

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **January 2010**. It is going out to over **1,870 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 269 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 new YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You can also subscribe 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
- February Preview and beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

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"

Visit our **newly updated website**, <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles>, for more info. See our Discussion Circle Update (below) for the appropriate person to contact for your county. Thanks to **Lena Rotenberg, our webmaster**, for all of her hard work.

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

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM *Movie Night*

Sun., Jan. 10, 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Maxed Out

Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders

America is not only far from the world's wealthiest nation; it is crumbling beneath a staggering burden of individual and government debt. Maxed Out takes us on a journey deep inside the American style of debt, where everything seems okay as long as the minimum monthly payment arrives on time. Sure, most of us may have that sinking feeling that something isn't quite right, but we're told not to worry. After all, there's always more credit! By turns hilarious and profoundly disturbing, Maxed Out paints a picture of a national nightmare which is all too

real for most of us. (from filmmaker James Scurlock)

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.

February's forum, "The American Dream - The World's Nightmare" with Michael Despines

HOWARD COUNTY EARTH FORUM

**Sunday, January 17, Earth Forum of Howard County
First Presbyterian, Columbia, MD. 3:00–5:30 pm**

Howard County Earth Forum presents **Water for Life** with Renee Vogelsang, Food and Water Watch, and Ned Tillman, author of [The Chesapeake Watershed](#).

Will water, a vital resource for living, will be safe and available in the future - your future? How can we insure having water for life? Small group workshops, and discussion/action groups follow presentation. Refreshments provided.

At First Presbyterian of Howard County, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Free and open. Contact church office at 410-730-3545, ex. 10. Directions at www.firstpreshc.org/

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

**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/About.htm>**

TOPIC: Introduction to Permaculture with Karen Stupski

Learn about Permaculture, a system of designing ecologically inspired landscapes that integrate food production with energy, shelter and water. We will introduce the principles of Permaculture and give examples of how families, communities and Transition Town initiatives can apply them to build environmental resilience and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

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.

FREE to attend, but donations to Maryland Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated.

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

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (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; (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: Discussion circle books now cost \$20 plus s/h (except SSW, which cost \$35). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

We ended the year with a total of 27 circles (224 in total since 2002!). So far, we have 5 circles scheduled for 2010 -- see those with an asterick (*) below, that are open to the public.

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

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

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

Oakland Mills Meeting House (HCHP) **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Tracy Manning, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Howard County College (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Kittamaqundi Church (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Snowden Overlook (GW), **Intro Mtg:** TBD, CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

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

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

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, Villa Assumpta** (VS), CS: Sr. Gabriel Roeder, Every Wednesday during Lent, 6:30-8:00 pm (can make it later if this is a problem). **Intro Meeting:** Feb 17; **First Session:** Feb 24.

Villa Assumpta, 6401 N.Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21212 in the Assembly Room. **Contact:** gabrielroeder@yahoo.com

Baltimore, Private home in Belair-Harford Rd area (VS), 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, Light Street Presbyterian (SSW), CS: Retta Barkley

Baltimore Ethical Society (tbd), CS: Karen Elliott

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. Contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org

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 (CSL)** Introduction 7 - 9pm Wednesday 1/27 open to the public at Bethesda Green, 4825 Cordell Avenue, Bethesda, second floor above the Chevy Chase Bank branch. To RSVP contact marney@simplicity-matters.org.

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, Teasm Penn Quarter, Sat. Jan. 23. 10am** Join the folks of the Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). 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) www.hococlimatechange.org

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 our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/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

January Events

Tues. Jan. 5, STREETFILMS, 5:30 – 8:30pm, Metro Gallery - 1700 N. Charles Street, Baltimore

EnvisionBaltimore and Friends of the Charles Street Trolley invite you to "Streetfilms in Baltimore" with special guest Clarence Eckerson, Jr., the driving force behind Streetfilms - Documenting Livable Streets Worldwide. There will be a screening of select Streetfilms, plus Mr. Eckerson will discuss the Streetfilms phenomenon. This promises to be a great evening of networking and socializing among folks who are excited about taking livability advocacy to a new level in Baltimore. For more information about Streetfilms, see www.streetfilms.org/about, <http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=1540095827&k=ZZA3YWRSWYTF2FBEV/G62Q5PQUUBF2U5E&oid=186879129628>

Tues. Jan. 5, Neighbors of Northwest Branch meeting, 7:30-9:15pm, Silver Spring at the White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave, just north of the intersection with US 29 (Colesville Rd.). Jim Connelly will be honored for his 17 years of service to the Anacostia Watershed. Brent Bolin, newly appointed Director of Advocacy for AWS, will speak. Plans for 2010 will be announced and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome at no charge. For further information, call 301-946-5599 or go to www.neighborsnwb.org.

