

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March** . It is going out to over **1,745 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 262 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 88 members. You can also subscribe from our homepage.

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- Second Sunday Forum & Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- April Preview
- Action Opportunities and Tidbits

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, March 8, 6:30- 8:30 pm

**From the Farmer Herself: Organic Farming and Community Supported Agriculture
With Mariette Hiu Newcomb of Potomac Vegetable Farms**

Conventional industrial-scale agriculture and our complex food distribution systems have distanced us from our natural dependence and responsibility to the Earth. Learn about healthier alternatives by joining Mariette Hiu Newcomb of Potomac Vegetable Farms. She will show you how organic farming and food distribution through CSAs (community-supported agriculture / subscription programs) allow us to become stewards and nurturers of the Earth. Hiu looks forward to sharing with you her thoughts and experiences!

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.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier ([PDF](#), 48 KB) in your workplace or neighborhood, or forward it to your friends

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

Sunday, March 22, 4:30-6:30 pm

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: David Korten, "The Great Turning"

Video excerpt from a recent conference: "Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability", webcast from Trinity Church in NYC

<http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/education/?institute-2009>

MD Presbyterian Church, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286

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

A monthly educational forum on climate and environmental issues open to the public, free of charge featuring speakers or videos, always with discussion and fellowship. For questions, to co-sponsor, or to RSVP, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234

Co-sponsored by Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, Green City Baltimore, Hooked on Nature, Network of Spiritual Progressives in MD, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Baltimore Climate Action Network, MD League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Inc., and Parks & People.

Help us publicize this event! Download and post a flier (PDF) in your workplace or neighborhood! Go to <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore.php>

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

Please note the following abbreviations for Northwest Earth Institute guides: (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; (GiC) Globalization and Its Critics; (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: From January 1st onwards, discussion circle books will 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 8 circles so far in January and have another 7 scheduled to begin in February (205 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" (EDE) Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group and purchase a book. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

Circles recently started at:

First Presbyterian Church (GW)

Green Building Institute (GW)

private home in Ellicott City (MF)

Owen Brown Interfaith Center/UUCC (GW)

Mar 25 - 6:30 pm Wed introductory session at Kittamaquindi Community, 5410 Leaf Treader Way, Columbia, MD 21044 - Continuing dates and registration info TBD. www.kc-church.com/

April 20 - Mon - 7:00-9:00 pm Ellicott City, Miller Library. Sessions are Mon 4/27, Tues May 5 & 12, Mons May 18, & 25. Register on line at www.hclibrary.org /Classes tab or call Miller Library at 410-313-1950.

Howard County, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County 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 region (DSOP) As soon as we have 8-12 people who can agree on a night of the week, we will get started. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

South Baltimore, Old Otterbein UMC (tbd), CS: June Risely

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

Baltimore (tbd) CS: Sister Gabriel

Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (tbd), CS: Karen Stupski & Peggy Perry

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 (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal

Progressive Cheverly (tbd), CS: Kathleen Turczyn

Accokeek (MF) spring circle, Intro meeting: TBD. CS: Linsey Shelton

Montgomery County

Silver Spring, private home (EDE) Intro Meeting: Sunday March 15, 7-8:30 pm. The Intro meeting has been postponed, so if you are interested in joining this group, contact me soon. CS: Marney Bruce, Marney@simplicity-matters.org, 301 652-0492

Carderock/Cabin John (CSL) April 1st start date but contact Diane now to get your books ordered. CS: Diane Karlik, dianekarlik@verizon.net

Bethesda, Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane. (MF) First session March 11th 7:30 - 9 pm. They have already had their intro meeting, but contact Marney to see if you can still join.

Bethesda, private home, (HCHP). Date TBD. If interested please contact Marney@simplicity-matters.org.

St. Mary's County

Leonardtwn, Good Earth Natural Foods, 41675 Park Avenue. (MF) Ongoing, but if you are interested in joining another group contact Christina Allen at allensarticles@earthlink.net. 301-862-3421

Washington, DC

Washington, DC, Friends Meeting House, Tues, Feb. 24th, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (Dupont Circle Metro), 7:30 PM, Topic: **Mindful Consumption**. We will be discussing ideas found in the following: Mindfully Green: A Personal and Spiritual Guide to Whole Earth Thinking by Stephanie Kaza, January 2009 Shambhala Sun, "The Green Path" and The World We Have: A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology by Thich Nhat Hahn.

