

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **November 2007**. It is going out to over **1,385 people**. If you do not want to receive this once-a-month email in the future, **simply hit "reply" and ask to be removed**.

Please also remember that if you prefer not to read this announcement in email form, you can always access it on the web at www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/.

We also have a YahooGroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 230 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our homepage, www.simplicity-matters.org.

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities. You can subscribe to this group by emailing greencitybaltimore-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

This announcement is organized into **six sections**:

- Community Event Summary
- Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- December Preview
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Highlighted this month are many "Step It Up" events throughout the state on November 3rd, and five "Town Hall Meetings" on Nov 6, 7, 12, 12, & 15th at locations convenient to you.

Don't forget to scroll down all the way to the bottom of this announcement, to learn how to Fight Global Warming, Stop Sprawl, Save the Bay and Invest in Transit? Help Kill the Intercounty Connector!

Thanks to this month's editor, **Betty Wells**.

COMMUNITY EVENT SUMMARY

Please scroll down for to the "Community Events" section for detailed information about the following:

- Thurs, Nov 1, 7 PM, Arlington, VA. Climate Change Forum,
- Thurs, Nov 1, Howard County Coalition for the Environment
- Thurs, Nov 1, The Current (Solid) State of LED Lighting
- Thurs Nov 1, Vegetable Garden benefit day for Compassion Over Killing
- Nov 2-5, Power Shift Conference, Univ of MD, College Park
- Sat, Nov 3, Step It Up events across Maryland**
- Sat Nov 3, STEP IT UP RALLY, Howard County**
- Sat Nov 3, Town Hall Meeting College at Park City Hall**
- Sat Nov 3, Vegan Feed-In, Silver Spring, Md
- Sat Nov 3, 1st Saturday Vegan Potluck, Ellicott City, MD
- Sat Nov 3, Sierra Hike, Patapsco - Rockburn Branch
- Sat-Sun Nov 3-4, Sierra Hike Big Schloss Backpack, GWNF, VA

Sun, Nov 4 Permaculture Study Group, Takoma Park, MD

Sun, Nov 4 Halloween Wheel of the Year Service, Bethesda.

Tues, Nov 6 Town Hall Meeting Catonsville Public Library, Catonsville, MD

Wed, Nov 7 Town Hall Meeting at Greenbelt Elementary School, Greenbelt, MD

Wed, Nov 7 Mindful Walk - Timeless Wisdom: Nature as Teacher, Roosevelt Island, DC

Wed, Nov 7 Town Hall Meeting to Support the Maryland Global Warming Initiative, Greenbelt

Fri, Nov 9 Chesapeake Conservation Landscapes Council Annual Conference, Annandale, VA

Sat, Nov 10 Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Patapsco State Park.

Sat, Nov 10 Easy four-mile circuit hike in the Prettyboy Watershed, Baltimore, MD

Nov 10-11 Women's Eco-Journey Retreat, Paris, VA.

Sun, Nov 11, "Live Consciously; Buy Wisely; Make a Difference", Bethesda, MD [see Second Sunday Forum below]

Mon, Nov 12 Town Hall Meeting at Goucher College, Towson, MD.

Mon, Nov 12 Town Hall Meeting at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's City

Tue, Nov 13 Neighbors of Northwest Branch Meeting, White Oak Library, Silver Spring, MD

Wed, Nov 14 Stream Protection and Runoff Solutions, Howard County

Thurs, Nov 15 Home Performance in Maryland, Baltimore, MD

Thurs, Nov 15 Town Hall Meeting at Henry G. Ferguson Elementary School, Accokeek, MD

Sat Nov 16, Java Green benefit day for Compassion Over Killing, Washington DC.

Fri Nov 16, Audubon Naturalist Society Annual Auction and Reception, Chevy Chase, MD.

Sat Nov 17, IS SENIOR COHOUSING FOR YOU?

Sat, Nov 17, Second Annual Sierra Club Hike & Vegan Luncheon, Bethesda, MD.

Sat, Nov 17, Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Patapsco State Park.