Tues, Jan. 5, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Green Building Network Meeting, The Envirocenter - 7761 Waterloo Road Jessup, MD 20794 The general public is always warmly invited to GBN meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month, except for holidays, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Enviro Center. GBN meetings and activities will be announced through GBI e-newsletters and on the GBI web site. To be added to the e-mail list please click here. For further information, or to submit an event, please email Leslye@greenbuildinginstitute.org. <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/GBN.html>

Wed. Jan. 6, Webinar - TrendWatch 2010, 1-2pm, on WEB. Sustainable Industries invites you to our annual TrendWatch Web Conference -- one of our most anticipated and highly attended Webinars of the year. Presented in partnership with Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort, this free Webinar offers critical insight into 2010's high opportunity trends for sustainable business leaders. Based on the in-depth market analysis highlighted in Sustainable Industries' January 2010 TrendWatch Issue, this Webinar includes input from leading experts in cleantech, finance, green building, and energy efficiency. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/841971929>

Wed. Jan. 6, Alaskan Glaciers - Rivers of Ice and Indicators of Change, 1-2 pm, DC. US Dept of the Interior Museum South Penthouse, Main Interior Building 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC. As global temperatures rise, they profoundly impact Earth's largest reservoir of fresh water, glaciers. Outside of the Polar regions, Alaska has one of the largest accumulations of glaciers on Earth. US Geological Survey (USGS) Geologist Dr. Bruce Molnia will discuss glaciers from across the Alaskan landscape and their relationship with climate and sea level. http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/getinvolved/event_detail.cfm?id=1052

Thurs. Jan. 7, COK Benefit at the Vegetable Garden, 11:00 am-10:00 pm, Rockville, MD. Dine in or order take-out and 10% of your bill will be automatically donated to COK. It's a great way to support COK's work while enjoying delicious cruelty-free fare and socializing with other activists. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net

Thurs. Jan. 7, Leaflet with COK, 5:30-6:30 pm, Dupont Circle, 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, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net

Thurs, Jan. 7, 4 pm, A Planning Board hearing on the Wind Turbine Battle in Baltimore County

The Baltimore County Planning Board has proposed legislation to drastically limit the placement of wind turbines in the County, including a prohibition on the sale of wind-generated power (!!!!), outlawing more than a single

turbine on any piece of property regardless of the property's size, and limiting turbines to residential areas only! In advance of the hearing it is urgent that those living or working in the County give clear feedback to the Planning Board and to elected officials as soon as possible! If enacted, this policy would set a damaging precedent, blocking decentralized low-cost power generation, an option now in its infancy but with tremendous promise. It would impede new state laws intended to make Maryland a leader in the clean energy economy. <http://www.baltimoreclimate.org/content/1/2/231.html>

Fri. Jan. 8, Screening of Coal Country, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Alexandria, VA When we turn on our lights in Northern Virginia, chances are that this electricity was generated at least in part by burning coal mined from Appalachia. What does our connection to "coal country" and its people mean for us? Five Alexandria congregations have joined together to host a screening of Coal Country: a dramatic look at modern coal mining. Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria (Metro: King Street, take King Street Trolley to Royal Street) FREE Admission; \$10 suggested donation. RSVP, and for more information: joelle@gwipl.org More at www.gwipl.org

Sat. Jan. 9, E-Cycle Event, 10am-3pm, Baltimore. Parking Lot behind Starbucks – Whole Foods - 1330 Smith Ave, Free. For the New Year do your part to help the environment! Bring your unwanted electronics listed below to be recycled. desktop computers, keyboards and mice, laptop computers, Mainframe computer systems, Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) and monitors, modems and telephone boards, Hard drives, floppy drives and CD ROMs, phones, fax machines and telecommunications hardware, printers, computer boards, CPUs and memory chips, circuit boards, & connecting wires and cables, NO TVs please.

Mon. Jan. 11, Planning your spring garden with natives, 6:30-8:00 pm, 3601 Eastern Ave., Baltimore City, MD, 21224 Wondering how to garden and conserve water? Come learn about how landscaping design and planting with native plants helps with water conservation. Ashley Traut from Herring Run and Anne Fleshman from Baltimore Contained will offer solutions. For more information, contact Jenny Michalak, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator with the Southeast Community Development Corporation, jmichalak@southeastcdc.org, 410-370-6482 or 410-342-3234. Directions and details at <http://www.prattlibrary.org/calendar/atpratt.aspx?id=40264>. For information on "green" volunteer opportunities http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/bvu-maryland/org/opp.aspx?agency_id=10352148221

Mon. Jan. 11, Green By Design: Project of the Neighborhood Design Center, 6:00-8:30pm, Baltimore, MD This free training series is intended to provide community leaders with the information and skills needed to embark on energy and money-saving, healthy, "green" projects benefiting their members and neighborhoods. For more information, contact Kristen Humphrey, khumphrey@ndc-md.org, 410-233-9686 ext.101.

