

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **March 2012**. It is going out to over **1,605 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/ or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2012/2012-03.pdf>.

We also have a Yahoo group, 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 Yahoo Group called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 92 members. You also can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>.

This announcement is organized into six sections:

- Update from Lore Rosenthal
- Second Sunday Forum, Howard County Earth Forum, Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- April Preview & Beyond
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Scroll down for a brief update from Lore Rosenthal, one of SMEI's co-founders.

Apologies to everyone, that the link we sent you earlier this month didn't work. <http://act.350.org/sign/kxl/> Some of you figured out how to "copy and paste" it into Internet Explore and others gave up. Nationally, we ended up collecting 802,000 signatures, which was great!

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

UPDATE FROM LORE ROSENTHAL

Lots is happening with SMEI this semester. In case you are not aware, we are offering several new types of discussion circles. These include new material from NWEI ("**Hungry for Change**" http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/hungry-for-change-food-ethics-and-sustainability), book discussion circles ("**World on the Edge**" by Lester Brown), and **Common Security Club/Resilience Circles** (<http://localcircles.org>).

The **Resilience Circles** have become quite popular in Baltimore, Columbia, Greenbelt, and Takoma Park. Participants are moved to action and have been starting projects and sponsoring house parties on various topics. The Greenbelt Resilience Circle was

instrumental in passing a city resolution to overturn *Citizens United vs FEC*.
<http://localcircles.org/2012/02/29/circles-overturning-citizens-united/> The Columbia Resilience Circle decided to launch “Transition Howard County”, to learn more about the Transition Town movement. <http://www.hococlimatechange.org/get-involved/transition-town>

Population seems to be a big topic right now. It was the focus of the February Baltimore Green Forum, the March Second Sunday Forum (see below), and at the Washington Ethical Society in April.

The MD General Assembly will end their legislative session in April. Therefore this month includes lots of “**lobby nights**” to push for wind, solar, a bag bill, and against fracking. I would like to specifically call your attention to HB 864 / SB 595. If passed, this would allow for “solar farms”, where you purchase one or two solar panels and then credit the electricity produced back to your utility bill. Details elow.

There is a great article going around the internet by **Naomi Klein**.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/164497/capitalism-vs-climate> . It looks at the status of our environmental movement and how it fits in with the changing economic times, Occupy Wall Street, etc. **Charles Eisenstein** came out with a new 12 min video today, <http://sacred-economics.com/> addressing similar issues.

Simplicity Matters Earth Institute is evaluating how our current work fits into these changing times. **Please mark your calendar for Sun, April 29 or Sun, May 6**. We will be sending out invitations for all of you to join us for an afternoon of conversation on our future direction. This event will be repeated twice, once in Bethesda and once in Beltsville. **Hope to see you then!**

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, March 11, 6:00 pm–8:30 pm (Note Early Start Time!)

DVD Night: GrowthBusters. This provocative documentary tackles the three lethal taboos that threaten our civilization: those against discussing overpopulation, overconsumption, and the nonsensical idea that economic growth itself is a net benefit even in rich countries and can and must continue forever. GrowthBusters examines the beliefs, attitudes and propaganda causing us to ignore evidence that perpetual growth is not possible or even desirable.

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

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

EARTH FORUM OF HOWARD COUNTY

Sunday, March 18, 2012
2-4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Md. 21045

“SHOWCASE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION” program features a panel of environmental education experts followed by an array of exhibit and projects displays by teen environmentalists and environmental organizations.

This youth-focused Earth Forum highlights the innovative and interesting ways students in Howard County are preparing to face environmental impacts and improve an imperiled earth.

The opening panel of education experts will present new developments including: environmental literacy, the opening of Howard County’s green school, and nature discovery programs. Panel members include:

- * Howard County Public School Science Coordinators, Karen Learmouth and Mary Weller
- * LEED (Green) school architect, Melissa Wilfong
- * Robinson Nature Center’s Brian Campbell

The showcase of exhibits and displays, following the panel, will feature an array of teen displays including: how to install a rain garden, repair a bicycle tire, or use the latest technology. Additional exhibits by environmental organizations and faith communities will show the innovative work and activities being done in public, private and parochial schools, and environmental organizations. Come, enjoy the Showcase, and see what the buzz is all about. **Free and open to all.**

For updated program info, visit our website, www.earthforumhc.org, contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org, or call 410-430-3545.

Coming on Sun., Apr. 15, “The State of the Green State Message,” is presented by Del. James Malone, Jr. The Vice Chairman of Maryland’s Environmental Matters Committee will highlight legislation and present future developments in transportation.