Sun 11/25, 12/09 & 12/16, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, Towson, MD

Sun, Nov 25, Baltimore Green Forum, Towson, MD [see Second Sunday Forum, below]

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, November 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Live Consciously; Buy Wisely; Make a Difference

A presentation by Hanaa Rifaey, Senior Field Manager for the Center for a New American Dream

Tired of the work-and-spend treadmill dictating where you are going, or how fast you get there? What do you dream about? More time? A cleaner environment? Justice? More fun? Join us for another lively discussion, this time about the terrific resources available through the Center for a New American Dream, a widely respected national organization based right here in Takoma Park.

Where: in a private home in Bethesda, within walking distance of the Medical Center metro (Red Line), close to I-495 and Wisconsin Avenue.

To RSVP (required): Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail marneyb@earthlink.net. Please include your phone number in your message.

NEXT MONTH's TOPIC: Fair Trade with Jacquie DeCarlo

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, November 25, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Topic: TBA

MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson

<http://www.mpchurch.org/directions.htm>

For those of you who find it too far away to drive to our Second Sunday Forum in Bethesda, SMEI is trying a similar concept in Baltimore.

Our committee is hard at work to take your list of suggested monthly topics and plan an engaging afternoon the last Sunday of each month.

This month's topic is still TBA. Check back on the SMEI homepage in a few days for updated info, www.simplicity-matters.org

The Baltimore Green Forum is co-sponsored by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Green City Baltimore, Hooked on Nature, and Network of Spiritual Progressives. Literature will be available about numerous "green" Baltimore organizations.

For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact Diane, baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com or 410-965-7740

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

Please note the following abbreviations: "Voluntary Simplicity" (VS), "Choices for Sustainable Living" (CSL), "Discovering a Sense of Place" (DSOP), "Exploring Deep Ecology" (EDE), "Healthy Children-Healthy Planet (HCHP), "Globalization and Its Critics" (GiC), "Global Warming: Changing CO₂urse" (CO2), "Your Money or Your Life" (YMOYL), "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce (LBP), and "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon (LCD)

For a list of **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/text-based/nwei_7_guides.pdf

As the colder months arrive, many circles are forming. Please check frequently at www.simplicity-matters.org/join_a_circle.htm to see what is available. (If you are starting your own circle and would like to have your blurb posted on that page, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org)

We started SEVEN circles last winter . . . NINE circles last spring . . . ONE circle this summer . . .and NINE circles so far this fall:

- Middletown, MD (EDE)
- Paint Branch UU Church, Adelphia (VS, Sunday Group)
- Paint Branch UU Church, Adelphia (VS, Tuesday Group)
- Town Center, Columbia (CO2)
- Network of Spiritual Progressives, Roland Park/Baltimore (CO2)
- Light Street Presbyterian/Holy Cross Catholic Community, South Baltimore (VS)
- League of Women Voters of Howard County (LCD)
- Pikesville (private home) (CO2)
- UU Church of Columbia (CO2)

Here's two more circles, slated to begin later this fall (email Lore, SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com for details):

Temple Isaiah, Kol Hanashim, Columbia, MD(CO2) Intro is Wednesday, Nov 7th

The Well, Ellicott City. (CO2) Intro is Sunday, Dec 9th

New CO2 Course, starting in a neighborhood near you!

NWEI newest Discussion Guide, "**Global Warming: Changing CO₂urser**". Detailed info is available at http://www.simplicity-matters.org/self-starters/co2_2sided_0207.pdf . We have already piloted this 4-session guide in 5 neighborhoods. We are now planning to start more CO2 circles throughout the state. If you want to be notified when a circle is starting, email Lore at SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com .

Summer circle launches "Climate Change Initiative of Howard County"

Twelve people participated this summer in a four week CO2 circle, followed by a four week LCD circle. They have now launched a grassroots initiative in Howard County. Fifteen volunteers have been trained. Keep your eyes out for 10-12 new circles starting this fall/spring. This initiative has been endorsed by the Howard County Commission on the Environment & Sustainability.

