

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **November 2013**. It is going out to over **1,560 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/2013/2013-11.pdf>.

In case you are not aware, **SMEI is now on Facebook! Please "like" us:** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Simplicity-Matters-Earth-Institute/130611396993657> Please start posting articles, thoughts, and questions there, to start some online dialogue. Consider it the SMEI "blog"!

We also have a Yahoogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 270 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 YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 95 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:

- Second Sunday Forum
- Earth Forum of Howard County
- Baltimore Green Forum
- Discussion Circle Update
- Community Events
- Action Opportunities & Tidbits

Urgently needed: Person(s) proficient in Dreamweaver or similar software to monthly update SMEI website. Candidates should have their own computer and software, ability to convert Word documents into clickable PDFs, and good editing and proofreading skills. Great volunteer opportunity enabling you to showcase your talents if you're starting your career as a webmaster. **Please contact Lena Rotenberg, LenaRR@gmail.com or [301-432-8721](tel:301-432-8721).**

Thanks to this month's editor, **Beth Lacey Gill**.

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, November 10
6:30 pm–8:30 pm

Tama Matsuoka Wong: How I Did Less and Ate Better, Thanks to Weeds

Are you tired of bad news? Tired of battling those weeds? This TED talk is humorous, inspiring and insightful. Wong describes the path she took to discover that weeds are not only nutrient-rich, environmentally sustainable foods, but can also be quite delicious. She abandoned her career as a corporate attorney to become a professional forager, eventually founding *MeadowsandMore*, an initiative that teaches people to take advantage of the food resources right in their backyards.

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](tel:301-652-0492) or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message.

Earth Forum of Howard County

Sunday, November 17, 2013

2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church,
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.

Featured Speaker: Dr. John Milner, Director of the Human Nutrition Center, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Stop and ask before you take that next bite, "Where did this food come from? What's in it? Is it healthy to eat?" Dr. Milner will examine those questions and present research-based findings for making nutritious and climate-friendly food choices. He will also discuss how your health is affected by pesticides, GMOs, distant farm-to-plate transportation, and factory farming of animals.

Refreshments will be served. Earth Forums are free and open to all. For updated program info, visit our website, www.earthforumhc.org, contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call 410-430-3545.

The Baltimore Green Forum

Sunday, November 24
Presentation: 4 - 5:30 pm, Optional Breakout Sessions: 5:30 - 6:30pm
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286
www.mpchurch.org/About.htm

A LOOK AHEAD...

We are beleaguered by unprecedented crises. Yet, is there any good reason to suppose that these crises are anything other than the birth pangs of the new world order that has been anticipated since the dawn of civilization?

The answer is up to us...

Speaker: Dan Smith, inveterate blogger on matters of general concern, and longtime member of Planning Committee of the Baltimore Green Forum

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 410-667-4889, or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NEW TOPICS THIS FALL:

Change By Degrees, <http://www.nwei.org/discussion-courses/addressing-climate-challenge/>
Peer Support Group, http://nipspeersupport.org/?page_id=108
Going Green At Home, <http://chears.org/gcan/discussion-circles/>

NWEI Discussion Guides: (CbyD) Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge (HFC) Hungry for Change, (WOH) World of Health, (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (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/Resilience Circle, (WOE) World on the Edge by Lester Brown, (SE) Sacred Economics by Charles Eisenstein (PSG) Peer Support Group from National Institute on Peer Support

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective Oct 1, 2012 NWEI discussion circle guides **went up to \$25 plus s/h** (except a few rare exceptions). 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 12 circles (290 total circles since 2002!). Most recent topics have included Voluntary Simplicity, Moneyless Manifesto, Powering a Bright Future, and Peer Support Group **There is 1 circle starting this month in College Park/Hyattsville marked with an asterisk (*). Many more are in active formation.**

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

Western Howard County "Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge" CS: Liz Feighner/Sue Kunkel, for more info email hococlimatechange.circles@gmail.com

