

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **December**. It is going out to over **1,865 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 266 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an interactive dialogue. You can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online/>

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You can also subscribe from our from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online/>

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum, Baltimore Green Forum, & Howard County Earth Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits
- Preview of Future Events

Please note that SMEI is offering several new discussion circle topics, including

- **Sustainable Systems at Work (SSW)**
- **Choices for Sustainable Living (CSL)**, updated 2009
- **Reconnecting with Earth (RE)**, an update of the previous guide called "Exploring Deep Ecology"

While we update our website, please visit http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses for full information on each topic. See our **Discussion Circle Update** (below) for the appropriate person to contact for your county.

Thanks to this month's editor, **Janis Oppelt**.

SECOND SUNDAY Potluck Gathering followed by a Winter Solstice Celebration

Sunday, December 13, 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

Potluck 5:00

The potluck last month was so much fun with so much good food, we'll do it again before the Solstice gathering. Food and lively conversation really do enhance community! Stay on and participate in the centuries-old tradition of driving the dark away, as the year's longest night approaches. Let's keep the light and our lights alive and glowing! Come

celebrate the approaching Winter Solstice (this year, Dec. 21) and enjoy yummy food and beverages!

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 forum@simplicity-matters.org. Please include your phone number in your message.

January's forum, on 1/10, will be a movie night! Stay tuned.

HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

Due to the holidays, no Howard County Earth Forum will be held in December.

Sunday, January 17, Earth Forum of Howard County (third Sunday of the month)

Theme: WATER!

3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MD.

Earth Forums are the 3rd Sunday at 9325 Presbyterian Circle, off Rt. 29 & 108, Columbia. Free. All welcome. Sign up information at church office: 410-730-3545.ext.10.

Emphasis groups follow the program. Included are information tables to view and refreshments to enjoy. Free. All are welcome. Sign up at earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call Nancy (410)750-1479 for info

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Due to the holidays, no Baltimore Green Forum will be held in December.

Sunday, January 24, 4:30-6:30 pm.

The Baltimore Green Forum (the fourth Sunday of the month)

MD Presbyterian Church,

1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

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

TOPIC: Permaculture

Current co-sponsors include: Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Transition Baltimore, Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., Parks & People, and the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club.

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

(SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (EDE) Exploring Deep Ecology; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. **Other guides:** (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As of Jan. 2009, discussion circle books now cost \$20 plus s/h. They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We have started 26 circles so far in 2009 (223 in total since 2002!)

Plans have become so numerous that we are now breaking them down by county. Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. For more info, you may contact Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org unless otherwise noted.

Frederick & Washington County

None currently scheduled to begin

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

Howard County College (GW), CS: Debby Luquette, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Channing UU Congregation, Ellicott City (GW), CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

UU Congregation of Columbia (MF), **Intro: Jan 24, First Session: Jan 26**, CS: Robin Hessey, lore@simplicity-matters.org

UU Congregation of Columbia (GW), **Intro: Feb 28, First Session: Mar 8**, CS: Sally Ann Cooper, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Green Building Institute, Jessup, MD (MF), CS: Margo Duesterhaus, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Patapsco Friends Meeting (GW) CS: Donna Hauck, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Private Home (CSL) CS: Hank Grabowski, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing many other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore, Private home in Belair-Harford Rd area, CS: Susan D'Arcy

Voluntary Simplicity, Monday nights, every other week in the Belair-Harford Road area. Four core members, **looking for 4-6 people, in order to get started.** Contact: Susan, sd_arcy@hotmail.com, 410-419-4817

Baltimore region (DSOP, GW, MF, CSL) As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. There seems to be a lot of interest in CSL for the fall. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore, Light Street Presbyterian (SSW), CS: Retta Barkley

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

Baltimore, Private home in NE Balto (tbd) CS: Dana Shaw

Baltimore, SW Baltimore (tbd), CS: Patsy Allen

Parkton/CSA (MF) CS: Rich Louis

PG County

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (CSL) New circle starting in January, or as soon as we get a critical mass. CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Mt. Rainier (VS), CS: Joe Robbins

Montgomery County

Bethesda (RE) I am looking for people to join me (Marney) in discussing the new Reconnecting with Earth. We may start in January, meeting T, W, or TH. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Bethesda (VS) Starting in March. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Gaithersburg (Topic to be Determined) Folks who don't want to drive down-county are looking for others interested in a discussion circle. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Gaithersburg/Germantown (RE) Same as above but they have chosen their topic. We will have an Intro Meeting as soon as we find a suitable location. Please contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Friends Meeting House, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (Dupont Circle Metro), 7:30 PM, Topic: Mindful Consumption, Climate Change, and the effect of eating meat on the environment will be discussed- all are welcome to bring their perspective. Meeting every other month, open to newcomers. Sponsored by WBPF.org Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