Meeting every other month, open to newcomers. Sponsored by WBPF.org Contact person : Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Washington, DC, Washington Ethical Society (MF), CS: WES staff

Washington, DC (tbd), Workplace Circle. CS: Sean O'Brien

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This spring, 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

Sun., March 1, Black Diamonds - Mountaintop Removal Documentary, 45-minute film screening with filmmaker Catherine Pancake, 3 pm to 6 pm, Mystickal Voyage, White Marsh. For more information: <http://www.mystickalvoyage.com/>.

Sun., March 1, Deadline for Green Roofs Awards of Excellence. Professionals invited to submit innovative projects and nominate outstanding individuals to be recognized in Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Green Roofs Awards of Excellence. The awards will be given out at the 7th Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards and Trade Show in Atlanta, GA on June 3-5. For more information: http://www.greenroofs.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1425&Itemid=113

Mon., March 2, Capitol Climate Action, prayer vigil at 12:30, civil disobedience action at 1 pm, Washington, D.C. Join Bill McKibben, Mike Tidwell, Wendell Berry, and thousands more at a coal-fired power plant next to Capitol Hill. Meet at Spirit of Justice Park, E St SE and New Jersey Ave, Washington, DC 20010. For more information: http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/423/t/8191/event/index.jsp?event_KEY=46909.

Tues., March 3, Green Building Network Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm, Enviro Center, 7761 Waterloo Road, Jessup, MD. For further information: please email Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org or go to <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?&m=1101228246584>.

Tues., March 3, LEED-ing the way: Policy and Legal Issues with Green Building and Design, 12:30-4:30 pm, Baltimore. Location: University of Baltimore, School of Law Moot Court Room. Presented by University of Baltimore Law Review. For more information: lawreviewsymposium@ubalt.edu.

Tues., March 3, Baltimore Climate Action Network (BCAN) Meeting: A Conversation With The Secretary Of The Maryland Department Of The Environment, 7-8:30 pm, Towson. MDE Secretary Shari Wilson will discuss state activities related to the environment, with an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion followed by a brief open meeting of BCAN Location: Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road, Lutherville, MD. Free. For more information: www.baltimoreclimate.org.

Weds., March 4, GEED – Keys to Unlocking a "New Era" of Energy Efficiency, 9:30 am-3 pm, Washington, DC. Join more than 400 stakeholders from business, industry, government, academia for the Alliance to Save Energy's 6th annual Great Energy Efficiency Day. No fee. For more information: www.ase.org/geed.

Wed., March 4, 11, and 18, Cram for the Exam, 5:30 pm-8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD. Study with peers; join USGBC's LEED NC 2.2 study group workshop. Must have a LEED NC 2.2 reference guide. Location: Merritt Properties, 2066 Lord Baltimore Dr, Baltimore, MD 21244. Member \$250, non-member \$300. For more information, directions and details at <http://usgbcbbaltimore.eventbrite.com>

Thurs., Mar. 5, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at The Vegetable Garden, 11:30 am-10 pm, Rockville, Md. D.C.'s vegan favorite restaurant donates 10 percent of your bill to COK. Location: 11618 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0755>

Thurs., Mar. 5, Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 5:30pm-6:30pm, Washington, D.C. Help distribute pro-vegetarian literature and educate the public about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet. After leafleting join us at The Vegetable Garden where 10 percent of your bill will be donated to COK. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0756>.

Thurs., March 5, 12, 17, 18, 25, Sustainability Webinars, 1 pm. Interactive online trainings allow you to learn new concepts, best practices and innovative tools from your office. Topics: Sustainability Reporting Workshop, Energy Management Systems: Strategies for Effective Energy Management, Carbon Management - 5 course series - Strategies for Carbon Measurement & Reduction. For more information: <http://www.altamont-group.com/webcasts.php>,

Friday, March 6, Vision: Building Commissioning, AIA National Headquarters. Washington, DC. Symposium will address a broad spectrum of issues involving commissioning as related to building science. Issues include the application of commissioning as a quality process to all aspects of buildings. Attendees will be eligible to earn up to 8 AIA CES credits. For more information: http://www.aia.org/ev_C BSP_mar09_symp.