Town Center/Manor House/Oliver Carriage House "Change by Degrees: Addressing the Climate Challenge" CS: Florence Miller, for more info email hococlimatechange.circles@gmail.com

Columbia "World of Health", There will be an opportunity to learn more about this discussion circle at the **Nov 9th Forum** (see below). For more info email hococlimatechange.circles@gmail.com

"Is Sustainability Still Possible" Circle, online (from home)

The Transition Movement group on Goodreads.com will engage in discussion circle of the book "State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?", starting on May 19 and continuing (slowly) through the end of the year. **They are currently on Chapter 22.** You do not need to be available on Sundays, as you can progress at your own pace. For more info see <http://www.transitionhoco.org/goodreads-transition-movement>.

Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange.circles@gmail.com

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd, as soon as we get a critical mass), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Anne Arundel County

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, MD (tbd), CS: Retta Barkley

Prince Georges County

***College Park/Hyattsville, "Sacred Economics", Wed, Dec 4, 7-9 pm, private home in College Park.** We will discuss Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 of Sacred Economics. Read it here- <http://sacred-economics.com/read-online/>

Greenbelt, "Going Green at Home", A new discussion circle topic for residents of Springhill Lake/Franklin Park. Topics will include: * Use less energy * Food: eating lower on the food chain * Reduce Consumption *Reduce Your Garbage * Green Products in Your Home * Why Bother? Can One Individual Really Make a Difference? CS: Carolyn Lambright-Davis/Lore Rosenthal (looking for 6 more people)

Greenbelt "Climate Change, from Local to Global", We are pilot testing a next six-week discussion circle that will include *Climate Science * Life-style Choices * Systemic Change * Policy & Strategic Alternatives * Envisioning a Positive Future * Where Do We Go From Here? CS: Lore Rosenthal (looking for 6 more people)

***Greenbelt "Peer Support Group"**, This six-week circle for people interested in climate and sustainability will teach the basic tools of peer support, give participants the opportunity to benefit from the process and empower participants to provide support to themselves and others on an ongoing basis after the circle. Dr. Jim Driscoll will come out the first session to model the process. The circle will then continue on it's own for 4 sessions. Jim will return the sixth session to lead the wrap up. CS: Lore Rosenthal (looking for 5 more people)

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

Montgomery County

We are putting together circles for fall now. Topics being considered are HFC and CSL. Interested parties need to contact Marneyb@earthlink.net for more information.

Takoma Park (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Silver Spring (Addressing Climate Change or Peer Support Group) We are working with Marylanders for Climate Coordination and MC-OFA to tailor a circle to the interests of participants. CS: Lore Rosenthal

Washington, DC.

Dupont Circle/Adams Morgan/Citizens Climate Lobby SMEI is teaming up with the National Institute for Peer Support, Ecocity, and the Citizens Climate Lobby to offer several discussion circles. This summer we studied the various components of the DC Sustainability Plan (<http://sustainable-dc.org>). Plans are in process for a follow up circle. CS: Jim Driscoll Email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

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

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.

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This fall, 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.simplicymatters.org/circles>, or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fri, Nov 1, 9:30- 11 am, Upper Marlboro, MD Tour of the Prince George's County Yard Waste and Composting Facility. Join the Prince George's Group of the Sierra Club for a 60-90 minute tour. We will be walking through the composting and waste areas outdoors, so PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR. This outing is one of several offered to inform and involve participants in Zero Waste activities. EXACT MEETING LOCATION WILL BE SENT BEFORE THE TOUR DATE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED: CLICK ON <http://maryland2.sierraclub.org/get-active/calendar>. Click on Nov 1st, then click on the blue REGISTER button. FOR MORE INFO: Lore Rosenthal @ lore@simplicity-matters.org

Sat, Nov 2, 21st Century Schools Design Expo, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm, Baltimore, MD

An exciting one-day conference for students, families, parents, teachers and community members to learn more about 21st century school buildings, teaching and learning! Presentations will include interactive workshops, breakout sessions, exhibits, panel discussions and more! Morgan State University Student Center, 1700 East Cold Spring Lane. 410-545-1870 www.baltimorecityschools.org

Sat, Nov 2, 9am-3pm, Young Leaders Strategy Session: Resilience in the New Economy, The Living Well, 2443 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD Join us in a strategy session for young leaders focused on key questions and skills for building a Maryland economy that is restorative to people, place and planet, while grappling with the realities of climate science explored in the Worldwatch Institute's 2013 State of the World report, 'Is Sustainability Still Possible?' Food

provided. Travel assistance available. RSVP requested. Email Emma Puka-Beals, emma@neweconomy.net for more info.