Mon, Jan 11, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) Green Mondays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Harbor East/Baltimore, MD. Join CSBA at the Fairfield Inn & Suites Baltimore – the first LEED Certified green hotel in Baltimore. Hear a presentation about the perks and challenges of building and marketing the hotel, take a tour of the property including the hotel's eco suites and outdoor courtyard, enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and local beer. \$20 members, \$30 non members. For more information and to register by Friday, January 8, go to www.csballiance.org.

Tues. Jan. 12, COK Benefit Day at Sticky Fingers Bakery, 7:00 am-7:00 pm, Columbia Heights, DC Want to satisfy your sweet tooth and help us help animals at the time? Join us for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert and a portion of your bill will be automatically donated towards our efforts to help farmed animals. For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net

Wed, Jan 13, 7 pm, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd. Screening of the new Sierra Club movie "Coal Country". Discussion to follow about the local impact and use of coal-powered electricity in MD. David Holdridge from the Sierra Club and Mike Sherling from Environment MD will explain about the new Transmission Line Campaign that both organizations are working on locally, in conjunction with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. For more info, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org.

Thurs. Jan. 14, Urban Agriculture Task Force meeting, 6pm-8pm, Baltimore, MD Join us for our quarterly meeting as we plan activities and trainings related to growing food in the city for the coming year. For more

information, contact Sarah Krones, sarah.krones@parksandpeople.org, 410-448-5663 ext. 114. Details at www.baltimoreurbanag.org.

Mon. Jan. 18, Belgian Embassy English Ivy Removal, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Washington, DC Join Friends of Rock Creek's Environment, the Embassy of Belgium, and neighborhood volunteers to clear invasive ivy from trees in the Normanstone section of Rock Creek Park. For more information, contact Beth Mullin, beth@friendsofrockcreek.org, 202-237-8866. Directions and details at friendsofrockcreek.org. We will convene at 10am in the rear parking lot of the Embassy of Belgium, 3330 Garfield Street (corner of Garfield and 34th).

Wed. Jan. 20, Free Solar Seminar, 6:30-7:30 pm, Baltimore, MD Maryland Solar Solutions, Inc. president Colette Hayward presents and informal seminar on solar electricity for homes and business. For more information, contact Cara Keighron, mssicontact@marylandsolarsolutions.com, 443-218-2620. Directions and details at www.marylandsolarsolutions.com

Sat. Jan. 23, COK Cooking Class with Chef Mimi Clark, 1:00-2:00pm, Takoma Park, MD Join COK and vegan chef Mimi Clark for a Meatless Makeover cooking demo designed to teach you how to take your favorite recipes (including classic dishes like meatloaf and Chicken a la King) and give them a healthy, animal-friendly makeover! For more information, contact Francesca, fvalente@cok.net, 301-891-2458. Directions and details at www.cok.net

Sat, Jan. 23, 10:30 am, Annual Polar Bear Plunge, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis, MD Chesapeake Climate Action Network: CCAN. Join hundreds of climate activists as we jump into the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis - raising money and awareness and making clear our continuing call for Congress and our nation to Keep Winter Cold! Fight Global Warming! Please go to ERideshare and post your ride!www.keepwintercold.org or www.keepwintercold.org/about/time-and-location.html

Mon, Jan 25, 7:30 -9:30 am, Maryland General Assembly Legislative Forum, Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD Speakers: Senator Catherine E. Pugh Deputy Majority Whip, Member of Senate Finance Committee and Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell, House Minority Leader, Member of Environmental Matters Committee GBC Members: \$50 per person Non-members: \$85 per person <https://www.gbc.org/NewsAndEvents/EventRegister1.cfm?eid=1987>

Mon, Jan 25, 4pm, Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Meeting, 417 E. Fayette St., 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD Public meetings the fourth Tuesday of every month at 4pm at the Baltimore City. www.baltimorecity.gov/sustainability

Tues, Jan 26, 5 - 8 p.m., 16th Annual Environmental Summit, Key Auditorium, St. John's College, Annapolis, MD Come to Annapolis and hear from top legislative leaders and advocates about the 2010 environmental legislation. Do your part for the environment and our communities! Help save the Bay. http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/getinvolved/event_detail.cfm?id=1047

Sat. Jan. 30, Washington Gardener Seed Exchange, 12:30-4:00 pm, Brookside Gardens. Wheaton, MD *Washington Gardener Magazine's* annual **Seed Exchange** takes place on National Seed Sway Day. For a very low entrance fee (even lower for **magazine subscribers**), you'll get a goody bag full of seed packs, seed-talks by experts, be eligible for fabulous door prizes, and most importantly be there to swap seeds with other DC-area gardeners. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, WGardenermag@aol.com, 301-588-6894, www.WashingtonGardener.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.org.

