

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **December 2007**. It is going out to over **1,410** 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 and about 65 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

This announcement is organized into six sections:

- Community Event Summary
- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum & SMEI Solstice Gathering
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- December and January Preview
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Please take special note of the **two SMEI events this month on Dec 9th and Dec 16th**. Hope you can join us for at least one of them.

We also have four circles scheduled to start on **Dec 2nd, Dec 9th, Jan 17th, and Jan 22nd**. . . .and three "**pilot**" **circles on Food (week of January 6th)**. Scroll down to the Circles Update for details.

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:

- Sat, Dec 1 to Sun, Dec 9, Takoma Park, Hyattsville, Bethesda, Adelphi, Reston, Leesburg, Annandale and Herndon, Alternative Gifts Week**
- Sat, Dec 1, 8:45 am – Noon, Jessup, Go Green, \$ave Green**
- Sat, Dec 1 9am, Columbia, Sierra Hike Patuxent Branch Trail**
- Sat. Dec 1, 12 to 1:00pm, N.W., Washington, DC, Vegan Feed-In**
- Sat, Dec 1 6:30- 8:30pm, Ellicott City, MD, First Sat. Vegan Potluck**
- Sat, Dec 1 at 1:30 pm, Chevy Chase, MD. PEACE MEAL**
- Sat, Dec 1, 6:30 to 11pm, Greenbelt, Celtic, folk and world music from "Four Shillings Short"**
- Sun, Dec 2, 7 to 9 pm, Greenbelt, New Deal Cafe Art Auction**
- Mon, Dec 3, 6-8 pm, Baltimore, CSBA Green Happy Hour on Green Event Planning**
- Mon, Dec 3, 7:30- 9:30pm, Bethesda, Environmental Concerns: A JCRC Educational Forum**

Wed Dec 5, 6 - 9pm, College Park, Climate Change Reception
Wed, Dec 5, 6:30- 9:30 pm Baltimore, MD, 3rd Annual Awards Celebration!
Thurs, Dec 6, 11:30am - 10:00pm, Rockville, Vegetable Garden benefit day for Compassion Over Killing
Thurs, Dec 6 at 7:30 pm, Howard County Coalition for the Environment
Sat, Dec 8, 1:30-3:30pm, Mount Airy, Small Vertical-Axis Wind Turbines for Your Home, Business, Church, or Neighborhood
Sat, Dec 8, 8:30 am – Noon, Jessup MD, Indoor Air Quality
Sat, Dec 8, 11 am – Noon, Annapolis, MD Third Annual Polar Bear Plunge Fundraiser
Sun, Dec 9, 9:30-10:30am, Towson, Climate Change and What You Can Do About It
Sun, Dec 9, 6:30-8:30 pm, Bethesda, Giving Thoughtfully through Fair Trade [SEE SECOND SUNDAY FORUM]
Sun, Dec 9, 10 am, Baltimore County, Trail Maintenance
Sun, Dec 9, 2 pm, Falls Church, VA, Holiday Party Benefiting Compassion Over Killing
Tue, Dec 11, 6:30- 8:30pm, DC, Green Light: A Sustainable Hanukah Celebration
Tues, Dec 11, 7:30pm at the White Oak Library, Neighbors of Northwest Branch
Wed, Dec 12, 6:30 pm, Bethesda, True Cost of Food Dinner at Levantes
Wed, Dec 12, 7:30 pm, Greenbelt Climate Action Network Monthly Meeting
Sat, Dec 15, noon, Dayton, Special Sweatlodge and Teaching
Sat, Dec 15, 10am - 2pm, Rock Creek Park Field Trip, Boundary Bridge, Montgomery County
Sat, Dec 15, 3-8pm, Mount Airy, United for a Sustainable Maryland - holiday party and campaign fundraiser
Sat, Dec 15, 7 pm, N.W., Washington, DC, Compassion Over Killing's Annual Holiday Fundraising Party,
Sun, Dec 16, 9:30-10:30am, Towson, Climate Change and What You Can Do About It
Sun, Dec 16, 2-5 pm, Bethesda, SMEI Solstice Gathering [SEE SECOND SUNDAY FORUM]
Sun, Dec 16, 4:30- 6:45 pm, Oakton, VA Celtic Music Concert and Winter Solstice Celebration
Mon, Dec 17 at 7 pm, New Deal Café in Greenbelt, Reel and Meal at the New Deal
Tues, Dec 18, 7pm, White Oak, Annual Holiday Social & Members Share Night Plus Annual MNPS Business Meeting
Sat, Dec 22 11am - 3 pm Charles County, Maryland Native Plant Society Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest
Sun, Dec 23, 5 pm, Bethesda, Winter Solstice Celebration
Mon, Dec 31, 6-9 pm, Bethesda, Annual New Year's Eve Candlelit Labyrinth Walk