The following groups are hoping to get started soon, details forthcoming :

Baltimore "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com

Rockville/Bethesda "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal, SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com

Silver Spring/Takoma Park "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal (and Sam Williams), SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com

NW DC "Matchmaker" (Topic: TBD) CS: Lore Rosenthal (and Cody Donahue) SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com

Carbon Neutrality Project, Greenbelt (LCD) CS: Steve Kane sr.kane@verizon.net

DC Sierra Club Topic: tbd CS: Lyndsay Moseley

Foundry Methodist Church, DC CO2 CS: Lucian Caspar, TC Morrow

St. Columba's Episcopal, Tenleytown CO2 CS: John Wickham

River Road UU Congregation, Bethesda CO2 CS: Jim Fremont, Suzanne Clarke

Cedar Lane UU Congregation, Bethesda Topic: Barbara Kingsolver's new book CS: Mary Somers

UU Congregation of Bowie CO2 CS: Ken Shilling

UU Congregation of Silver Spring "tbd" CS: Bob Geiger

UU Congregation of Annapolis, Green Sanctuary Committee CO2 CS: Debbie Cole debcole.email@yahoo.com

Towson UU Congregation CO2 CS: Michelle Collins

UU Congregation of Frederick CO2 CS: Marney Bruce

Westminster, MD Topic: tbd CS: Carole Flood

Hagerstown VS or CSL. CS: Danielle Conger

Bethesda (regroup) VS CS: Kelly Diamond

Silver Spring (regroup) "tbd" CS: Kelly Diamond, Ray Battestelli

College Park (regroup) VS. CS: Suchitra Balachadran

MD Presbyterian Church (regroup) LCD CS: Peggy Perry

Goddard Space Flight Center (regroup) Topic: TBD CS: Theresa Held

First Unitarian of Baltimore, downtown area (CO2) Contact Peggy, 410-235-0660 or pstubbs2@verizon.net (2008)

Seekers Church, Takoma Park VS CS: Ruth Alice White (2008)

Deer Creek Friends Meeting, Harford County VS CS: Jill Sostrin (2008)

Parkton HCHP CS: Rich Louis (2008)

McCormick Spice Company CSL CS: Jeff Blankman (2008)

Sign Language Circle VS (discussion of "Voluntary Simplicity", in American Sign Language) CS: Roberta Merrill, location: TBD

Lore's "Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This fall, Lore will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, she will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, she will "match" people into home-based groups. Current "matchmaker" neighborhoods include:

Baltimore/ Columbia/ Greenbelt/ Takoma Park/ Silver Spring/ Rockville/ Bethesda/ Germantown/ NW-DC

NOTE: If a circle does not seem to be starting in your area quite as fast as you had hoped, perhaps you want to email Lore and offer her some assistance? She would be happy to give you a small task to lighten her load and ensure that the circle you want will come together.

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Frequently Asked Questions page, www.simplicity-matters.org/faq.htm, or email Lore at SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Climate Change Forum, Thurs, Nov 1, 7 PM, Arlington, VA. At the Community Climate Change Forum our Conservancy experts will provide an overview and share how we are working to reduce future impacts on our lands and waters and improve the resilience of plants, animals, and natural communities to warmer temperatures. The Nature Conservancy's Worldwide Office 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA across the street from the Ballston metro station (orange line) RSVP to Kristin Bramell at 301-897-8570 or kbramell@tnc.org

Howard County Coalition for the Environment, Thurs, Nov 1, 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting (first Thursday of each month) to support environmental initiatives in Howard County. This month we will brainstorm the beginnings of a county environmental website. At the Ho. Co Dept of Rec & Parks headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia, MD, 21046 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hccenvironment/>

The Current (Solid) State of LED Lighting, Thurs, Nov 1, 7 pm to 9 pm, Jessup:

This class will discuss current LED technologies (the good, the bad, and the expensive) and applications for residential and commercial uses. What is LED lighting? What are the potential impacts of implementing LED lighting solutions for residential and commercial applications, advantages, and disadvantages? \$23-Green Building Institute member; \$32-non-member; \$71-individual membership and class. For more information and registration, <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>. The Green Building Institute, 7761 Waterloo Rd, Jessup, MD

Vegetable Garden benefit day for Compassion Over Killing, Thurs Nov. 1, 11:30am to 10:00pm,

Rockville, Md. Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other advocates at the Vegetable Garden, located at 11618 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Md. (directly across from the White Flint Metro station on the red line). Compassion Over Killing, info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. www.COK.net For directions, visit <http://thevegetablegarden.com/>.