Friday, March 6, Transforming the Strip: Towards a Smarter, More Sustainable Future for Gateway Approaches, 9 am – 4 pm, College Park, MD. Topic: Redevelopment design strategies to create mixed-use centers and discussion on planning for conservation subdivisions. Location: University of Maryland Landscape Architecture Program, Plant Sciences Building, Room 1130. \$45 includes morning coffee and lunch. Registration and coffee 8:30-9:00 am Critique Hall (0104 Plant Sciences Building) For more information: Jack Sullivan, FASLA, jack@umd.edu.

Sat., March 7, Nonviolent Communications, 9:30am-4:30 pm, Eldersburg, MD, 21048. Come learn the practice of compassionate communication with a certified NVC facilitator. Location: Masonic Freedom Lodge, 2253 Liberty Rd (5 miles above Randallstown). Cost: \$60. For more information: <http://www.ccccl.org/nvc.htm> or Call Iris 410-318-8877

Sat., March 7, Movie Night: Kilowatt Ours, 7:30-9:00 pm, Jessup, MD. Follow filmmaker Jeff Barrie and his wife Heather as they learn about the environmental harm caused by our current energy production methods, and explore how homeowners, businesses, organizations and communities are making a difference in how they use energy, with the benefit of saving money and the environment. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org

Sun, March 8, Introduction to Home Energy Audits, 1 – 3 pm, Westminster, MD

Find out what an energy audit is, what energy auditors do to evaluate your home and more! For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson at 443-733-1234 and for details and directions, see www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Sun, March 8, Electronic Unplugged: An E-cycling Event, Baltimore. Bring your old televisions, computers and anything else with a plug. For information: Audrey Rothschild at jarothschild@comcast.net or 410-486-0368. Directions and details at www.templeohebshalom.org

Mon, March 9, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance green gathering and fundraiser, 6-8 p.m., Earth Alley, 3602 Elm Ave, Baltimore, MD 21211. Eva Knoury of Earth Alley will speak on local eco-friendly artists and how buying local green art supports Baltimore's economy. This event is sponsored by Earth Alley and Elman Labels. Admission cost: \$5 and one serving of food and wine. For more information: call 410-342-1482 or go to www.csballiance.org.

Tues., March 10, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7 am-7 pm, Washington, D.C. Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert, at the award-winning Sticky Fingers Bakery, and a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. Location: 1370 Park Rd., N.W., Washington D.C. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0781>.

Tues., March 10 to Thurs., March 12, GreenTech / NFMT, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore. Conference and exposition dedicated to professionals and companies that lead sustainability initiatives and advancements for corporate, commercial and institutional facilities plus four free shows under one roof. For more information about the conference and GreenTech, see www.nfmt.com.

Tues., March 10, Writing Effective LEED Specifications webinar, 2-3:30 pm, Cost: \$75 (for members). Credit: 0.15 CSI CEUs, 1.5 AIA LUs, HSW. Offered by the Construction Specifications Institute. For more information: <https://webportal.csinet.org/Events/CalendarEventsListView.aspx?TOKEN>.

Wed., March 11, A New Vision for Water Infrastructure: Policy and Practice, 6:45-9:00 pm, Jessup, MD. This presentation will discuss this vision in the context of the national debate about infrastructure reinvestment: what policies are needed for more sustainable water infrastructure and what are the obstacles to achieving those policies? Examples from around the country will provide case studies of how green infrastructure can work as well as the lessons learned on what policy changes may be needed at the local and state level. For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org , 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., Mar. 12, DC Vegan Drinks, 7pm-9pm, Washington, D.C. Looking to connect with other like-minded animal advocates while enjoying delicious vegan food and drinks? COK and DC Vegan are teaming up to host DC Vegan Drinks, a monthly social event, at the Science Club at 1136 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0780>.