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM IN BETHESDA

Sunday, December 9, 6:30-8:30 PM
Giving Thoughtfully through Fair Trade with Jacqueline DeCarlo

Have you thought about the impact of your purchases on the producers of the goods? Fair Trade can add a meaningful dimension to your shopping. Join the lively discussion in December! We'll explain what fair trade is and how it can help instill a sense of purpose to your gift giving and everyday spending. Jacqueline DeCarlo is the author of Fair Trade: A Beginner's Guide.

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 marney@simplicity-matters.org. Please include your phone number in your message. Help us publicize this event! Flier available to download and post (PDF, 70KB) in your workplace or neighborhood at www.simplicity-matters.org

NEXT MONTH's TOPIC (Jan 13):
Video Party: "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"

SMEI SOLSTICE GATHERING

Sunday, December 16th, 2 - 5 PM Bethesda, Maryland (Marney's house, of course)

Join the Simplicity Matters folks for a warm, filling and festive Solstice Gathering! This is for everyone, not just our wonderful volunteers. We've met some of you, would like to meet more of you, and this is our way of saying that we appreciate you all. **RSVP** to Marney@simplicity-matters.org or 301 652-0492 for directions and further information.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

No Forum this month. Please hold the date of Sunday, January 27, at the MD Presbyterian Church in Towson. Topic: TBA

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)

New NWEI Food Discussion Guide, help evaluate first draft! 3 pilot circles forming: two face-to-face (Bethesda and Frederick), and one via phone or email conference (DC, MD, VA). Six chapters, one to be evaluated each week. Meetings must begin on week of Jan. 6 and end by Feb. 16. If you'd like to participate (please indicate in which pilot circle you'd like to be), contact Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721, Lena@simplicity-matters.org

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

- Silver Spring (DSOP)
- 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)
- Temple Isaiah, Scaggsville (CO2)

Here's four more circles, slated to begin soon:

Westminster (VS or CSL) **Intro Mtg:** Sun, Dec 2, 2:00 pm. **First Session:** TBA Contact Carole caroleflood19@yahoo.com

The Well, Ellicott City. (CO2) **Intro Mtg:** Sun, Dec 9, 12-1:30 pm **First Session:** TBA Contact Leslie leslie.lewart@gmail.com

Middletown, "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce. **Intro Meeting:** Thu Jan 17, 7pm. **First session:** Thu Jan 24. Contact Susan Kelican 301-371-3116 or skelican1@comcast.net

Unitarian Universalist Church in Frederick (CO2). **Intro Meeting:** Tue Jan 22, 7pm; **First Session:** Tue Jan 29. Contact Marney Bruce, 301 652-0492 or Marney@simplicity-matters.org

The following groups are hoping to get started soon, details forthcoming (contact Lore at SimplicityGrpsMD@aol.com) :

Downtown Frederick (EDE). Circle forming. Contact Chris Hodge 301-865-5630 or mdhiker2@yahoo.com

Pikesville (DSOP) Circle forming for Feb. CS: Diane Jones

Ascension Lutheran (TBD) CS: Katherine Jenkins

Memorial Episcopal (CO2) CS: Rebecca Ruggles

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

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

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

Parkton (HCHP) CS: Rich Louis

McCormick Spice Company (CSL) CS: Jeff Blankman

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

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 (LCD) 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 debcote.email@yahoo.com