Sat, Nov 2, Audubon's Habitat Team, 9-10:30 am, Baltimore, MD

Join Audubon for a gardening volunteer opportunity. Free. No need to register. Build bird habitat in Audubon's native plant gardens. We need volunteers to make sure they remain healthy habitats for the park's birds, bees, and butterflies. Weed, mulch, and/or plant while spending a relaxing morning outdoors with friends, family, and Audubon. Meet at the pollinator garden, just west of the boat lake in Patterson Park. We're happy to sign community service hours for helpful students. ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410.558.2473. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Nov 2, School Food Forum: "Creating a Vision of Fresh, Real Food in Montgomery County Public Schools," 9:30 am – 2 pm, Silver Spring, MD.

First ever school food forum in Montgomery County, Keynote speaker is nationally known school food reformer Tony Geraci, former Food Director at Baltimore City Schools and subject of movie "Cafeteria Man." Additional speakers include Marla Caplon, Director of MCPS Food and Nutrition Services. Registration includes delicious, nutritious locally-sourced lunch. (Scholarships are available.) Hosted by Real Food For Kids - Montgomery and Montgomery Victory Gardens. Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, 15300 New Hampshire Ave. For more info and registration go to www.realfoodforkidsmontgomery.org or call [301-202-4812](tel:301-202-4812).

Sat, Nov 2, Project Feederwatch Training at Irvine Nature Center, 10 am - 12 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Project FeederWatch is a citizen science project in which YOU can collect data to send to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It's fun and easy way to be part of this long running conservation project. Participate as part of Irvine's volunteer team or record data from your own backyard bird feeders. Ages 7 & up (with adult). Free! For more information, contact Clare at 443-738-9220. Directions and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Sat, Nov 2, Oysterfest, 10 am-4 pm, St. Michaels, MD

This family-friendly event, hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, celebrates the most important bivalve of the Chesapeake Bay. Stop by to see the wares of vendors and artists, listen to some live music, and enjoy some delicious food, including oysters! For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, [301-897-8570 ext. 204](tel:301-897-8570). Details at www.nature.org/dcevents.

Sat, Nov 2, Exploring Environmental History with McKay Jenkins, 1-3 pm, Baltimore, MD

Baltimore City Historical Society, Friends of MD's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes, & Cathedral of the Incarnation Creation Care Presents McKay Jenkins, author of "What's Gotten into Us? Staying Healthy in a Toxic World" and editor of "The Peter Mattiessen Reader", an anthology of American nature writing. His recent essay "The Era of Suburban Sprawl has to End. So, Now What" can be found on his webpage: www.mckayjenkins.com free and open to the public. Cathedral of the Incarnation, Peabody Room, 4 East University Parkway. Refreshments provided. www.historicbaltimore.org/program/bulletinboard.htm

Sat, Nov 2, 5-7 pm, Book Talks: The Possibilities of Sustainability and Community Ownership, The Ivy Bookshop 6080 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD A reading, conversation and reception in response to Gar Alperovitz' 'What Then Must We Do? Straight Talk about the Next American Revolution' and The Worldwatch Institute's 2013 State of the World report 'Is Sustainability Still Possible?' Featuring John Duda of the Democracy Collaborative and Erik Assadourian of The WorldWatch Institute. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome. Email Emma Puka-Beals, emma@neweconomy.net for more info.