Power Shift 2007, Nov 2-5, University of MD, College Park

This fall, youth from across the country will convene in Washington, DC to change the climate on global warming in the United States. Together, we will create a shift in the fight for a clean and just energy future. <http://powershift07.org/>

Step It Up events, Sat, Nov 3 across Maryland to raise visibility and urge action regarding global warming are listed on the Step It Up web site: <http://events.stepitup2007.org/november/events/search/state/MD>

STEP IT UP RALLY, Sat Nov 3, 1:00-3:00pm at HCRP 7120 Oakland Mills, Rd., for directions, follow the link below. 80% reduction of CO2 emissions by 2050. Liz Bobo will talk about MD Commission on Climate Change and upcoming legislation. Joshua Feldmark will talk about the HoCo Commission on Environment and Sustainability and HoCo plans. Individuals and representatives from local HoCo organizations will be invited to "throw their hat into the ring". <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/> Email Lee Walker Oxenham at lwoxenham@verizon.net with questions or to RSVP.

Town Hall Meeting College at Park City Hall, Sat, Nov 3 11:00 am to 12:15 pm Council Chambers, 4500 Knox Road.: Email Yasmin with questions or to RSVP at ytermehz@umd.edu Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free.

Vegan Feed-In, Sat Nov 3, 12:30 to 1:30pm, Silver Spring, Md. What better way to encourage people to explore vegetarian eating than offering free samples of delicious animal-friendly fare? Volunteers needed for event, which is located at the Silver Spring Artists and Farmers Market on Ellsworth Dr. in Silver Spring (between Fenton and Cedar Sts.) Compassion Over Killing, Noelle Callahan, info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. www.COK.net

1st Saturday Vegan Potluck, Sat Nov 3, 6:30-8:30 PM, Ellicott City, MD For the vegan or just curious. Share great food and camaraderie. Bring a vegan dish to serve the number in your party plus 6 (store bought is OK) with ingredient list. Bring re-usable table service too, if possible. Contact bsorak@juno.com for more info.

Sierra Hike, Sat Nov 3, 10am, Patapsco - Rockburn Branch. Moderate 7-8 mile hike with several stream crossings, following the Patapsco River on the Valley View Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 10:00 in Rockburn Branch Park, the entrance off Landing Road one mile north of Montgomery Road; park in the lot at the end of the road under the power lines. Call James Perschy, 410-964-1902, jmatp@starpower.net.

Sierra Hike Big Schloss Backpack, Sat-Sun Nov 3-4, GWNF, VA. Moderate 12 mile backpack, suitable for novices who are experienced hikers. The hardest part is a 1400-foot climb over 4 miles on the first day. The short out and back to the primary vista will be packless. Register with Mike Juskelis, 410-439-4964, mjuskelis@cablespeed.com.

Permaculture Study Group, Sun, Nov 4, 3 - 5 PM, Takoma Park, MD. At this first monthly meeting we will discuss the patterns of Nature, create designs and implement them in small scale projects in various local habitats. For further information, contact Carol Iverson at iverson201@aol.com. 8221 Garland Avenue #603, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Hallowmas Wheel of the Year Service, Sun Nov 4, 5 pm, Bethesda. We will mark the transformation of life to death—the end of the agricultural year—by honoring deceased loved ones (two-legged, four-legged, etc.). River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation's (new name) Fireside Room, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 All over age 10 are welcome. Please, bring your own cup and some refreshment to share. For more information, contact Helen Popenoe 301/229-0549.