Towson UU Congregation CO2 CS: Michelle Collins

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

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

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

Lore's "Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This winter, 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 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)

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

Alternative Gifts Week - Sat, Dec 1 to Sun, Dec 9 Takoma Park, Hyattsville, Bethesda, Adelphi, Reston, Leesburg, Annandale and Herndon Having trouble finding gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list? Buy an alternative gift! For example, instead of buying Uncle Ted a sweater he doesn't need, why not buy pajamas for a child in a local homeless shelter in his honor? Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington maintains a list of alternative gift fairs and markets in the DC area. There are 8 locations in the region where you can find a variety of these types of gifts during the first week of December. At each location, you'll receive gift cards describing the donation that you made in honor of the gift recipient. For details on times and locations, visit www.aggw.org. Or contact J. McCray at jbmccray@hotmail.com

Go Green, Save Green, Sat, Dec 1, 8:45 am – 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.

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 9am 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>

Vegan Feed-In, Sat, Dec 1, 12 to 1:00pm, N.W., Washington, DC. 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 outside the Verizon Center (Gallery Pl. Metro station), where the Georgetown Hoyas will take on the Fairfield Stags. Compassion Over Killing, Noelle Callahan, info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/>.

First Sat. Vegan Potluck, Sat, Dec 1 6:30- 8:30pm, Ellicott City, MD. Please bring a vegan dish to share (store bought is fine) for the number in your party plus 6. Please RSVP via e-mail. If we don't receive more than 4 responses then we will cancel the gathering. We will have basic table service available, but it's better if you can bring your own reusable picnic-ware and feel free to wash up here. There will be iced tea and filtered water to drink. Invite friends and the merely curious. Kids welcome. bsorak@juno.com

PEACE MEAL, Sat, Dec 1 at 1:30 pm Chevy Chase, MD. Global Coalition for Peace (GCFP) at 4209 East West Hwy, Chevy Chase MD welcomes Producer/Director NAVIN KULSHRESHTHA, who will present a slideshow of his travels to holy places and sacred sites in INDIA, and will show clips from his film ASHA GOES TO INDIA (www.globalcoalitionforpeace.org). Also enjoy a hot, healthy vegetarian lunch. Peace Meals are FREE monthly events dedicated to feeding people and stimulating dialog about some issue related to Peace. Please RSVP by calling 301 654 4899x3, or by e-mail: shantiyoga2@earthlink.net .

Celtic, folk and world music from "Four Shillings Short", Sat, Dec 1, 6:30 to 11pm, Greenbelt, MD. Concert will be held at the New Deal Café, 113 Centerway-Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD Suggested donation: \$10.00 for Friends of the New Deal Cafe Arts For more information, visit website at www.newdealcafe.com

New Deal Cafe Art Auction, Sun, Dec 2, 7 to 9 pm, Greenbelt, MD. Bid on your favorite art pieces at the New Deal Café, 113 Centerway-Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD. For more information contact Kristin at newdealcafeart@yahoo.com

CSBA Green Happy Hour, Mon Dec 3, 6 - 8 pm, bluehouse, 1407 Fleet St., Baltimore, MD 21231 Join *bluehouse* and Plan It Perfect in celebrating the holidays at the Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance's Green Happy Hour. *bluehouse* will be offering a 15% discount that evening to those attending. *bluehouse* is Baltimore's hip place to take in a cup of coffee and complete your eco-friendly holiday shopping in one stop. The speaker for the CSBA Green Happy Hour will be the owner of Plan It Perfect, Cate Buscher, and she will talk about green options for event planning. Plan It Perfect is an event planning company that provides complete, partial, and day-of coordination services for any type of special occasion. Cost: \$5. For info, CSBA at 410-342-1482 or <http://bluehouselife.com/hours.php> for directions.

Environmental Concerns: A JCRC Educational Forum, Mon, Dec 3, 7:30- 9:30pm, Bethesda.

