profits, and many others who care about the quality of life we leave for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren came up with the concept of "GreenUp!"

The mission for 2007 was to help identify, co-ordinate, communicate and support events and programs for sustainability in our "bioregion" in April and May around Earth Day. By the end of March, over 130 events were identified including the Sunrise Community Solar Home tour of May 12! Intentions for greenUP! are to support existing organizations, such as Sunrise Sustainable Resources Group, Nevada EcoNet, and others, and help increase awareness of sustainability issues and opportunities in northern Nevada, Truckee the Lake Tahoe Basin & Watershed by encouraging the adoption of sustainable living and sustainable business and development practices.

Objectives of the project are:

- To help expand awareness and understanding of sustainability issues, initiatives and actions;
- To help motivate individuals, businesses, government and nonprofit organizations to encourage and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable environment; and
- To collaborate with community organizations to increase community awareness of sustainability issues and help coordinate outreach efforts.

"Organic Uncorked", a successful and well attended wine and beer tasting with hors d'ouvres made by local chefs from local foods (with local servers including our very own Philip Moore!), officially kicked off greenUP! 2007 at Moana Nursery. City of Reno conducted a Green Summit on April 19 and Reno City Council has since adopted recommendations. On April 22, the celebratory and party aspects of "Earth Day", were complemented by how to improve home, business and transportation as the theme for exhibits in the California Building which included an exhibit by Sunrise. This past Memorial Day Weekend included a Regional Green Building Symposium in conjunction with the Truckee Home & Building Show. Protecting Place: A Scenic Conservation Symposium, May 30-31, in Stateline, concluded the official events listed for this year.

Support from generous sponsors enabled announcements and articles in the media, hosting of a website, production of the greenUP! Poster and flyer which listed events known as of the middle of March. An updated calendar was maintained and will continue to be maintained on the website www.greenUPdays.org. The primary objective for greenUP! has been to help shift community consciousness about environmental issues and sustainable practices. And, it appears this objective has been met.

Organizations in Lake Tahoe Basin, Truckee, and Northern Nevada have communicated their acknowledgement that greenUP! has been helpful in shifting attention to "community" and "region".

greenUP! plans to be back, next year, with another published flyer listing events in April-May 2008. In the meantime, intention is for calendar of events to be maintained on the website.

John Toth, Green Capital Network

Bioregion

A large area of land or water that contains a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities that

- (a) share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics;
- (b) share similar environmental conditions, and;
- (c) interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence.

--World Wildlife Fund

Call for Submissions: We want to hear from you. Deadline for the next issue is *August 22, 2007*. Please keep length of articles to 300-500 words and send to Philip_Moore@charter.net. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.