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

We are in the process of transitioning to a regional structure for the state. Please start using the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.: CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)

Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal). See also [Climate Change Initiative of Howard County](#) (CCIHC)

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of **all of our NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/7guides.pdf>

If you are **starting your own circle** and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/index.php>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tues, Dec 1, 1-2 pm, Rally for Maryland's Clean Energy Future, Preston Gardens Park, 308 St Paul Pl. Baltimore, MD Come to a rally on December 1st to rally in support of clean energy. We had a huge victory last session on global warming, and we need to build on that momentum. Concerned citizens like you must keep

demanding that we move away from dirty coal and towards a clean energy future. CCAN, Environment Maryland, and other great organizations are having a rally on Dec. 1st to stop new power lines that would bring more dirty coal energy into Maryland and instead support a comprehensive energy plan for a clean energy future. http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/getinvolved/event_detail.cfm?id=1025

Tues, Dec 1, Green Roofs, Kennedy Krieger School Board Room, 3825 Greenspring Ave, Baltimore, MD 21211 Hosted by the Baltimore Master Gardeners, this event (workshop and general meeting) is free with refreshments provided. Presentation about this innovative way to conserve energy and garden at the same time is given by Dr Polly Bart of Greenbuilders, Inc. Contact board president Ursula Scheffel with questions: uscheffel@verizon.net.

Tues, Dec 1, Green by Design: Leadership Training Series, 6–9 pm, Baltimore, MD: Learn how you can help your group green your streets, reclaim vacant lots, grow healthy food, save money by weatherizing, and rid your homes of toxic substances. Free but space is limited. Contact: Kristen Humphrey, Neighborhood Design Center, 410-233-9686 x101.

Tues, Dec 1, Women's Land Army of America, 7–9 pm, Baltimore, MD: Hosted by the Baltimore Master Gardeners, this event (workshop and general meeting) is free with refreshments provided! Elaine Weiss, Baltimore journalist and author of "Fruits of Victory: The Women's Land Army of America in the Great War," will talk with us about the Women's Land Army, which started in WW1 and enabled 20,000 urban women to work on farms. Contact board president Ursula Scheffel with questions: uscheffel@verizon.net.

Thurs, Dec. 3, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11 am–10 pm, Rockville, MD: Join us at our monthly COK benefit day. Dine in or order take-out and 10 percent of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. For more information, email info@cok.net or call 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net.

Thurs, Dec. 3, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 5:30–6:30 pm, Washington, DC: COK will be leafleting at the Dupont Metro station before heading to The Vegetable Garden. Help us distribute pro-vegetarian literature and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet. For more information, email info@cok.net or call 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net/events/.

Thurs, Dec 3; and Mon, Dec 7 Free Solar Seminar, 6:30-7:30 pm, Towson, MD Free seminar on solar electric energy geared towards home and small business owners. For more information, contact Colette Hayward, mssicontact@marylandsolarsolutions.com, 443-218-2620. Directions and details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com

Fri, Dec 4, Art for the Climate Action at the White House, 12-1 pm, Washington, DC

With world leaders set to gather in Copenhagen in a week to negotiate a new international climate treaty, we need President Obama to show bold leadership. On Friday, December 4 – just before the Copenhagen talks begin – join 1Sky, CCAN and other partners in DC for a creative action outside the White House. This event will feature dozens of climate-themed banners made by local activists nationwide and schoolchildren in DC, creating a powerful visual statement of the need for bold solutions now. For more information and to RSVP, contact adi@1sky.org or visit https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/423//eng/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=56221

Sat, Dec 5, 3:30 - 6 PM. Buy/sell/trade unwanted gifts and lightly used items. Put unwanted gifts and like-new items to use! Turn clutter into other gifts or holiday ca\$h! Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Bargains galore! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; this is guilt free shopping! FREE to attend and to set out items for sale. Open to the public. Sellers should contact Brigitte to register, preferably before 11/29, 240-506-8976. At the Howard County Central Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia. Please park at the mall and walk across Little Patuxent Parkway as parking at the Library can be quite congested.