Sun. Jan. 31, Panel discussion on opposing nuclear energy for Maryland & supporting safer, cheaper alternatives. 3 pm in Greenbelt. Lead presentation by Michael Mariotte, Executive Director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service. Sponsors: Peace & Justice Coalition of Prince George's County and Greenbelt Climate Action Network. Greenbelt Community Center, Room 103 - 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt (near Kenilworth Ave. Beltway exit). Contact justpeacepg@earthlink.net 301-577-2350 Lucy Duff

FEBRUARY PREVIEW (and beyond!)

Tues. Feb 2, 'Your Planet is Hot' - A Story of Global Warming and Passion., 7 pm, Baltimore. The Episcopal Center (The Cathedral of the Incarnation) 4 E. University Parkway. This one hour multi-media event combines story-telling, music, film, and humor as Mr. Tidwell (journalist, author, host of Earthbeat Radio and Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network) leads the audience on a fresh journey of discovery, honesty, hope, and action. Then discuss the program with its co-creators Mike Tidwell and Jay Tomlinson of CCAN. On bus routes. Free parking. Free of charge. www.baltimoreclimate.org

Wed. Feb. 3, One Less Car Presents the 13th Annual Smart Transportation and Bicycle Symposium 8:30am to 4:00pm Annapolis, MD --President's Conference Center, East -- Miller Office Building
To Learn More: <http://onelesscar.org/page.php?id=157> The Symposium is the perfect setting to inform our state delegates and senators that Maryland's communities need smart commuting opportunities and safe bicycle access to be fully sustainable and livable. The Symposium is designed as an opportunity for people to meet and share information with advocates, planners, state and local officials, and community leaders. There are educational exhibits and presentations throughout the day!

Sat. Feb. 13 (1st day of 12 day course), Home-Scale Permaculture Design Course, 8am – 5pm, Freeland, MD. Learn ethical principles and practical skills for producing your own needs from local natural resources by mimicking natural ecosystems. Topics include energy efficient site planning for house, gardens, orchard, woodlot and wildlife habitat; farm animal forage systems; beneficial microclimate; urban strategies for food and energy production; sustainable community economics and food security. Tuition \$1400 for 12 days or \$700 for 7 days. For more info contact: Karen Stupski, 410-357-9523, education@heathcote.org, details at <http://www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course-2010> .

Sat. Feb. 13, Baltimore City Schoolyard Greening and Garden Workshop for Educators, 9am-2pm, Baltimore, MD Come to the beautiful 33-acre Great Kids Farm to learn how to turn your schoolyard into an engaging educational green space, and meet other Baltimore City educators who are doing the same. Free for all Baltimore City Public School teachers and students, suggested donation \$5 for others. Please RSVP to sandy.robson@parksandpeople.org by February 5, 2010.

Sun, Feb 21, Mid-Atlantic Green Wedding Showcase, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., 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.

Sat. March 20, Cohousing: Growing Smart Communities, 8:30a-6:30p, College Park, MD. Join us for a day-long conference on cohousing, its contribution to and its future role in creating sustainable communities. Co-sponsored by Mid Atlantic Cohousing and The University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Info contact Ann Zabaldo, ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org, 202 291-7892. Registration and details on website: www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org.

Sat. May 22, The Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, Carroll County Farm Museum 500 S. Center St. Westminster, Md. 21157, 9am to 4pm. Promotes eco-friendly lifestyles, viz: renewable energy, green building, organic foods, sustainable living products and more. Contact Dan Andrews, 410-857-4129, dooze@qis.net, Cost is very reasonable and please visit: sustainablelivingmd.org

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Salamander Points: An Individual Carbon Counter and Local-Living Blog

Ever wonder how much you contributed today to climate change? Want to know your biggest areas of waste? Calculate your daily carbon footprint, or learn more about simplifying your life and living Carbon-Sexy in Baltimore: www.salamanderpoints.com

Pre-order a copy of "Story of Stuff"

The book **The Story of Stuff** will be released March 9, 2010. The book will include more details of topic covered in the film www.storyofstuff.org which has been out about two years and gotten national attention. Annie Leonard, the author, is asking friends to pre-order copies because all the advance sales count toward the first

week of sales which will amplify the book's message of sustainability and equity. Pre-order through your local bookstore, online through Amazon, Powell's or Barnes and Noble.

You can also view Annie's new free/online video, "**The Story of Cap and Trade**" at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/capandtrade/>