Tues, Nov 5, Design Conversations, 6-8:30 pm, Baltimore MD

The Design Conversations are a monthly series of events loosely curated by a group of volunteers, focusing on rotating topics that are timely and engaging. These events are always free, always at the Windup Space, and now on the first TUESDAY of every month! Design Conversations are encouraged by the generous support of D:center Baltimore and Baltimore Community Foundation. Windup Space, 10 W North Ave. Cash bar, AV hookup available for spontaneous presentations! dcenterbaltimore.tumblr.com; twitter.com/#!/dcenterbmore; facebook.com/groups/dcenterbaltimore; www.dcenterbaltimore.com/

Wed, Nov 6, New Transition Howard County Food Group, 7:30 PM, private home in Ellicott City, MD. Come to the first meeting of the "Kitchen Table" Food group and bring your ideas for projects and activities for local, sustainable food. Contact Nancy at nanfayer@verizon for more information.

Thurs, Nov 7, Parks & People Tree Planting, 9 am – 3 pm, Baltimore, MD

Plant trees with Parks & People this fall! Dress for the weather and to get dirty. All materials will be provided, but please bring a reusable water bottle. Morrell Park at Tolley & Whistler St. Please email alerie.rupp@parksandpeople.org to RSVP and for additional questions www.parksandpeople.org/events/calendar/details/947/2013-11-07/

Thurs, Nov 7, Coyotes & Coronas at Irvine Nature Center, 6:30-9 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join your friends at Irvine Nature Center as we learn about a relative newcomer to Maryland: the coyote. First documented in Maryland in 1972, coyotes are now found throughout the State – even at Irvine! Find out more about their behavior and natural history as well as the impact these mammals are having on the Maryland's ecosystems. \$30. For more information, contact Clare at 443-738-9220. Directions, tickets and details at www.ExploreNature.org.

Thurs, Nov 7, 14, 20, CBF Baltimore Member Meetings, 7–8:30pm

Just as we work to clean the Bay, so must we work to clean our local waters -the lifeblood of the Chesapeake. That is why the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is embarking on a new initiative in Baltimore—one of the largest cities in the watershed with some very large water quality problems. www.cbf.org/events/calendar/

East Baltimore: November 7, Patterson Park, Virginia Baker Recreation Center, 2601 E. Baltimore St.; South Baltimore: November 14, American Visionary Art Museum, 800 Key Highway; North Baltimore: November 20, Ivy Bookshop, 6080 Falls Road (at the Lake Falls Village off of Lake Avenue)

Thurs, Nov 7, Maryland Crossroads 2013: Silver Spring Tour Stop, Silver Spring, MD

Dominion Resources is proposing a massive industrial plan to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) out of tiny Cove Point, Md. The plan would radically expand violent “fracking” for gas across our region. And it's one of the worst things our state could do for global warming. At the Crossroads tour you'll learn what you can do to stop this pollution disaster – and to demand the things we DO want: solar and wind power. There will be speakers, music, mind-blowing photos and a call to action that will get you out of your chair! Come be part of history – and bring your friends. 1 Veterans Pl in Silver Spring. RSVP at http://org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=80894

Fri, Nov 8, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8-9:30am, Baltimore, MD

Bring the family to learn about the many birds that reside in Patterson! Audubon experts from Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. Bird walks occur rain or shine on the second Friday (in collaboration with Chesapeake Audubon Society) and the last Saturday of each month. Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Fri, Nov 8, Film Screening: Climate Refugees, 7:30-8:30 pm, Oakton, VA

Climate Refugees examines the causes of climate change, nations that are suffering most from its effects, and the political, economic and environmental issues behind moving the people instead of addressing the problems. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd.