Sat, Dec 5, University Park Solar Coop, potluck (5 pm) and tree lighting (7:15 pm) Sheridan Street and Queens Chapel Road in University Park. <http://www.communitysolarcoop.com/news.htm>
UP uses a standing tree and this year, we shall use LED lights and a solar generator to power these lights, such that the carbon emissions from the tree should, according to our latest calculations, be 0.0 !

Sat, Dec. 5, Compassion Over Killing's (COK) Holiday Fundraising Party, 7–11 pm, Washington, DC: Join us--and special guest Dan Piraro as we celebrate another year of compassionate action for animals! Bring your friends and family to enjoy delicious vegan food, drinks, comedy, inspiration, and a fabulous silent auction. For more information, email info@cok.net or call 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net.

Mon, Dec. 7, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Green Mondays, 6– 9 pm, Hamilton/Baltimore, MD: Join CSBA for a holiday celebration at Clementine restaurant featuring comfort food, drink specials, wine from Black Ankle Vineyards, and eco-friendly holiday shopping with local retailers and artists. Be sure to bring an item for the Maryland Food Bank. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more information and to register by Fri, Dec 4, go to www.csballiance.org.

Tues, Dec. 8, Compassion Over Killing Benefit at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7 am–8 pm, Washington, DC: Join us at this all-vegan, awarding-winning bakery on the second Tuesday of each month where a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards COK's efforts to help farmed animals. For more information, contact COK, info@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net.

Tues, Dec. 8, Discussion of "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan, 7 p.m, Central Library in Howard County: The Eclectic Evenings Book Discussion is held on the second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend, and no registration is necessary. Copies of the book are being held at Central Library's Fiction Desk for you to check out. For directions, go to <http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=20>.

Tues, Dec 8, See the final compelling episodes of Unnatural Causes-- is inequality making us sick? Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road in Adelphi. This documentary explores causes and solutions for alarming economic, racial and social differences in people's health. Admission is FREE. The show starts at 7 pm and audience discussion will follow. Sponsors: Peace & Justice Coalition of Prince George's County, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church - Social Action Committee and the Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team. Contact: Lucy Duff 301-577-2350 justpeacepg@earthlink.net

Wed, Dec 9, 7pm, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, Global Carbon Cycle, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy with Ross Salawitch, Ph.D. Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Dr. Salawitch will provide a brief update on the global carbon cycle, focusing on the rapid growth of carbon emissions and the inability of society, so far, to limit the expansion of its fossil fuel driven economy. He will briefly touch on how the growth of atmospheric carbon dioxide drives climate change. The majority of the presentation will examine the pros and cons of non-fossil fuel energy sources, focusing on the economics of various options as well as their overall environmental impacts. For more information contact Lore Rosenthal at 301-345-2234 or email lore@simplicity-matters.org

Wed, Dec 9, Baltimore Green Works - 2nd Annual Winter Green Party, Red Maple, Baltimore MD Start the holiday season off right with BGW's happy hour event! Portions of Red Maple sales will benefit Baltimore Green Works for the evening. Ticket sales for EcoBall 2010 will begin exclusively at the Winter Green Party! Take advantage of this opportunity for BGW's most anticipated event of the year! <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/join-bgw-for-our-2nd-annual-winter-green-party/>

Wed, Dec 9, 6 – 7:30pm, Adopt a Stream Workshop, Herring Run Watershed Center, 3545 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21213. Calling all citizen watchdogs! We are looking for a few good stewards to participate in our new Adopt-a-Stream program. Workshop participants will learn about the Herring Run watershed, the challenges it faces, and how we can help City and County agencies protect and improve our local streams. Topics will include how to properly identify problems such as sewer breaks and illicit discharges, who to contact to report such problems, and how to plan and promote community events such as stream clean-ups and tree plantings. Drinks, snacks, and plenty of lively conversation will be provided. Workshop space is limited to 20 volunteers, so please sign up soon! To register, please contact Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577 or atraut@herringrun.org.

Fri, Dec. 11, Veggie potluck and film FOOD, INC, Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, Kensington, MD: dinner at 6:45 pm, film at 7:30 pm.

Sat, Dec. 12, Cooking Class with Chef Lex and Compassion Over Killing, 12 Noon, Washington, DC: Join COK for a free vegan cooking class with Chef Lex Townes, who will be preparing simple yet delicious gourmet-

style, winter-inspired vegan dishes that you'll be able to easily recreate at home. Space is limited; RSVP required. This event is free, though donations are accepted, to help cover cost of ingredients. For more information, contact COK, info@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net.