Town Hall Meeting Catonsville Public Library, Tues, Nov 6, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Catonsville, MD. Email Alan Cohen with questions or to RSVP at baseballlover0623@yahoo.com Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free. 1100 Frederick Rd, (410.887.0951)

Town Hall Meeting at Greenbelt Elementary School, Wed, Nov 7, 7:00 p.m, Greenbelt, MD. Details at <http://www.greenbeltclimateaction.org/> Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free. 66 Ridge Road Greenbelt, MD.

Mindful Walk - Timeless Wisdom: Nature as Teacher, Wed Nov 7, 10-noon, Roosevelt Island, DC. \$20, Register by 11/6 at www.NatureLeadership.org or Beverly Winterscheid at 703-795-7302 As we prepare for Winter, our thoughts naturally turn to pulling within, insuring that each of us has what we need to sustain ourselves through the darker, colder months ahead. What lessons do the forests, rocks and rivers, our "natural elders" have to teach us for the season ahead? Our emphasis will be on techniques to slow down and receive Nature's guidance, focusing on ways to deepen our connection to the natural world. We'll begin with a brief conversation on Nature's role in your personal growth and conclude with a wisdom circle sharing our experience.

Town Hall Meeting to Support the Maryland Global Warming Initiative, Wed Nov 7, 7 - 9 PM, Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD. Chris Barnet, a Greenbelt resident and atmospheric scientist will present a slide show entitled "Understand Global Warming: Where Does it Come From? What Can You Do?" Other local climate change scientists will comprise a panel of experts to answer your questions." Free. Website: <http://greenbeltclimateaction.org> Contact Steve Kane at 301-437-8814

Chesapeake Conservation Landscapes Council Annual Conference: Turning A New Leaf, Fri, Nov 9, 8 am to 4 pm: Conference is designed for professionals from landscaping, horticulture, architecture, natural resources, watershed planning, and related fields. Ernst Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, VA. Early registration of \$95 ends October 15 (\$105 after Oct.15). Includes continental breakfast and lunch. Sponsorships available. For more information, visit www.chesapeakelandscape.org or contact conference coordinator Jane Cooke at jc.cooke.cclc@gmail.com or 410-634-2847, ext. 41.

Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Sat, Nov 10, 9 am - 12 pm. Tree planting along Grist Mill Trail in Patapsco State Park. Families welcome. www.patapscoheritagegreenway for details.

Easy four-mile circuit hike in the Prettyboy Watershed, Sat, Nov 10, 1 pm: Meet members of the Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and Sierra Club at trailhead on Traceys Store Rd. From I-83 take Mt. Carmel Rd. west 3.6 mi. to Prettyboy Dam Rd. and turn right. After 1 mile turn left onto Traceys Store Rd. Continue 1.1 mi. to parking lot at a bend in the road. Bring food and water. For details, call Alan at 443-212-5082 or email f-pencze@mail.vjc.edu.

Women's Eco-Journey Retreat Nov 10-11, 2007 (10 am Sat – 5 pm Sun) Paris, VA.

Adventure Links: - Atop the Blue Ridge Mountains Age: 25 and beyond Cost: \$260 (Includes lodging in a mountain teepee, meals and supplies) This is a weekend dedicated to celebrating women and community through reflective group and solo activities, nature based art experiences, eco-identity, cooking together (gourmet, organic and local meals), ropes course elements (low and high) and a focus on the grounding and visioning gifts of Fall. For more information see http://www.adventurelinks.net/womens_retreat.htm or email Joanna at jcornell@natureleadership.org.

Town Hall Meeting at Goucher College, Mon, Nov 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Towson, MD. Details at <http://www.marylandconservation.org> Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free. Merrick Lecture Hall,

Town Hall Meeting at St. Mary's College, Mon, Nov 12, 8pm Details at <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/> Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free. St. Mary's City

Neighbors of Northwest Branch Meeting Tue, Nov 13, 7:30pm, White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, just north of the interchange with US 29 (Colesville Rd.). Featured will be Don and Donna Collins: "Grow Golf on a Green Sligo." This concerns proposed changes for the Sligo Golf Course. All are welcome at no charge. For more information call 301-946-5599 or visit www.neighborsnwb.org.

