

ECONEWS #177

A monthly newsletter funded by your donations that dreams of a world blessed by the harmony of nature, the pleasures of community, and the joys of personal fulfillment, guided and protected by our active citizenship.

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THE ECO-PERSONALS

\$1.00 a word. Non-profits, low-income free.

Limit 5 lines. 1" box ad \$50

* **Want to reduce your energy use**, but need help? www.shoreenergy.ca.

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* **Peninsula Mindful Living** is a community meditation group for women. We meet in Brentwood Bay, 6:30pm each Thursday evening. tatha.peninsula.mindful.living@telus.net

* **Recipe for a Cool Planet: 50 Ways You Can Help Slow Climate Change.**

Looking for distribution channels and ad sponsors. Books can retail at \$5 each, wholesale \$3. Helen 250-544-2064 info@recipeforacoolplanet.com

* **Cowichan Valley Recycle & Re-Use** – an online Forum where you can gift reusable items & keep them out of the landfill. See www.cvrecycle.ca

* **Natural building** & sustainable food apprenticeships, work-trade options. Courses, guest speakers, documentary evenings at OUR Ecovillage, Cobble Hill. www.ourecovillage.org

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HOUSE COOLING PARTIES

Do you want to reduce your carbon emissions and help your friends reduce theirs at the same time? The Sierra Club is looking for hosts for House Cooling Parties as part of its campaign to address global warming. You invite some friends, co-workers or neighbours over for a party, and the Sierra Club provides you with a DVD and package of information about practical things people can do to reduce their carbon footprints. The first Parties will be on Jan 17th, 22nd and 30th. If you're interested, call 386-5255 ext. 237 or email cercles@sierraclub.bc.ca



COWICHAN RECYCLISTS

Aaron Bichard and Katie Harris live in Duncan, where they run home-based businesses as a photographer and a radio broadcaster, and when they saw a big ecological problem recently – the big smelly trucks that collect garbage to truck to a landfill 400 km away – they thought “there must be a better way”. Duncan businesses are not allowed to mix recyclables in the garbage, but there's no easy way to recycle them, so businesses are in a bit of a bind. Enter Aaron and Katie's creativity. They called Tony's Trailers in Mill Bay (www.tonystrailers.com), and Tony made them a sturdy one than can haul over 90kg (see photo). They started in September with 10 contracts, collecting recyclables every Wednesday and biking them to the nearby Harper's Recycling. By December they had 40 contracts, all by word of mouth and advertising on the trailer. Way to go! See www.cowichanrecyclists.com.

VICTORIA'S PEDAL TO PETAL

Here in Victoria, the Pedal to Petal Urban Agricultural Collective is collecting household compostables by bike for \$5 a week, and turning it into compost that will be used in urban organic agriculture projects that provide fresh produce for low-income Victorians. Call 383-5144 #1116. www.pedaltopetal.blogspot.com

SHARING A RIDE

Ever had this experience? You're going to an event where you know you'll meet like-minded people, and you think “*If only I could share a ride with someone.*” We'd burn less fuel, create less traffic, and have a generally happier time. The good news is that we can, using www.erideshare.com. If you click on any region of North America you can see who wants or is offering a ride. If you are organizing an event you can set up a group with its own password, enabling people to link up. We just need to get into the habit of doing so for our meetings and various events.

WHAT HAPPENED IN BALI?

This December, the world's nations gathered in Bali, Indonesia, to create a roadmap for a new treaty that will replace Kyoto when it expires in 2012. Now this is serious stuff. If we continue to produce carbon emissions as we have been, global warming will bring an ugly end to all civilization, and most species. If you doubt my words, read *Six Degrees* by Mark Lynas. The Europeans wanted a reduction in emissions from the developed world by 25-40% below the 1990 level by 2020. (BC's goal is 10% below 1990 by 2020.) Canada, Japan and the USA all objected (boo!), arguing that unless countries like China and India also made a commitment, the industrialized countries should not be required to set binding targets. The pressure on Canada was huge, including a petition with 300,000 signatures organized by the group Avaaz, and Canada *did* back down, withdrawing its objections. The US continued to insist that any reference to firm targets should be deleted, and in the end, they had their way. After the targets were relegated to a footnote that referenced a report, the US delegation finally agreed to sign onto the document. This is a “victory” as far as it keeps the US at the table. Otherwise, it is a victory for the corporations that control US policy-making. The hope is that with a new President in the White House in January 2009, US intransigence will give way to a more constructive approach. The developing nations *do* also need to reduce their emissions, but it is wrong to insist that the developed nations – which have produced the lion's share of the emissions so far – should sit back and do nothing unless China and India also play along.