BALTIMORE GREEN FORUM

The Baltimore Green Forum
Sunday, March 25, 2012
4-6:30 pm
(the fourth Sunday of the month)
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, 21286
www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

TOPIC: Solar Update (details to follow)

- **Legislation**
- **Community Models for Faith Communities**
- **Power Purchase Agreements for residences**
- **Do-It-Yourself Options**

For updated program info, visit www.baltimoregreenforum.org OR <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums/baltimore> or contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234.

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (HFC) Hungry for Change, (WOH) World of Health, (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, (CSC) Common Security Club, (WOE) World on the Edge

IMPORTANT NOTE: Starting in April NWEI discussion circle guides are going up to \$23 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>

So far this year, we have started 2 circles (268 in total since 2002!). **There are two new circles scheduled this month. Scroll down to Howard and Montgomery County. Both circles are on "Hungry for Change".**

Below, you will also see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this winter (or later in the year) More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread 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

UU Church of Frederick (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

Carroll County

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

Howard County

***Historic Oakland (HFC) April 5-May 24, 7:00-8:30** CS: Florence Miller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Kittamaquidi Community Church (CSC) May/June CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (tbd?) CS: Bette Hoover hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (WOH) CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Location? (tbd) CS: Robin Seabolt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Sue Muller, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), CS: Susie Jordan, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, (VS), Fall 2012, CS: Liz Feighner, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Home Schoolers network (tbd) CS: Dot Rockstroh, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Kid-Friendly Circle (tbd) CS: Kelsi Nibbana, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Snowden Overlook (tbd), CS: Judy Burt, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County College (GW), CS: Kim Davis/Margo Duesterhaus, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing 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 (tbd), CS: Helene Murtha, helene.murtha@yahoo.com

Baltimore, Canton Area (tbd), CS: Sarah Grannemann, contact lore@simplicity-matters.org

Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Prince Georges County

Greenbelt (CSC) CS: Lore Rosenthal (will start as soon as there is a critical mass)

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik

Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), CS: Marj Donn

Paint Branch UU Church (WOE), CS: Marj Donn

College Park (WOH) CS: Janice Oppelt

Montgomery County

***Beginning Late March, Hungry for Change Discussion Circle**, Private Home in Bethesda, MD. A six-week discussion circle using the Northwest Earth Institute's curriculum, **Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability**. Contact Marney marneyb@earthlink.net (301) 652-0492 for more information. Learn more about this curriculum at http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/hungry-for-change-food-ethics-and-sustainability

Washington, DC,

Dupont Circle (CSC) CS: Rob Thomason, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles. Visit www.janyocommunity.com or <http://thejanyocommunity.wordpress.com/course/> to learn more.

Washington, DC, 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 have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please use 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.simplicitymatters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thurs, Mar 1, Bethesda Green Happy Hour @ Chef Tony's Restaurant, 5-8 pm, Bethesda, MD: Enjoy casual conversation and networking, hear about the newly-formed Montgomery County Food Council from Council Coordinator Claire Cummings, and enjoy complimentary appetizers and discount prices for wine and beer at Chef Tony's Restaurant, 4926 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda, MD 20817. Contribution requested: \$10 at the door, to be shared with the Food Council. Contact: Dave Heffernan, dvheffernan@bethesdagreen.org, 301-767-7222. More info and RSVP via Bethesda Green Meetup.

Thurs, Mar 1, Wind Power and Wildlife Conservation Webinar, 12-1 pm Experts from Audubon Naturalist Society and the Smithsonian discuss topic. For more information, contact gogreen@cleancurrents.com (301)754-0430. Details at <http://tinyurl.com/windwildlifewebinar>

Thurs, Mar 1, Carbon Nation Movie Screening, 6 – 8pm, Baltimore. Landmark Theater 645 South President Street Baltimore, MD 21202 ([map](#)) American Office and DIRTT have partnered to present a complimentary, free screening of the award-winning documentary: Carbon Nation. Carbon Nation is a 2010 documentary about taking action to combat climate change. Directed by Peter Byck, this film spreads the idea that environmental alternatives are viable and available. It inspires the audience to look for new and innovative ways to "go green" and reduce our carbon footprint. www.carbonnationmovie.com/ All are invited to attend - register for your free tickets at: <http://carbonnationbalt.eventbrite.com/> For questions or more information, contact Robin Senecal, A&D Representative at rsenecal@americanoffice.com or [410.735.0233](tel:410.735.0233)

Fri, Mar 2, The Lorax Movie, Nationwide. Universal Studios made The Lorax into a blockbuster animated movie (it comes out on Dr. Seuss' birthday). A 12-year-old boy searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. www.imdb.com/title/tt1482459/ www.theloraxmovie.com/index.php