Stream Protection and Runoff Solutions, Wed Nov 14, 7:30 pm at HCRP, for directions, follow the link below. Presentation on stormwater management. For more information, call Kim at 410-379-1075 or Lee at 410-313-8826. <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/>

Home Performance in Maryland, Thurs, Nov 15, 7 pm to 9 pm, Baltimore: Learn the most common, easily fixed home-energy leaks; how to improve energy efficiency; home energy investments that yield the biggest return; energy improvements and home renovations; windows, HVAC or solar installations. \$29-Green Building Institute member; \$37-non-member (before October 30, 2007); \$43-non-member (on or after October 31, 2007); \$74-individual membership and class. Satellite Location: ETC Conference Room 1101 E 33rd St Baltimore, MD <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>

Town Hall Meeting at Henry G. Ferguson Elementary School, Thurs, Nov 15, 7pm, Accokeek, MD. Email RSVPs and questions to Kelly Canavan at planesawdust@hotmail.com Presentations by local officials, environmental leaders, and scientists, about global warming and what we can do about it. Free.

Java Green benefit day for Compassion Over Killing, Sat Nov 16, 11:00am to 6:00pm DC. Enjoy delicious animal-friendly fare and help COK help animals at the same time—join us at Java Green (1020 19th St. in NW, DC—near the Farragut North Metro station on the red line). A portion of the day's proceeds will support COK's work to promote vegetarian eating. Compassion Over Killing, info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. www.COK.net For directions, visit <http://www.javagreen.net/>

Audubon Naturalist Society Annual Auction and Reception, Fri Nov 16, 6 - 9 PM, Chevy Chase, MD. Admission to this festive at Woodend Sanctuary, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, catered, pre-holiday event is \$35 per person. For more information contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x 35 or ltrilling@audubonnaturalist.org

IS SENIOR COHOUSING FOR YOU? Sat Nov 17, 1-3 p.m. Final orientation session for 2007, Sponsored by Mid Atlantic Cohousing. FREE but must register. The event is held very close to a metro stop. Come learn about this sustainable and green way to live in community. Call or email Ann: 202 291 7892 zabaldo@earthlink.net

Second Annual Sierra Club Hike & Vegan Luncheon, Sat, Nov 17 8AM, Bethesda, MD. Moderately paced 8 mi hike. To carpool, meet in Bethesda at Westfield Montgomery Mall, in parking area fronting on Democracy Blvd. under deck near Macy's. Call if carless or for directions to trailhead: Paul Elliott, 703/256-6351, and Helen Epps, 202/363-1278 (leave message). For details see: <http://www.animalsanctuary.org/events/index.html>)
8 AM Hike, Noon Luncheon (If you don't want to participate in the hike, you can meet at the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary Potomac at noon. Sanctuary's annual "Thanksgiving with the Turkeys" vegan (no meat, dairy or eggs) potluck (for details and to RSVP, visit www.animalsanctuary.org).

Friends of the Patapsco Valley and Heritage Greenway, Sat, Nov 17, 9 am - 12 pm. Stream cleanup in Patapsco State Park. Families welcome. www.patapscoheritagegreenway for details.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. A three session course taking place on Sundays: 11/25/07, 12/09/07 and 12/16/07 at Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7601 York Rd. in Towson, MD. All sessions run 9:30-10:30am. First session to be "Inconvenient Truth" style slide show by Climate Project grad. Second Session to focus on voluntary actions. Third session dedicated to legislative change - confirmed speakers include US and MD state legislators. Free of charge. Call Chris Dawson to register: (410) 825-1725). See BCAN community calendar for link to flier with more info: <http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/61.html#november>

Looking ahead to December and beyond...

Go Green, \$ave Green, Sat, Dec 1, 8:45 a.m. – Noon, Jessup: Learn steps to reduce energy costs, conservation methods, using natural resources on your site, improving indoor air quality, taking action in your own homes and lives, community resources and contacts, and decreasing the environmental burden on the local environment. Howard County (Maryland) residents who earn less than \$50K for families and \$30K for individuals are welcome to register. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>. The Green Building Institute, 7761 Waterloo Rd., Jessup, MD.