Sat., March 14, Permaculture Workshop Series: Caring for Soil, 1-4 pm, Red Clover Collective, Baltimore, MD. Price for each workshop is sliding scale \$10 to \$30. Space is limited so please RSVP to Karen at 410-357-9523 or karen@heathcote.org. For more information, see www.heathcote.org and <http://redclovercollective.org/>.

Sun., March 15, Solar Open House, 2:30 - 6 pm, Ellicott City, MD. Drop in for information on the process, including the government incentives for environmental home improvements. We want to share how our solar panels are helping the environment. Light refreshments. RSVP to mkrasnopoler@gmail.com.

Mon., March 16, Changing Metropolitan America, 6 pm, Goucher College. Our free town hall series bring business, community and government leaders together to explore issues and trends facing Towson and the region. Speaker: William Hudnut, senior fellow at the Urban Land Institute. For more information on the speaker and the series, go to www.greatertowson.com. RSVP to gtc@greatertowson.com.

Mon., March 16 to Weds., March 19, Solar Installation Workshop, Goucher College, National Arboretum. Take part in a solar power system installation from beginning to end, learn the fundamentals of planning, installing, operating and maintaining a battery-based photovoltaic (PV) system. Fee: \$200 (FONA \$160) Includes all four days of the workshop and informational materials. Lunch is not provided. For more information: <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/registration.html>

Weds., March 18, 1:30pm - 3:00pm CDT Webinar: Daylighting: Lighting Every Building Using the Sky Learn how to use natural light to illuminate building spaces, save energy and reduce costs. Free <http://www.ecw.org/university/ecuevent.php?ecuid=2>

Thurs., March 19, How to Build a Rain Garden, 6:30-8:30 pm, Charlotte Hall, MD. This class covers installing a rain barrel, selecting the proper rain garden location and more! For more information, contact David Woolley-Wilson, info@greenbuildinginstitute.org, 443-733-1234. Directions and details at www.greenbuildinginstitute.org.

Thurs., March 19, Local Opportunities to Influence our Carbon Footprint, 7:30 p.m., Silver Spring. Montgomery County Growing Smarter Speaker Series. Speaker Andrea Sarzynski will summarize research that ranks energy use and carbon footprints across metropolitan areas and discuss factors both in and out of local control that contribute to an area's carbon footprint. Location: Park and Planning Headquarters, 8787 Georgia Avenue. For more information: http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/growth_policy/speaker_series/speaker_series_shtm.

Fri., March 20, Meatout Leafleting with Compassion Over Killing (COK), 5:30 pm-6:30pm, Washington, D.C. Join us for leafleting in honor of our annual campaign to encourage people to "kick the meat habit." Hand out literature, including our *Vegetarian Starter Guide* and *Easy Vegan Recipes*, and educate commuters on how to transition to a more compassionate diet. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0782>.

Friday, March 20, Baltimore Green Works (BGW) Eco Ball, Baltimore. Attend an inaugural ball with live music, delicious food, and gratis drinks in honor of the vernal equinox and to kick-off to Baltimore Green Week, the annual spring week-long event. Location: Frederick Douglass-Issac Myers Maritime Park and Museum, 1417 Thames Street, Fells Point. Cost: \$75 per person or \$40 per student. For more information: to www.baltimoregreenworks.com.

Sat., March 21, Compassion Over Killing (COK) Benefit at Java Green, 10-6pm, Washington, D.C. Support COK while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists! Please join us at Java Green, located at 1020 19th St., N.W., Washington D.C., when a portion of your bill will benefit COK. Details at: <http://www.cok.net/events/#event0767>

Sun., March 22, Video: "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai, 5 pm, Washington, DC. Location: Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW.

Sun., March 22, Spring Equinox Service, 5 PM, Bethesda, MD. See your blessings of life's lightness dawning from spring's horizon. Picture your new balance and growth. It's wake-up time. All over age 10 welcome. Bring snacks/drinks and drinking cups. Location: River Road Unitarian Church, Fireside Room, upstairs. For more information: www.RRUUC.org or call Helen Popenoe, 301/229-0549.