Sat, Mar 3, The Great Frederick MD Flea, RE-Merchant Market Frederick Eventplex, Frederick Fairgrounds. ([map](#)) The NEW Venue for Selling Unique & REnewEd Objects! The only RE-ally Great Flea in the Central Maryland Area. Open to Micro Business, Vendors and the Public to Sell, Buy and Collaborate. RE-Sellers of Vintage, Collectibles, Found Objects, Outsider Art, Artisan Wares, Uniques, Antiques, Industrial, Shabby Chic, Re-purposed Goods of all descriptions. No new goods, other than artisan, handmade will be sold. No political or franchise vendors allowed. Monthly through 2012. March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July 7, August 4, October 6, December 1. Presently Taking Vendor Applications. Small Business Sponsorships also available. www.greatfrederickmdflea.com

Sat, Mar 3, Coffee and Conversation on "What is Transition?", 10am - Noon, Private home in Columbia, MD. Participate in a mini-discussion circle to learn about the international Transition Town movement which focuses on making communities more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. To RSVP (required): contact Betsy Singer, 410-730-7740. Details at <http://www.hococlimatechange.org/get-involved/transition-town>

Sat, Mar 3, Alternative Technologies, Monkton, 7 pm. Mark Fisher designs, manufactures and sells small-scale alternative technologies through his catalog, Blueprint for Sustainable Living. These include a manual, and bicycle powered, grain/seed/nut mill, a vegetable oil press, a water pump, to name a few. Through his efforts with the Harvest Chapel Mission, he assists subsistence farmers in Africa improve their lives with these affordable inventions. For more information contact Karen Stupski, education@heathcote.org, 410-357-9523.

Sun, Mar 4, Film at 1 pm; walk at 2:45 pm, James & Anne Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044. Video: Green Fire. Here's your chance to see the award-winning first documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. TICKETS: Film and walk free with paid admission to the Center or RNC Annual Pass PREREGISTRATION: Please contact the Robinson Foundation info@robinsonfoundation.org or 240-755-0124

Mon, Mar 5, CSBA Green Mondays in partnership with MD SEA, 5:30-8 pm at the American Brewery, Baltimore Join Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA) and Social Enterprise Alliance, Maryland Chapter for an evening of networking and learn about Vehicles for Change and it's Freedom Wheels Program from our guest speaker Marty Schwartz, CEO of Vehicles for Change. Enjoy beer/wine and light fair in the beautiful American Brewery Building. For more information, contact Ida Cheinman, ida@substance151.com. More details and registration at <http://www.csballiance.org/pages/monthlymeeting.html>.

Mon, Mar 5, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (or however long you can come) Annapolis, MD. Sierra Club Lobby Night. Lobby for Wind, Bag Bill, Chesapeake Bay, Anti-Fracking, RSVP at <http://www.mdlobbysnight.com>

Tues, Mar 6, or Wed, Mar 7, Take a Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show. *Washington Gardener Magazine* will host two trips from the DC area. One will depart from Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville, MD on Tuesday, March 6 and the other from downtown Silver Spring, MD on Wednesday, March 7. Unique aspects to the *Washington Gardener Magazine* tours are the showing of garden DVDs onboard the coach, goody bags stuffed with fun items, and a rousing "Ask Dr Chlorophyll" Q&A session. To register today, contact Kathy Jentz at WGardenermag@aol.com.

Tues Mar 6, 7:30 pm Fracking or Wind?: A Citizens' Forum in Rockville -An emergency Montgomery County citizens forum in Rockville. Learn more firsthand about Maryland Offshore Wind Legislation and Fracking bill in Maryland legislature at the Montgomery Co. Executive Office Bldg., 101 Monroe St, Rockville, MD Info: Leslie Morrison, leslie @chesapeakeclimate.org
www.chesapeakeclimate.org/about/connect/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2012/03/06/82/fracking-or-wind-a-citizens-forum-in-rockville/

Wed, Mar 7, 6:00 - 8:30pm, Timonium Green Drinks - FREE Green Social Network
The Manor Tavern, 15819 Old York Road, Monkton, MD 21111, <http://themanortavern.com>, 410-771-8155, Speaker: Byron Andrew Banghart, Founder/President, <http://www.2b4theWorld.com>
If you are interested in being a Speaker and/or Sponsoring a Timonium Green Drinks Social Network Event please contact Belinda Epperson, Founder/Organizer, with Riley & Associates, belinda13@comcast.net, ring/text 410-371-7400.