The JCRC will host this educational forum for the Greater Washington Jewish community at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, 7727 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda. Jewish leaders from our national advocacy groups as well as local experts will address the topic and engage in dialogue with participants. Community-wide event, all are welcome. For more information, contact Barbara Burke at bburke@jcouncil.org or (301) 770-0881.

Climate Change Reception, Wed, Dec 5, 6 - 9pm, College Park. Join Councilman Tom Dernoga, members & friends of the Sierra Club, and Green Corps organizers Annie & Claire as we celebrate the work we've done on Global Warming in Maryland and evaluate our next steps at the Old Parish House, 4417 Knox Rd, College Park. Join us to network, strategize, and celebrate with fellow Prince George's environmentalists. Our reception will be held in conjunction with The Purple Line Open House at College Park City Hall; 4-8pm. Walk over afterwards for some food, drinks, and environmental cheer! To RSVP, please contact Alex Hirtle at (301) 952-5349 or ajhirtle@co.pg.md.us

3rd Annual Awards Celebration! Wed, Dec 5, 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. The evening will be MC'd by: Anirban Basu-Host of Morning Economics Forecast on NPR. 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

Vegetable Garden benefit day for Compassion Over Killing, Thurs, Dec 6, 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/>.

Howard County Coalition for the Environment, Thurs, Dec 6 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/>

Small Vertical-Axis Wind Turbines for Your Home, Business, Church, or Neighborhood, Sat, Dec 8, 1:30-3:30pm, Mount Airy, MD United for a Sustainable Maryland and Citizens for a Green Mount Airy have organized this workshop on small-scale wind projects. Tom Williams from Freedom Energy Solutions and Mike Dixon from Electrical Solutions will discuss the latest in wind technology and how it can be applied in the various spheres of your life. Also learn about Net Metering and How an Inverter Works. No charge. 21771 in Carroll County; St. James Episcopal Church, 1307 North Main Street. For questions or to RSVP: Rebecca Rush, livebetter@grey-goes-green.com 301-371-9852 or Tim Richards, tim@greenmountairy.org , 301-471-2960 <http://www.greenmountairy.org>

Indoor Air Quality, Sat, Dec 8, 8:30 a.m. – Noon, Jessup MD. Learn about the many benefits of learning and incorporating green products & techniques. Learn about the many benefits of learning and incorporating green products & techniques at The Enviro-Center, 7761 Waterloo Road Jessup, MD 20794. For more information go to <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org> or contact Leslye Wilson at info@greenbuildinginstitute.org or call at 443-733-1234.

Third Annual Polar Bear Plunge Sat, Dec 8: 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, Annapolis, MD. Express your commitment to fight global warming by jumping into a cold body of water with hundreds of other crazy people to raise awareness and funds. Sponsored by CCAN: Chesapeake Climate Action Network: www.chesapeakeclimate.org
http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/423/t/3322/event/index.jsp?event_KEY=30592

Climate Change And What You Can Do About It. 11/25, 12/09 & 12/16, 9:30-10:30am, Towson, MD. First session was "Inconvenient Truth" style slide show by Climate Project grad. The Second Session to focus on voluntary actions. Third session dedicated to legislative change - confirmed speakers include US and MD state legislators.. Free of charge at Ascension Lutheran Church, 7601 York Rd. See BCAN community calendar for link to flier with more info: <http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/61.html#november> Call Chris Dawson to register: (410) 825-1725).

Trail Maintenance, Sun, Dec 9 at 10 am, Baltimore County. Help with trail maintenance of the old Prettyboy Trail along the shore of the Prettyboy Reservoir. Meet at the fire road at Tracey Store Road. For more information contact Mary Corddy at 443-386-0862 or XxDiTz4LyFxFxX@aol.com This is a collaborative effort of the Sierra Club, Prettyboy Watershed Alliance and Mountain Club of Maryland.

