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Green Broad Ripple Community Newsletter

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Small is Beautiful – *Cortellini*

Change, it is generally agreed, has now become a matter of necessity. Peak Oil, the worsening Ecological Crises, the collapse of the Economy, and the steady declined of Community, have converged, in this the first decade of the third Millennium, to make large scale change of our society inevitable. What course shall we, as a culture, chart in the second decade of this new Millennium? Can we step outside of ourselves in order to see our situation clearly and objectively? Do we have the capacity to deliberately change our circumstances towards a new intended direction? Can we intentionally change ourselves?

We have entered the Post Industrial Era. The difficulties we are now experiencing are the result of unintended consequences of an age that bought more change, in 100 years, than the world had seen in all of prior human history. Technology, the product and the "change agent" of the Industrial Age, has given us enormous power to affect change through the ability to engineer outcomes. We have come to learn however that… read more

Local is Smart - *Patty Cortellini*

On April 20, 2008 I had the wonderful opportunity to hear Dr. Matthew Sleeth speak on his book "Serve God, Save the Planet". In his book he shares the joy of adopting a healthier, less materialistic lifestyle, which led to stronger relationships and a richer spiritual life. Since that time of learning about the Dr. Sleeth & his family I have subscribed to their newsletter (www.blessedearth.org) and just recently discovered that Nancy Sleeth wrote a new book titled "Go Green and Save Green". I purchased the book and found more than green tips, I found a kindred spirit. Nancy Sleeth gives a simple guide to saving time, money, while being a good steward of God's Green Earth. Now being a greenie at heart, a co-facilitator of the Living Lean and Green workshops, and the wife of a green architect, I thought I had a pretty good handle on living a green lifestyle. Well, I am here to tell you… read more

Small & Local Energy – *Neal Bennett*

We Want Your Waste? The cause of sustainability can be viewed through many lenses. One such lens is recycling. Green Broad Ripple has the goal of full waste stream recycling in our community. In 2008, Brenda Rising-Moore of Union Jack Pub began the glass recycling program for the bars and restaurants located on the city block known as Broad Ripple Square. This was a giant first step for this cause. Furthering this initiative, GBR is planning to introduce an oldtechnology whose time has once again surfaced for processing our food waste into energy and compost. Anaerobic digestion (without oxygen) is just such a means. The concept has been around since 1859. However, the use of this technology is just starting to gain momentum. The biodigester is a device that utilizes several specific types of bacteria to break down waste components (organic materials) into base compounds including methane gas based biofuel and nitrogen rich fertilizer. For a system to be sustainable the input energy must be renewable and the output product must be a resource that reciprocates the process. In other words, waste = food, but only for an organism from a different kingdom… read more

Buddhist Economics – *Introduction by Cortellini*

If Broad Ripple is to become a truly sustainable community, it, like the rest of the nation, must first rethink its economics. Before it moves to planning and revising its infrastructure, it must reassess how it does business. E.F. Schumacher provides us food for thought. This essay was first published in *Asia: A Handbook* in 1966. Below is a Word Cloud of the essay. A Word Cloud is a graphic image which displays words in size proportional to the frequency of their use.

BUDDHIST ECONOMICS *by E. F. Schumacher*

"Right Livelihood" is one of the requirements of the Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path. It is clear, therefore, that there must be such a thing as Buddhist economics.

Buddhist countries have often stated that they wish to remain faithful to their heritage. So Burma: "The New Burma sees no conflict between religious values and economic progress. Spiritual health and material well-being are not enemies: they are natural allies." [1] Or: "We can blend successfully the religious and spiritual values of our heritage with the benefits of modern technology." [2] Or: "We Burmans have a sacred duty to conform both our dreams and our acts to our faith. This we shall ever do." [3]

All the same, such countries invariably assume that they can model their economic development plans in accordance with modern economics, and they call upon modern economists from so-called advanced countries to advise them, to formulate the policies to be pursued, and to construct the grand design for development, the Five-Year Plan or whatever it may be called. No one seems to think that a Buddhist way of life would call for Buddhist economics, just as the modern materialist way of life has brought forth modern economics. Read the whole essay

Announcement:

There will be a viewing of a film made by Chris Bedford, "Coming Home – E.F. Schumacher and the reinvention of the Local Economy", that tells the story of North Barrington, Massachusetts, a community which has implemented a series of practical innovations based on Schumacher's work. The free viewing will be in the meeting room of the College Avenue Branch Library, 4180 N. College Avenue on Monday, April 27, 2009 starting at 6:30 PM promptly. Please come to this casual get-together to view the 37 minute video followed perhaps by a brief impromptu discussion period. If you like, bring a friend.

Please let us know if you will be attending. info@greenbroadripple.org 466-1099

Green Broad Ripple Mission: To enhance the Greater Broad Ripple Community by promoting a healthful, productive, and fulfilling quality of life through; community education, promotion of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle" practices, and development of a neighborhood "Town Plan" toward a more sustainable future.

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If you would like additional information, have comments to offer, or would like to become involved, please get in touch with us.
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edited by cortellini