Thurs, Mar 8, DC Environmental Film Festival Launch Party, 6:30-9 pm, Washington, DC
Art, Dance, Music, Food/Drink, and Silent Auction. For more information, contact Kaitlin Whitman, kaitlin@envirofilmfest.org, (202)342-2564. Directions and details at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/227224
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/227224>

Thurs, Mar 8, Volunteer Naturalist Training at Irvine Nature Center, 9:30 am-12:30pm, Owings Mills, MD
Become a volunteer naturalist at Irvine! This 5-session course will teach you how to lead educational field trips for school groups. We'll cover field trip themes, natural history, trailside activities and teaching techniques. No experience necessary -- just bring enthusiasm for nature and working with kids! Pre-registration is required. Tuesdays & Thursdays, March 8-29. Free! For more details, call 443-738-9224 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Thurs, Mar 8, March Full Moon Ritual/Celebration, 7-8:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD March is a time akin to the blank rune, empty and not yet fully formed, but pregnant with possibilities..life is beginning to stir just beneath the surface. Join us as we honor the full moon and this sacred space of in-between through ritual and celebration. Led by Hillary Banachowski <http://sacredroots.shutterfly.com/> . \$10 - \$20 sliding scale donation. 903 Gist Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Call Sky House Yoga to register 240-398-3526. <http://www.skyhouseyoga.com> .

Thurs, Mar 8, 7:30 pm Emergency Baltimore Citizens' Forum Sign up at: www.chesapeakeclimate.org/frackingorwindinbaltimore Emergency meeting of Baltimore citizens to learn firsthand of efforts underway in Annapolis to promote offshore wind power and delay and/or ban "fracking" for natural gas. Knott Auditorium, Floor level of the Knott Science Center. On the campus of the Notre Dame College of Maryland, 4701 North Charles St, Baltimore MD, 21210. DIRECTIONS: When you enter the Notre Dame College of Maryland campus, turn right and follow signs towards Knott Auditorium. The auditorium is floor level in the Knott Science Center. Find a map and parking information here: <http://www.ndm.edu/admissions/visit-campus/maps-directions-and-parking/>

LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFSHORE WIND and FRACKING IN MD:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/documents/MDOSWEnergyActof2012.pdf>

<http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/campaigns/maryland/marcellus-shale-fracking>

Fri, Mar 9, Magnificent Snow Goose Excursion with Irvine Nature Center, 9 am – 4 pm, Middle Creek Reservoir, PA Have you ever witnessed 10,000 birds sitting on one lake as even more fly in overhead? Join us on a driving and walking tour of Middle Creek Reservoir in Pennsylvania as we witness the front wave of snow geese migrating through our region. We may also see tundra swans, northern shovelers, mergansers, and maybe even the first bluebirds of the season. It is an unforgettable experience! Transportation is provided from Irvine's parking lot. Bring binoculars and a lunch; dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required. Rain Date: March 10. \$30 members, \$60 non-members. For more details, call 443-738-9224 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Fri, Mar 9 - Sun, Mar 11, Kayam Farm Beit Midrash, Reisterstown, MD Join an intergenerational, pluralistic community of Jewish farmers, rabbis, educators, scholars and consumers from across the country for a weekend of experiential learning. The discussion will focus on Judaism's traditional seven-year cycle of renewal, how we can observe it in modern society, and how we can apply Jewish agricultural values today. For more information, contact Lisa Bodziner, lisa@kayamfarm.org, 410-429-4400x246. Registration and details at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=4tuxmucab&oeidk=a07e5fr6cdua79f497d&oseq>

Sat, Mar 10, Revinylize! at Irvine Nature Center, 1-4 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Every year, companies throw away hundreds of thousands of banners and billboard signs -- all made from tough-to-recycle vinyl. But you can give a new life to Irvine's stock of vinyl by creating a messenger bag that is fun, fashionable and functional. This crafty project is no-sew, and whips up quick, so we'll ask you to make one for yourself and one for Irvine's Nature Store. Pre-registration is highly recommended. \$5 for members, \$15 for non-members. For more details, call 443-738-9224 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Sat, Mar 10, WONDER WALK: Family Hike on Site –with a Howard County Conservancy Naturalist, 10 am. FREE. Are you tired of winter and being indoors? Join us as we search for signs of Spring! The naturalists at the Conservancy know wonderful facts about this land, and the animals, vegetables, minerals on it. Bring your family and join an age-appropriate group with a naturalist leading you through the property for a nature hike. Wear appropriate clothing, hats and gloves. Will March roar like a lion, or come in gentle as a lamb! In case of bad weather, check website www.hcconservancy.org. FREE.