Sun., March 22 and Sunday April 12, Vegetarian Nutrition & Cooking Workshop, 2 -3:30 pm both days, Owings Mills, MD. Two-day workshop packed with good information and tasty recipes from a vegan dietitian. Learn meal balance tips, healthy protein sources, prudent use of supplements, and new recipes. Cost: \$55 per person or 2/\$95. Registration deadline: March 18. To register, contact Mark Rifkin, MS, RD, LDN at 410-764-8343 or preventive_nutrition@verizon.net.

Sun., March 22, Green Money for Green Renovation, Urban Solar Solutions, Edmonston, MD. Learn about the federal, state, local and country programs to help fund your energy savings and save money and more. For information: go to www.urbansolarsolutions.com or call 301 209 0011 during business hours (W-F 10-5, Sat. 9-4).

Weds., March 25 and Thurs., March 26, Chesapeake Green 2009 Building Expo, 10am-7pm, Elkridge, MD. First-ever U.S. Green Building Council showcase of local green firms and their technologies. Location: Meadowridge 95 Corporate Park, 6518 Meadowridge Road. \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door for two-day access. Special rates for students and groups. For more information: <http://usgbcaltimore.eventbrite.com> and www.usgbcmaryland.org.

Fri, March 27, Sustainable Community Suppers, 7-9 pm, Dayton, MD. Fourth Friday vegetarian potluck, discussion, sharing and speakers to support environmentally conscious living. Location: 5085 Green Bridge Rd. For more information and to RSVP, contact Karen at 410-489-6651 or sustainablecommunitysuppers@gmail.com. For directions, go to www.edenvalleycenter.org.

Thurs., March 27 to Sat., March 29, The City From Below Conference, Baltimore. Red Emma's and 2640 are cooperating with the Independent Reader, Camp Baltimore, and the Campaign for a Better Baltimore to put on a major three-day conference on new strategies for taking back and rebuilding the urban environment. Location: 2640 St Paul Street. For more information: <http://cityfrombelow.org>.

Sat., March 28, EarthSave Baltimore Veg Dinner Ed Series, 6-9 pm. Registered Dietitian Mark Rifkin speaking on "Veganomics: Slicing Food Bills the Vegan Way." Please bring a vegan dish that will serve five times the number of people in your party, plus a \$5 donation (members \$2). Or with one-day notice you may enjoy dinner without bringing food for a \$12 donation (members \$10). Write Baltimore@earthsave.org, or go to <http://earthsavebaltimore.org/>.

Sun., March 29 to Mon., March 31, 13th Annual National Symposium on Market Transformation. Washington, D.C. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) have again brought together a diverse audience to network, compare programs, learn about new MT approaches, and discuss the latest issues. This year's program focuses on "The Changing Face of Market Transformation." Location:Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. For more information: <http://aceee.org/conf/mt09/index.htm>.

Tues., March 31, 7 -9 p.m. Everyday Sustainable Living, Washington, DC area. Mid-Atlantic Cohousing will host members of Ecolocity and other groups at a cohousing community in the DC area to learn how living in community is truly sustainable. Contact: Ann Zabaldo, zabaldo@earthlink.net, 202 291 7892. Address, directions and details upon registering. Limit 35 people

March 31, Energy Star Awards, Washington DC. Location: Marriott Wardman Park. For more information: www.energystar.gov/awards.

Events in April

Fri., April 3, Breakfast Roundtable, 8 am-10 am, Sparks, MD. The second in Water Efficiency's (WE) our series of breakfast roundtables, hosted on the first Friday of the month. Networking and light breakfast with an overview of all the WE Credits and then break into roundtable discussions on how the credits are applied across the various rating systems. Hosted by Fidelity Engineering. Members \$15, non-members \$25. For more information: <http://usgbcaltimore.eventbrite.com>.

Sat., April 4, 10 am to 4 pm, Howard County GreenFest, Columbia. This year's GreenFest will focus on alternative energy, energy efficiency, water conservation, and water reuse. The Sierra Club will sponsor a talk on using rain barrels, and we will be selling rain barrels. Other topics include green buildings, green consumer products, green landscaping, wildlife and environmental education, and children's activities. A shredding event will take place from 10 am – 2 pm in the parking lot. Location: Howard Community College Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway. For more information: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/OES/GreenFest.htm>.