Holiday Party Benefiting Compassion Over Killing, Sun, Dec 9, 2 pm, Falls Church, VA. Join Perfect Organics for an indulgent afternoon of vegan sweets, chair massages, and—just in time for holiday gifts—amazing all-organic body care products specially priced for the season. Ten percent of the day's sales will be donated to COK! Perfect Organics is located at 7702 Leesburg Pike (Tower Bldg., #100) in Falls Church, Va. Perfect Organics. RSVP to amanda@perfectorganics.com or 703-734-2434. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/>.

Green Light: A Sustainable Hanukkah Celebration, Tue, Dec 11, 6:30- 8:30pm, DC. Light a CFL (compact fluorescent light) hanukiah! Eat latkes and applesauce made from locally grown potatoes and apples! Get your

hands busy making art from recycled materials! Learn something new at workshops about sustainability in the home and your synagogue! Come schmooze and nosh with old friends and new ones! Please bring a CFL for low income families or recommended donation of \$5. Josephine Butler Parks Center, 2437 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC Co-sponsored by: Shomrei Adamah of Greater Washington, Jews United for Justice and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light To RSVP/ information, email shomrei_adamah@yahoo.com or call Lindsey Paige Savoie at (202) 489 5278.

Neighbors of Northwest Branch Tues, Dec 11, 7:30pm at the White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD, just north of the interchange with US 29 (Colesville Rd.). Principal order of business will be election of officers. All are welcome at no charge. For more information call 301-946-5599 or visit www.neighborsnwb.org.

True Cost of Food Dinner @ Levante's, Wed Dec 12, 6:30 pm, 7262 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda
<http://www.levantes.com> 301.657.2441. Contact TCOF Maryland Coordinator, BJ, bjsearch@hotmail.com 240/603-8454

Greenbelt Climate Action Network Monthly Meeting, Wed, Dec 12, 7:30 pm at the Greenbelt Community Center We will discuss actions we can take to help the state of Maryland adopt strong global warming solutions legislation. Open to all. The Community Center is at 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. Contact Steve Kane at sr.kane@verizon.net

Special Sweatlodge and Teaching, Sat, Dec 15, noon, Dayton, MD LakotaHasie Frazier of southwest Virginia will led the event. Location: 6 miles west of Columbia, MD. \$25 exchange requested. Potluck dinner follows. The sweatlodge, a spiritual ceremony from Earth-based, indigenous traditions worldwide, is for purification, healing, and connecting with all creatures & people. Contact Robert Fireovid (301-982-0257; bob.fireovid@verizon.net) for more information.

Rock Creek Park Field Trip, Boundary Bridge, Montgomery County, Sat, Dec 15 10am - 2pm. Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley (author, City of Trees) Leave holiday stress at home and explore some of the most magnificent woodlands of the Washington, D.C. area. Contact: Trip leader, Melanie Choukas-Bradley, would like to know if you're planning to come (choukas@erols.com; 301-652-8799 or cell: 301-502-7410). For more information go to <http://www.mdflora.org/events/trips.html#rockcreek>

United for a Sustainable Maryland - holiday party and campaign fundraiser, Sat, Dec 15 3-8pm, Mount Airy, MD. Learn about and become a part of the newly forming non-profit United for a Sustainable Maryland, which is devoted to making a more sustainable state in every sector possible: Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, Building, Education, Economy, Natural Resource stewardship, waste management, and so forth. USM will seek to educate people and build community around these themes. Get behind the Sustainability Campaign of Rick Lank -- Democrat for Congress in the Sixth Congressional District. His platform will be centered on sustainability issues in energy, agriculture and strengthening the local economy. 21771 in Carroll County; Calvary United Methodist Church on 403 South Main Street For questions or to RSVP: Rebecca Rush, livebetter@grey-goes-green.com 301-371-9852 or Tim Richards, tim@greenmountairy.org , 301-471-2960 <http://www.greenmountairy.org>

Compassion Over Killing's Annual Holiday Fundraising Party, Sat, Dec 15, 7 pm, N.W., Washington, D.C. Join COK, and special guest Dan Piraro (creator of [Bizarro](http://www.bizarro.com)), as we celebrate another year of compassionate action for animals. Bring your friends and family to enjoy delicious vegan food, drinks, and a fabulous silent auction. The event is located at the MamaSita Cultural Center at 6906 4th St. in N.W., D.C. (one block from the Takoma Metro station). Compassion Over Killing. RSVP to info@cok.net or 301-891-2458. Details at <http://www.cok.net/events/>.