Sat, Mar 10, Shade Gardening Workshop, 10 am, College Park. Join Janet Koles, professional landscaper, for a discussion about types and benefits of shade plants. Examples of plants that will tolerate shade will be the main focus, but she'll also share landscape tips and fun plant facts. Free but registration requested: janiso@erols.com or call 240-888-6972. Location: College Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 4500 Knox Road, College Park, 20740

Sun, Mar 11 - Tue, Mar 13, Shmittah Summit at Kayam Farm, Reisterstown, MD This groundbreaking event, which begins with the weekend Beit Midrash program and culminates with an advocacy day in Washington DC, will focus on how Shmittah should actually be implemented, with particular emphasis on climate change and food and farming. For more information, contact Lisa Bodziner, lisa@kayamfarm.org, 410-429-4400x246. Registration and details at <http://www.kayamfarm.org/programs/shmittah-summit/>

Mon, Mar 12, Progressive Summit and Lobbying Night in Annapolis. BRING A PHOTO ID TO GET THRU SECURITY! We'll gather at the House Ways & Means Committee, Room 131 Bladen St in Annapolis from 3:30 to 8:00 PM. Meet legislators and fellow progressives! More info./RSVP/ tips for parking here: http://www.civic.moveon.org/event/events/event.html?event_id=127565

Tues, Mar 13, Green Building Institute's Youth ECo monthly meeting. 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Jessup, MD. ENVIRO CENTER, 7761 Waterloo Rd., Jessup, MD (map) actual HD video creation with www.ourtask.org! Join us to learn how, get involved & take action! Focus on video & outreach, snack & beverages! Focus is on filming outreach efforts for a rain garden installation/educational program at River Hill High School and an edible garden located on the UMBC campus by the main dining facility. Educators & students interested in sustainability projects are encouraged to attend. FREE with rsvp to 443.733.1234 info@greenbuildinginstitute.org

Mar 14 to Apr 19 – The Art of Stewardship: Gallery Display of Juried Artwork and Photography. Gallery open during regular office hours Wednesdays to Saturdays 9 am to 3 pm. FREE. Visit the HCC Gallery and view the works of juried artists in our 3rd annual Art of Stewardship show celebrating the infinite variety of how nature expresses it's wonderful, spherical characteristics. Original art work and photography will grace the walls of the Gudelsky Gallery and the outdoor sculptures will be on view in our Conservancy gardens. Please call before visiting to confirm gallery is open. www.hcconservancy.org. FREE. 410-465-8877

Wed, Mar 14, Homeland Community Energy Meeting, 7pm, Grace United Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD Retrofit Baltimore, a project of the non-profit Civic Works, provides you with information about upgrading your home's energy efficiency. Join your neighbors and learn about how you can improve your home's comfort and reduce your energy bills by up to 40%, while minimizing your environmental impact and creating jobs for underserved Baltimore residents. For more information, please contact Kevin Chesser, kchesser@retrofitbaltimore.org, 443-599-9728. Directions and details at www.retrofitbaltimore.org

Wed, Mar 14, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Video: Carbon Nation, www.carbonnationmovie.com/ For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Thurs, Mar 15, Healthy Food in our Schools with Anthony Geraci, 7 pm National leader working with Michele Obama for healthy children in the classroom. \$5/family. Anthony Geraci is inspiring and energizing the nation's school systems to provide fresh and local foods to our school children. What are our kids choosing to eat today? What's happening to them as a result? How can we introduce and support healthy eating habits and menus? What does it take to change school cafeterias and home lunch boxes? Good food means Great Kids! Don't miss this high energy presentation from the former Director of Food and Nutrition for Baltimore City School System and nationwide childhood nutrition consultant whom the White House has tapped for first lady Michelle Obama's efforts in combating childhood obesity. He is currently Executive Director of Nutrition Services for Memphis City Schools. \$5 per family; students free. www.hcconservancy.org. 410-465-8877

Fri, Mar 16, 4th Annual EcoBall Gala 7pm – 11pm, Baltimore MD Baltimore Green Works. Baltimore's Stratford University culinary students compete in a Top Chef style food competition using local ingredients where you get to be the judge! Live band and gratis beer and wine. For more information and to purchase your tickets today, go to <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/ecoball/>

Sat, Mar 17, Marianne Williamson sponsored by Be The Change Events, 9-5 pm, College Park, MD Marianne Williamson will speak for 4 hours along with Steve Sisgold and music by Bob Sima. The cost is \$79 - \$119 per person. The event is at UMUC, 3501 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, MD 20783. Contact Janice Rosenzweig 443-465-4392, heavenisathome@gmail.com or www.BeTheChangeEvents.com