Sat, Dec 12, 10am, Carrie's Gardening Tips for December, Valley View Farms, 11305 York Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030 Favorite gardening books and authors are discussed for gift giving. A summary of the gardening year is also on the calendar. Contact: Carrie Engel at 410-527-0700 or carrie@valleyviewfarms.com

Sat, Dec 12, 9am – 12pm, Jones Falls Second Saturday Project, Locations vary. Join the JFWA for a family friend restoration project in a city or county park. Call the JFWA for more info: 410-366-3036

Tues, Dec 15, Maryland Native Plant Society Holiday Social, 7:00 p.m. Kensington Park Library - Meeting Room. Please bring a PowerPoint presentation (on a disc or portable drive) or slides to share or photos to display to the group. A slide projector (Vivitar) and carousels will be available. Do share the images or stories of your local or distant adventures experienced within the past year. Also, our 2009 election results will be announced. Please bring holiday cookies to share. Beverages will be provided. For directions go to <http://mdflora.org/events/monthlymeeting0912.html>.

Tue and Thurs, Dec 15 and 17, Parks & People Grant Application Training Workshop, 6 pm-8 pm, Baltimore, MD: Attend one workshop to learn up-to-date information on our Neighborhood Greening and Partnerships for Parks Grants programs, criteria for funding, and other project resources. Refreshments will be provided. Grant application deadline is Fri, January 29, 2010 at 5 pm postmarked or in hand. Space is limited! RSVP by Fri, Dec 11. For more information, call 410-448-5663 ext. 114, or sarah.krones@parksandpeople.org See www.parksandpeople.org for more info.

Wed, Dec 16, Evolver Spore, Wind Up Space, Baltimore MD

Topic: Take Back the Power: Peak Oil and New Energies. <http://evolver.net/>

Will the end of the oil age mark the end of civilization as we know it? Will we descend into Mad Max mayhem as pumps run dry? Or can the threat of a post-Peak Oil dystopia inspire communities to institute new sustainable models of energy production, conservation, and sharing? For this Spore, we invite regional Evolvers to discuss the future of energy, from radical innovations and renewable technologies to conservation through upgraded environmental design. When we know the situation we face and the options available to us, we can work together to prepare a soft landing for the fossil fuel power-down. http://evolver.net/take_back_power

Thurs, Dec 17, 6pm – 8pm, Rain Barrel Roll Out, Herring Run Park, 6131 Hillen Rd, Baltimore, MD 21239 Using a rain barrel may save the average homeowner up to 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months! Participants learn every aspect of rain barrel construction and installation, and build their very own rain barrel! Please contact Ashley Traut at 410-254-1577 or atraut@herringrun.org to register for this workshop or to arrange a workshop in your neighborhood. Carpe aqua!

Sat, Dec 19, EcoStewards Alliance, Canning Workshop, 9am-12pm, Alexandria, VA. Cost is \$25/person, all materials provided. Looking for a unique and delicious gift to share this Holiday season. Preserve the goodness of summer fruits and vegetables, and learn to can, safely. Join us for a canning workshop, and taste the richness of home-cooked applesauce, blackberry jam or grape jelly. We will use freshly-picked, local apples, and berries picked and fresh-frozen this summer, to enable you to make your own applesauce and jam. More info: go to EcoStewardsAlliance.Org or email MaureenESA@Gmail.com.

Sun, Dec 20, EcoStewards Alliance invites you to a Winter Solstice Celebration, 3:30-6:00 PM, Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. With Performances by Bob Brown Puppets and South Lakes High School's Award- Winning Choir. Also, there will also be native flutes, drumming and bag pipes. Please join us in celebrating the Winter Solstice and the return of longer days with a puppet show, a concert & sing-a-long. Following the performances we will hold a solstice celebration ceremony that will be held beneath the moon around a small solstice fire, weather permitting. More info: go to EcoStewardsAlliance.Org or email MaureenESA@Gmail.com.