Indoor Air Quality, Saturday, December 8, 2007, 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Learn about the many benefits of learning and incorporating green products & techniques. For more information and to register, go to <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>. The Green Building Institute, 7761 Waterloo Rd., Jessup, MD.

Sierra Hike Patuxent Branch Trail, Sat Dec 1 9am, Columbia. Easy 7 mile "sneaker hike" on paved trails along the Little Patuxent River, around Lake Elkhorn, and return before lunch. Look for wintering waterfowl on the lake. Meet at 9:00 at the trailhead parking lot, across from 9175 Guilford Rd, Columbia. Call Sue Muller, 301-498-8462, sonicsue@verizon.net. <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/hc/outings.html>

Howard County Coalition for the Environment, Thurs, Dec 3 at 7:30 pm - Monthly meeting (first Thursday of each month) to support environmental initiatives in Howard County. At the Ho. Co Dept of Rec & Parks headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia, MD, 21046 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hccenvironment/>

3rd Annual Awards Celebration! Dec 5, 2007 6:30- 9:30 pm Baltimore, MD. USGBC-Baltimore Regional Chapter will have a night of entertainment and recognition of those in our community who have made a difference in Green Building over the past year with Open Bar Live Music, Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and Door Prizes. For more information about the event and how to purchase tickets send email to usgbc.baltimore@comcast.net Held at the American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Highway, Baltimore, MD 21230

"Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards & Trade Show - Baltimore 2008" Wed Apr 30 - Sat May 3 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Local tours, speakers, 100+ vendors; attendance 1200+. To date the Host Committee has met once and will be soliciting help for fundraising, as well as for marketing & promotion. If interested in volunteering email at bronwyn.phillips@baltimorecity.gov

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

Want to Fight Global Warming, Stop Sprawl, Save the Bay and Invest in Transit? Help Kill the Intercountry Connector! The ICC would increase driving on local roads by more than 700 million miles per year, trigger thousands of acres of sprawl, lead to the destruction of thousands of acres of forest, farm land and wetlands, load Maryland with more than \$2.5 billion in debt, and consume more than \$3 billion in state and federal transportation funding. To pay for the ICC, the State plans to divert money from every other toll facility and to charge \$7 or more for a round-trip on the ICC -- about \$1700 per year for a regular commuter. The ICC would pass right next to an elementary school, playgrounds, and a senior community, and so close to so many homes that the State aims to take the backyards of hundreds of families. Most of the \$3+ billion currently misguided toward the ICC could be redirected by Governor O'Malley and the General Assembly to fund urgently needed public transit, bridge maintenance and other, better uses. Urge Governor O'Malley and your legislators to kill the ICC and invest instead in climate-friendly, community-friendly transportation and community planning.

The General Assembly's Special Session could be a prime time to raise these issues. If you are able to help with setting up meetings with your legislators, please contact Suchitra Balachandran (cp_woods@yahoo.com or 240-423-0422) or Greg Smith (stoptheicc@igc.org or 301-920-0437). Also, visit <http://maryland.sierraclub.org>

Spiritual Food Biodynamic and Organic CSA, Winter/Spring season, Registration now open. Winter season: Dec 1-May 31; Time: ASAP; Drops in: Bethesda MD; Arlington VA; and Capitol Hill, DC.

Spiritual Food CSA connects individuals with biodynamic farms to get farm-fresh produce plus a wide variety of staple items, including fruit, bread, yogurt, eggs, etc. every week. We supplement with very high-quality organic when some items are not available BD. Shares are \$800 (early bird) \$850 regular. Please e-mail or call for more info. Contact Durga at shantiyoga2@earthlink.net or 301 654 4899. For more information, see www.spiritualfoodcsa.org.



The New American Dream is excited to launch the fifth month of the Carbon Conscious Consumer campaign (C3 for short). Go to <http://c3.newdream.org> to take November's pledge: Wash in Cold – Cold wash your clothes and choose the no-heat dry cycle on your dishwasher. Take the pledge, tell a friend, and win a prize!