Sun. April 12, Shop at NEST (Natural Elements Selected Thoughtfully) and Support the Sierra Club, Clarksville. NEST has one Sunday each month when 10 percent of its profits are donated to a local organization, and the Sierra Club's day is April 12. Sierra Club members can also request a 10 percent discount for any other date in April. NEST sells a wide variety of products that are environmentally friendly, including organic and recycled items. Hours of operation: 11 am to 7 pm. Location: Next to Roots Market, 5809 Clarksville Square Drive. For more information: www.nestnaturalhome.com.

Tues., April 14, Baltimore Climate Action Network (BCAN) Green Jobs Movement, 6:15 - 7:45 PM, Baltimore. A surge of new enthusiasm, projects, and funding described by Jerry Raitzyk, leading green jobs and environmental justice advocate, board member of the Entrepreneurial Training University in Baltimore. Presentation followed by a brief open meeting. Refreshments. Free. Location: Central Branch, Pratt Library, Poe Room, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, 21201. Join us to continue the conversation afterward at a nearby eatery. For more information: call 410-812-1447 or www.baltimoreclimate.org.

Sat, April 18, Ecological Building and Living Practices Workshop, 9am - 6pm, 7108 Holly Ave. Takoma Park, MD Learn to create a nurturing and beautiful home (or add onto or renovate your house) which provides refuge as it places you in harmony with the land. An experiential (playful, reflective) workshop exploring ecological practices through a series of creative exercises and the design of a home for a site. Bill Hutchins, AIA, Founder, Helicon Works Architects billhutchins@earthlink.net 202.332.7949

Sat, April 18 The City of New Carrollton will be hosting it's first ever Earth Day celebration. We're calling it "Living La Vida Verde". (no details available at this time).

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Sat., March 28, Earth Hour, 8:30 to 9:30 pm. World Wildlife Fund is asking individuals, businesses, governments and organizations around the world to turn off their lights for one hour-- Earth Hour--to make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate their commitment to finding solutions. Turn out. Take action. Be part of this historic event. <http://www.earthhour.org/>

Check out www.salamanderpoints.com, an individual daily carbon counter. How many Salamander Points have you used today? The blog offers suggestions on how to live the carbon sexy life, and there's a daily calculator to help you budget your carbon emissions. Contact Rachel Wilkinson at rwilkins07@yahoo.com.

The Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) helps streamline the flow of material and educational resources from various organizations in the city to the gardens and green spaces that need them. This is a membership program; community green spaces can join for a minimal fee to receive access to tools, plant materials, and educational workshops and events. An individual can also join to become part of the network and stay tapped into what new initiatives or events are occurring throughout the city. We have a Volunteer Work Day coming up at the end of the month. For more info, contact Sarah Krones, Parks & People, sarah.krones@parksandpeople.org, (voice) 410-448-5663 x114. www.parksandpeople.org

There is a new national movement called **Transition Towns or Transition Culture**, subtitled "from Peak Oil to Local Resiliency". Local groups are popping up all over the United States. Most of the groups are self organizing through a new type of website called a NING. Major topics include Urban Gardening, Local Currency, Intentional Living, etc. There is already TransitionDC (EcocityDC), TransitionMaryland, and Transition Bethesda . . with more groups to come Here are two local NINGs, to give you a taste:

<http://ecocity.ning.com/> <http://transitionmaryland.ning.com/>

Rob Hopkin's Transition Handbook: <http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionHandbook>

If you are **concerned about our national economic crisis**, here are a few websites that might interest you:

Steady State Economics, <http://www.steadystate.org/>

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20026786.900-special-report-life-in-a-land-without-growth.html?full=true>

Chris Martenson's Crash Course, <http://www.chrismartenson.com/crashcourse>

David Korten's new book, Agenda for a New Economy, <http://www.davidkorten.org/NewEconomyBook>

Jump on the LEED Bandwagon

The U.S. Green Building Council offers numerous online courses and webinars related to LEED and information about them can be found at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1449>. Examples

include LEED for Retail, Case Studies from Early Adopters, LEED for New Construction Technical Review, LEED for Brokers, and Certification & Market Overview for Brokers.