Celtic Music Concert and Winter Solstice Celebration, Sun, Dec 16 from 4:30- 6:45 pm, Oakton, VA. EcoStewards Alliance invites you to celebrate the Winter Solstice with a concert by Greentree, featuring the talents of singer Grace Griffith, songwriter Carey Creed, hammered dulcimer player Jody Marshall & pianist Paul Nahay at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. The group performs songs & instrumentals that celebrate the natural world in music from Celtic to contemporary. Light food & organic cider will be provided. Tickets: adults \$20 advance sales or \$25 at the door. Children 12 & under, free when accompanied by an adult. Visit www.ecostewardsalliance.org to purchase tickets or for more information.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal, Mon, Dec 17 at 7 pm at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt, MD.

Optional vegan meal starts at 6:30 pm priced at \$10.00. The film Homeland (free) begins at 7:00 pm. This movie portrays four native american tribes and their fight against government agencies and energy companies to protect the environment. Discussion follows the movie. 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center Greenbelt, MD. Contact Steve Kane at sr.kane@verizon.net

Annual Holiday Social & Members Share Night Plus Annual MNPS Business Meeting, Tues, Dec 18, 7pm, White Oak. Please bring in photos, Power Point or slide shows to share--please limit your slides to 10 minutes. We will have the LCD projector and PC available for loading cd or usb thumb drives. If you have a MAC, please bring the appropriate cables. Maryland Native Plant Society meetings are held at the White Oak Library - Large Meeting Room. For directions and more information www.mdflora.org.

Maryland Native Plant Society Winter Solstice Walk at Chapman Forest, Sat, Dec 22 11am - 3 pm Charles County. Lead by Rod Simmons and Meghan Tice (Co-sponsored by the Botanical Society of Washington) For more information go to <http://www.mdflora.org/events/trips.html#solstice> or contact: Rod, cecropia13@msn.com or 301-809-0139.

Winter Solstice celebration, Sun, Dec 23, 5 PM, at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda. www.rruuc.org. In winter's darkest hours, we call on that which sustains us. What aspects of this season help you to renew yourself and sense of connection with others? Come help us celebrate with gentle dances, meditation and sharing around the theme of renewal amid times of uncertainty. Bring a snack to share, a cup from which to drink, and perhaps a companion 10 yrs or older. Helen Popenoe 301/229-0549 hpop@verizon.net

Annual New Year's Eve Candlelit Labyrinth Walk, Mon Dec 31, 6-9 pm, Bethesda. Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD. This beautiful, candle-lit walk is always the highlight of the year! Live Piano and harp music by Meg Baker. Celebrate the turning of the year with meditation, prayer and music, calm reflection and fellowship. Please wear socks to walk on our indoor canvas labyrinth. No charge, but donations welcome. For more information, contact Chris Mauro (703-847-5820 or chris.mauro@baesystems.com) or Cedar Lane UU Church (301-494-8300 or www.cedarlane.org)

Looking ahead to January 2008 and beyond...

'Flood Annapolis' Rally for Global Warming Solutions,: Thurs, Jan 17th, at 11 AM. Annapolis State House. Annapolis, MD.

Hundreds of citizens will flood the streets. Events start at 11 am and continue through the day at and around the State House in Annapolis. Contact Holly@chesapeakeclimate.org, sponsored by Alliance for Global Warming Solutions (CCAN, Sierra Club MD, Environment MD, MD League of Conservation Voters, etc.!) . For more information and updates, check our web site:

http://allianceforglobalwarmingolutions.org/Site/News_%26_Events.html

'The 2% Solution Webcast' - Focus the Nation: Wednesday January 30th, 2008. Multiple locations.