Mon, Mar 19, Garden Club host a talk: Yes, You Can! And Freeze and Dry It, Too, 8pm (doors open at 7:30pm), Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD The Silver Spring Learn to preserve for your health and your bank account... and help save the world to boot. This lively presentation explores the reasons people preserve produce, examines several of the most popular methods of preserving, and reveals advantages and disadvantages of each. Come away with new enthusiasm to create your own food stores. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Tues, Mar 20, Bay-Friendly Landscaping - Not Just for the Birds and the Bees! 7 - 9 pm, Cheverly, MD. Featuring award-winning author **Dr. Doug Tallamy**; Professor, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Delaware. Author of Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants. Dr. Tallamy is widely recognized for his ability to clearly explain complex ecological relationships among plants, insects and animals. His award-winning book Bringing Nature Home is must reading for anyone interested in ecological gardening and in preserving wildlife and sustainable environments. Join this free, informative session to learn how you can reap the benefits of native plants and animals, save money, and make easy changes in your own backyard that contribute to the health of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation. Held at the Judith P. Hoyer Montessori School, Cafeteria 2300 Belleview Avenue, Cheverly, MD 20785. Read The New York Times profile of Dr. Tallamy at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/06/garden/06garden.html>

Wed, Mar 21, Beekeepers Short Course at Irvine Nature Center, 7 - 9 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Honeybees make gardens and fruit trees more productive, and the honey they produce is delicious! The course will cover everything you need to have thriving bees from the start, including equipment, honey bee biology, dealing with stings, year-round management, swarm control, diseases and honey extracting. This course includes hands-on work in the apiary and is taught by renowned naturalist and beekeeper Steve McDaniel. Wednesdays, March 21 through April 11, 7 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. \$40 members, \$50 non-members For more details, call 443-738-9224 or visit www.ExploreNature.org.

Wed, Mar 21, Takoma Park Community Center, at 7:30, Takoma Park, MD Vermicomposting At Home, Presented by Mark Richardson of Brookside Gardens, Hosted by the Takoma Horticultural Club. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org.

Thurs, Mar 22, GREEN BEATS-A Social Mixer for a Better Baltimore, 6 – 8pm at the Red Maple, Baltimore ([map](#)) Presented by Civic Works' Green Projects; Are you passionate about making Baltimore a more sustainable city? Do you want the opportunity to mix with other like minded Baltimoreans? Join Civic Works' Green Projects for our series, Green Beats! Dress to impress, grab a Sustainabili-tini, shake your bon bon on the dance floor, and chat it up with all of Baltimore's sustainability minded movers and shakers. \$10-\$20 Donation encouraged; 21 and older; RSVP WWW.GREENPARTYFORAPURPOSE.ORG

Mar 23, 24, 25 or May 18, 19, 20 or September 7, 8, 9, Edmonston, MD. A new intensive weekend certificate course in urban agriculture, offered by Prince George's Community College & ECO City Farms. All-inclusive fee of \$525. This 22-hour hands-on certificate course will provide you with sustainable strategies required to plan and design an intensive food-production system, based on your needs, goals, and resources, and suited to your own individual urban space. It includes five core modules: starting your farm, composting 101, hoophouse design and construction, intro to urban livestock, harvest, processing and marketing. To register, go to www.pgcc.edu/owlink and select tab for Workforce Development & Cont. Ed. For more information, contact Info@ecocityfarms.org, 301-288-1125.

Fri, Mar 23, Screening: The Last Mountain, 7-9 pm, Rockville, MD This 2011 enviro-documentary focuses on the social, cultural and environmental impacts of mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia. Bring a bag dinner or snack-- the film is 95 minutes long, and there will be a brief discussion period immediately following. For map and directions, go to <http://uucr.org/directions.php>

Sat, Mar 24, Lutheran Restoring Creation Workshop, 10am-4:30pm, Rockville, MD Join the training of ELCA congregation members interested in a Biblically and theologically grounded process of gracefully greening every area of our ministries. All Lutheran clergy and laity, including college students and high school youth, are invited to attend. For more information, contact: Sarah Scherschligt, pastorsarah@poplutheran.org

Sat, Mar 24, Observations from Space: Earth and Climate Change, 9 a.m. to noon, Howard Community College, Columbia, MD. NASA scientists will present the latest data and images from satellites and discuss changes in Earth's climate. Following, a panel of scientists and representatives from the Environmental Defense Fund, the American Geophysical Union and U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin's office will discuss implications and take questions. Event is free; Rouse Company Foundation Student Hall (RCF 400). The Climate Change Initiative of Howard County, the county government, NASA and the college are co-sponsoring this forum. Information and registration: <http://www.howardcc.edu/NASAforum>

Sat, Mar 24, Art of Earth Digestive Wellness class, 9 am to Noon, Annapolis. Good health begins with the gut, which ties into how well we withstand pathogens and other forms of stress. In this class, we'll talk about what constitutes healthy digestion, highlight common ailments, and learn what kinds of herbs best help to support digestive function. Fee. To register, contact Leigh Glenn at artofearth@yahoo.com or 410-757-4070. For more info, visit www.artofearth.wordpress.com.