Sun, Dec 20., Winter Solstice Celebration, 5 PM, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD. Directions at www.RRUUC.org. Join us in the Fireside Room to celebrate and

share our light within, to help keep us all evergreen through the cold, dark days of winter. Further information: Marguerite Beck-Rex, (202) 558-9237; Merry Urbia, (202) 829-1979

Tues, Dec 22, 4pm, Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Meeting, 417 E. Fayette St., 8th Floor, Baltimore Public meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month at 4pm at the Baltimore City
www.baltimorecity.gov/sustainability

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Alternative Gifts Week, Fri, Dec 4 through Sun, Dec 13, 10 locations in Maryland, DC and Virginia:

Alternative gifts are the gifts that give twice, once when you make a meaningful donation to a worthy nonprofit and again when you give a heartwarming gift card to a family member or friend, describing the donation you made in their honor. At an alternative gift fair or market you'll find a variety of gifts for everyone on your holiday list. Examples include seed supplies for a farm in Sudan, a start-up loan for a family in Peru and books for children in a homeless shelter in DC. For more details visit www.aggw.org or contact J. McCray at jbmccray@hotmail.com

Simplify the Holidays: Host a "No Impact" Film Screening

During the two-weeks of the historic UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (Dec 7th-18th), the Center for a New American Dream (www.newdream.org) and the No Impact Project (<http://noimpactproject.org/movie/spectacular/>) are bringing people together to talk about the impact of holiday spending on their lives and the environment. Join us for nationwide pre-DVD release community screenings of the documentary, No Impact Man, and a post-screening discussion about how to take action over the holidays. To find a screening in your community, click below. To learn more or to get started, contact us.
No Impact Man = http://www.noimpactdoc.com/index_m.php
Click here = <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/480818140>
Contact us = [mailto: stephanie@noimpactproject.org](mailto:stephanie@noimpactproject.org)

CONSIDER JOINING or RENEWING your NWEI MEMBERSHIP: Today, you can renew your commitment to sustainability and the planet by joining NWEI as a supporting member. The Northwest Earth Institute is a nonprofit organization, and relies on donations from our course participants to further our mission and continue delivering timely, relevant discussion course programs. By purchasing an NWEI course book and/or participating in a discussion circle, you demonstrate your commitment to tackling the critical issues of our times. You can get even more involved by becoming a supporting member of NWEI today. For more information on becoming a member or our membership benefits, please visit www.nwei.org/join. By joining NWEI you will demonstrate your leadership to address the critical challenge of our lifetime, creating a sustainable future for us, our children and our children's children.

Green Your Corner of the World: Sponsor an RPN Membership

Do you want your community to buy more socially and environmentally responsible products? Are you part of a faith based community? Are you affiliated with an educational institution? Are you a resident of a town, city, or county? There's one step that can green your corner of the world--sponsoring an RPN membership. The Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN), a program of the Center for a New American Dream, provides resources for institutional purchasers to buy products that improve human health and the environment, and create more of a market for those products. Now you can give the gift of responsible purchasing resources to the institution of your choice with an RPN Membership. Purchasing a membership for your chosen institution can also be a terrific way to engage others in your community. Ask your child's PTA, your house of worship's environmental committee, or your town's environmental groups to sponsor a membership. Download the gift membership enrollment form (pdf, doc). For more information about the Responsible Purchasing Network, go to www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org, or contact us at rpn@newdream.org or 866-776-1330.

"The Green Bag Lady" idea spreads to Virginia!

A small group of people in Virginia are mounting a campaign to get people to use cloth bags instead of paper or plastic. How we do this is by sewing bags from donated fabric and distributing them free (one to a customer) if they will sign a pledge to use the fabric bag instead of paper or plastic. We have made close to 50 bags and are in need of fabric. People to sew or cut out patterns would be great too. This idea is based on The Green Bag

Lady of Tennessee. She has given away close to 2,000 bags. We would appreciate any help and donations of fabric. We are willing to come and pick it up. Just email me, Helene Shore, at Teachhss@aol.com.

Preview of Future Events

Tues, Jan. 26, 2010, 16th Annual Environmental Summit, 5 pm–8 pm, Key Auditorium, St. John's College, Annapolis: Hear from top legislative leaders and advocates about the 2010 environmental legislation. Join us and lobby for good environmental policy. For more information visit: www.cbf.org/calendar. Please car pool if possible. Park in the Navy Stadium lot and take the shuttle to the State House. St. John's is one block from the State House on College Avenue (<http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/about/AN/map.shtml>).

Sun, Feb. 21, 2010, Mid-Atlantic Green Wedding Showcase, 1 pm–5 pm, College Park, MD: Featuring the Mid-Atlantic's most sustainable wedding vendors, eco ideas for your big day, a swanky eco-fashion show and lounge, the Man Cave for the guys, local/organic beer and wine, stylish eco swag and more. \$10 early bird; \$20 at the door. Directions and more details at www.greenweddingshowcase.com.