Use your group's fast internet connection, screen and projector to host a webcast to support global warming solutions! Join prominent climate scientists; Audiences can weigh in with cell phone voting. Our goal is 10,000 screenings. <http://www.focusthenation.org/2percentsolution.php>

'Global Warming National Teach In' Thurs. Jan 31, 2008. Multiple locations.

Local schools and institutions will have teach ins and will invite local political leaders to come to campus and participate in a round-table discussion: a sequel to the Power Shift conference of Nov 2007 when 8000 students from across the country convened to address climate challenge.

<http://www.focusthenation.org/nationalteachin.php>

List of MD participating organizations:

http://www.focusthenation.org/actionmap/?type=prox&code=21045&range=150&code_submit=Go%21

Global Warming Lobby Day in Annapolis 2/18/08:

Contact Jen Brock-Cancellieri at jbrock@mdlcv.org or (410) 280-9855 ext. 2

"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

SPIRITUAL FOOD CSA WINTER/SPRING SEASON REGISTRATION Nov 30, 2007 thru May 30 2008 with Pick-ups in Bethesda, Arlington, Capitol Hill. Home delivery and Fed Ex are optional. Spiritual Food CSA is committed to providing BIODYNAMIC and high quality organic food to the metro-DC area. Our main purpose is to support BIODYNAMIC farmers who are working to heal the earth and providing TRUE FOOD, by offering them an alternative to the destructive market/retail system. We are special in that our CSA is YEAR ROUND, and our focus is on building community. "Local" is not good enough--we need to go one step more and support farmers who are truly healing the earth. Please contact: shantiyoga2@earthlink.net; or call: 301 654 4899x5.
www.spiritualfoodcsa.org

Take the Pledge for Dec: Bring Your Own Bag – Neither paper nor plastic when you take part in “The New BYOB.”

The New American Dream is excited to launch the Carbon Conscious Consumer campaign (C3 for short). Go to <http://c3.newdream.org> to take the pledge for December.

Lobby Congress: Solar Power Incentives Need Your Help Now

The vital 2007 Congressional Energy Bill still contains no assurance of tax credits to help ordinary Americans take advantage of the benefits of solar energy. In order to get enough bipartisan support for the 2007 Congressional Energy Bill, Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid are favoring a bill that would have NO SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY. They have decided not to include critical tax credits for solar and wind in the federal energy package. Key players in both the House and the Senate are informally conferencing to reconcile the versions passed in each chamber (H.R. 3221, H.R. 2776 and H.R. 6). Congress was considering moving forward on an energy package without a tax title--and the tax title is where the critical solar investment tax credit (ITC) resides. No tax title means no support for solar energy. It will have a chilling effect on citizens wanting to install solar energy systems, and for companies capable of performing this work. The Congressional Energy Bill gives no encouragement either to individuals wanting to install clean solar panels or to companies trying to finance Utility-scale wind farms. Nor does it establish national minima for renewable energy production. It may, however, make the U.S. taxpayer responsible for underwriting loans for new nuclear plants; it will throw money at the questionable technology of corn-based ethanol, and it will allow Detroit to continue with business as usual, digging its own grave while the rest of the world targets 100mpg.

Please call your Senator and your Representative. Ask them to put your concerns to Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid. Specifically, refer to the ‘proposed Congressional Energy Bill’

Ask them to: support an extension of the current 30% investment tax credit for solar energy projects for both residential and business applications, to support an elimination of the current \$2000 cap on the residential investment tax credit, and permit taxpayers to claim the investment tax credit against the AMT. Please ask for their support in bringing solar into the mainstream. Ask them to remove unlimited loan guarantees for nuclear power and coal-to-liquids from the Energy Bill.

Call Speaker Nancy Pelosi at (202) 225-0100 and Majority Leader Harry Reid at 202-224-3542. They will be responsible for reconciling the House and Senate Versions of the Energy Bill.

Alternatively, take action here to send an email message to Congress.

http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/votesolar/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=13926

For more information see www.solar-nation.org or www.votesolar.com