Mon, Mar 26, Lobby Night for the Environment, Annapolis. For more information, contact Josh.Tulkin@sierraclub.org or Chris.Hill@sierraclub.org or call 301-277-7111. See <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/>.

Wed, Mar 28, Beginning Herbalism, 9 - 11:30 am, Annapolis. Includes the story of herbalism, the action of herbs within the body, basic identification of common herbs, harvesting, medicine-making, and a plant journey. Be prepared to spend time in the garden and the kitchen. Text and recipes provided. Class runs six Wednesdays. Fee. To register, contact Leigh Glenn at artofearth@yahoo.com or 410-757-4070. For more info, visit www.artofearth.wordpress.com.

Wed, Mar 28, Maryland Native Plant Society Meeting, 7:30 – 8:30pm, Kensington, MD ([map](#)) 2012 is the MNPS Year of the Oak, and this month Cris Fleming will continue her series of tree identification workshops with a focus on oaks. She will bring specimens of twigs, bark, and fruits to help participants learn different techniques of identifying oaks in winter. Please bring a hand lens if you have one and any book that gives information about trees and shrubs without the leaves. Location: Kensington Library. For more information and directions go to <http://mdflora.org/>

Fri, Mar 30, Nomination deadline - Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner The Alliance to Save Energy invites companies, organizations, and individuals to enter the 2012 Star of Energy Efficiency Awards competition. These prestigious awards honor those entities who have demonstrated a significant and tangible commitment to the cause of energy efficiency. This year's awards will be presented October 3, 2012 in Washington, DC at the Alliance to Save Energy's 20th Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency Awards Dinner. <http://engage.ase.org/site/Calendar?id=100323&view=Detail>

Sat, Mar 31, Showing of Award-winning Film, Kilowatt Ours (updated version), and Post-film Discussion about Wind Power, 1 pm, College Park. Filmmaker Jeff Barrie offers a timely, solutions-oriented look at the challenge of renewable energy and turns the camera on himself, asking "How can I make a difference?" Jeff also interviews leaders of the sustainable energy movement. Kristin Schulz, residential green power outreach coordinator for Clean Currents Inc., and Markian Melnyk, Atlantic Wind Connection, will lead a post-film discussion. Free but registration requested: janiso@erols.com or call 240-888-6972. Location: College Park City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 4500 Knox Road, College Park, 20740.

Sat, Mar 31, Monthly Bird Watching Walk, 8 – 9:30am, Baltimore. Patterson Park Audubon Center ([map](#)) Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about birds that arrive in Maryland in the spring! Audubon's conservation director will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email at ppaudubon@gmail.com or [410.558.2473](tel:410.558.2473). There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Meet at the fountain in Patterson Park, closest to E. Lombard St. and S. Patterson Park. Ave. All ages welcome! Free! <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org>

Sat, Mar 31, Tiny Tots Presents: Reptiles Rule, 10 – 11am, Baltimore. Patterson Park Audubon Center ([map](#)) Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story. This month, we will find out together how reptiles live. We'll meet some cool reptiles that are native to Maryland and learn where they like to make their homes. Ever wonder what a turtle's shell feels like? Come find out! Meet at the Pagoda. Ages 2-5. \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult. Please register in advance at ppaudubon@gmail.com or [410.558.2473](tel:410.558.2473). <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org>

April PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sun, April 1, 7pm, Washington Ethical Society, "Growthbusters, Hooked on Growth", award winning documentary questioning the wisdom for economic and population growth. Sponsor: Earth Ethics Committee of the Washington Ethical Society. Contact: Rich Reis, 301-384-0540 / reis@verizon.net

Wed. April 4, 6:30–8:00 pm, Chuck Collins Speaking on his book "99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do about It" at Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th Street NW, Washington, DC. Chuck Collins is a founder of Resilience Circles (<http://localcircles.org>) which is a discussion circle we offer around the state.

April 9-15, SAVE THE DATE FOR 99% SPRING <http://the99spring.com/>

Events will be planned around the state and around the country. These will be evening and weekend trainings focusing on (1) The story of our economy: how we got here, who's responsible, what a different future could look

like, and what we can do about it, (2) The history of non-violent direct action, and (3) Getting into action on our own campaigns to win change.

Sat, Apr 14, Earth Day Is Every Day- Loving our Planet~Loving Ourselves, 1-4 pm, Silver Spring, MD

Earth Day is every day because we are inextricably linked to this amazing, life sustaining planet, and the ways in which we love, or do not love ,ourselves are mirrored in the reflection of our blue planet home. Join us for a day of self nurturing and exercises to help us re-connect with the Earth. Led by Hillary Banachowski <http://sacredroots.shutterfly.com/> . \$25-\$45 sliding scale donation.903 Gist Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Call Sky House Yoga to register 240-398-3526. <http://www.skyhouseyoga.com> .

Sat, May 19, Mid Atlantic Cohousing Annual Bus Tour, 9 am-6 pm, Washington, DCBeep! Beep! Tour 5 cohousing communities and see how to create green, sustainable living at up close and personal via intentional neighborhood design. For more information, contact Ann Zabaldo, ann@MidAtlanticCohousing.org, 202.291.7892Directions and details at www.MidAtlanticCohousing.org

Please mark your calendars for July 27-29, when Evolve Chesapeake | Chesapeake Creation Spirituality Community presents the 6th annual Gathering of Creation Spirituality Communities, "Awakening Imagination for Transformation," in Rockville, MD.

Featuring keynotes by R/Evolutionary Theologian, Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox, along with transformative workshops and the Cosmic Celebration "Dancing with Dragons," the gathering will conclude with a Sunday morning visit to the Martin Luther King Memorial and an afternoon festival hosted by Evolve in Annapolis. Please bookmark the event page - more information coming soon! <https://www.facebook.com/events/225054520924081/>

Action Opportunities and Tidbits

Send Your Coffee Beans to CCAN. If passed, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 will result in a wind farm off of Maryland's coast that will bring health and jobs benefits to state. And the bill specifies that the average Marylander would have to pay no more than the price of a cup of coffee (about 2 dollars) a month on their energy bills to make it happen! Please click here to help us remind our legislators what a great deal wind is with a one-of-a-kind petition!

http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/423/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=11072

Increase Solar Equity in Maryland!

Please call or email your Maryland State Senator and Delegates today. Request their support for the Community Renewables Act - HB 864 / SB 595. <http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/billfile/SB0595.htm> (Hearings are next week on Tues, Mar 6 and Thurs, Mar 8)

This bill creates mechanisms for anyone, especially those who for various reasons are not able to implement a renewable energy project on their property, to participate by investing in shared solar or other renewable energy projects. The basic concept would allow for solar gardens or solar farms, where individuals could buy one or more solar panels as part of a group array, and have the cost for the electricity produced deducted from their home utility bill. This concept has already been adopted in nine states.

Regardless of whether your representative has already taken a position on the house or senate bills, please click here (Vote Solar Initiative)

http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/1179/p/dia/action/public/index.sjs?action_KEY=9699 for a automatically generated letter to your state representatives.

For more information about the bill, please visit the Sierra Club MD Chapter Legislative home page (<http://maryland.sierraclub.org/action/p0140.asp>) or contact David Brosch davidcbrosch@comcast.net. Find contact information for your Maryland legislators at <http://www.mdelect.net>

Please support passage of HB1199 when it comes before the Economic Matters Committee on March 8 in the House of the Maryland General Assembly. **This Bill is intended to protect trees and other vegetation** from the known harm caused by natural gas at their roots. The undisputed facts are: Natural gas (methane) harms trees and other vegetation when it leaks from underground pipes near their roots. Many natural gas pipes in older parts of Maryland are so old that they leak. The current replacement plan takes far too long to protect

trees. Consequently, gas pipe leaks are allowed to continue indefinitely and trees on public and private property are harmed and eventually die. In addition to describing trees as property worthy of protection, the legislation makes it clear that the natural gas provider must protect vegetation and if they do not, they will be liable for damage. **Ask your state Delegates to support HB1199.** <http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/bills/hb/hb1199f.pdf>
<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/03eco.html>.

Prince George's County is seeking legislation (HB898) to strengthen their incentives for investment inside-the-Beltway and near transit. Yet the huge Konterra development located at I-95 and the Intercounty Connector is pushing to allow the money to be diverted to their outside-the-Beltway project. They are seeking amendments to allow the company to tap millions in tax subsidies, diverting that money from existing communities in Prince George's that need investment. Take Action! Email County Executive Baker and your state legislators telling them you oppose using HB 898 to subsidize Konterra. Let them know you want to keep economic development incentives where they belong – in inside-the-Beltway communities and at our rail transit stations where extra help is needed to spur private investment. Tell them you oppose using HB 898 in a way that would divert funds from these critical needs. For more information contact Coalition for Smarter Growth action@smartergrowth.net and , read the related article in The Examiner. <http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/maryland/2012/02/massive-planned-development-tries-get-prince-georges-tax-breaks/305741>