Sat, Nov 9, Reel Mower Blade-Sharpening, 9 am – 1 pm, Greenbelt, MD [This event will also repeat on Nov 16th]

Do you have a push-mower rusting in your garage. Are you curious about the art of blade-sharpening. Mr. Vecchiarelli is one of the last of his kind, who can share his craft. We will be meeting both inside and outside of Club 125, 125 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Reel Mowers: \$30, Hedge-trimmers: \$4, Knives: \$2. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Sat, Nov 9, Your Health and Our Changing Climate at Howard Community College, 9 am – 12 pm, Columbia, MD

Speakers include Drs. Cindy Parker and Steve Shapiro, authors of Climate Chaos: Your Health at Risk; What You Can Do to Protect Yourself and Your Family. Others will speak about the health effects of climate change on children, the elderly and other vulnerable populations. Speakers from government agencies and local organizations will discuss the community resources available to face the challenges ahead. For more information: <http://www.transitionhoco.org/committees/health>
PLEASE NOTE: Info about “World of Health” discussion circle will also be available at this event.

Sat, Nov 9, Docs in the Park at Herring Run Park! 11 am – 3 pm, Baltimore, MD

Come out for a day of free games, nature activities, healthy food demonstrations and fun! Meet with our pediatricians to learn more about living a healthy, outdoor lifestyle. For more information, contact bmoredocsinthepark@gmail.com. Directions and details at <https://www.facebook.com/docsinthepark>.

Sat, Nov 9, Eat Your Words Poetry Slam Farmraiser to Benefit ECO City Farms, 2-5 pm, Edmonston, MD

ECO City Farms, an urban educational farm, invites friends, community members, farmies, foodies, poets, artists and others to celebrate its work improving community access to healthy fresh food and take a look at its future plans. Noted regional slam poets will be presenting in a spoken word celebration. For more information, contact Amanda West, amanda@ecocityfarms.org. Directions and details at www.ecocityfarms.org

Sun, Nov 10, Home Energy Workshop with Retrofit Baltimore, 10 am, Baltimore, MD

We at Interfaith Power & Light are teaming up with Retrofit Baltimore and Har Sinai Congregation, inviting neighborhood

homeowners to a meeting on saving energy at home. We'll review the story of our electricity and reflect on our own responsibility as people of faith to consider the impact of our electricity use. Learn about easy steps you can take to save energy at home, create green jobs, and shrink your carbon footprint at the same time. Har Sinai Congregation, 2905 Walnut Ave, Owings Mills, RSVP: programassociate@gwipl.org

Sun, Nov 10, Reduce Electricity Costs & Increase Renewable Energy, 12 pm, Bethesda, MD

In 3 simple steps, you can switch your home or apartment to clean energy at a lower price: You Pledge. Fill out the interest form today. Your pledge gives you access to a lower price for clean energy and strengthens our ability to negotiate on your behalf with energy suppliers. We Negotiate. Next week, Groundswell will negotiate with energy suppliers and select a winner based on affordable price, clean energy source, and fair contract terms. You Choose. You'll receive an enrollment form and decide whether or not to enroll your home or apartment with the winning energy supplier. Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in the Chalice House upstairs classroom. Questions? Molly Hauck (301) 949-0178 or mollyhauck@verizon.net.

Tues, Nov 12, Maryland Crossroads 2013: Baltimore Tour Stop, Baltimore, MD.

Dominion Resources is proposing a massive industrial plan to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) out of tiny Cove Point, Md. The plan would radically expand violent "fracking" for gas across our region. And it's one of the worst things our state could do for global warming. At the Crossroads tour you'll learn what you can do to stop this pollution disaster – and to demand the things we DO want: solar and wind power. There will be speakers, music, mind-blowing photos and a call to action that will get you out of your chair! Come be part of history – and bring your friends. Brown Center, MICA, 1031 Mount Royal Avenue. RSVP at http://org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=80894

Wed-Fri, Nov 13-15, MAEOE Green Center and Green Leader training, 3-5:30 pm

Our fall 2013 Green Center and Green Leader training will be held on November 13, 14 and 15 in three different locations. This workshop will review the Maryland Green Schools 2013-2014 Application, Green Schools/Eco-Schools benefits and how to use FieldScope. www.maeoe.org/ 11/13/2013 Appalachian Laboratory, Frostburg, MD; 11/14/2013 MAEOE Office, Jessup, MD; 11/15/2013 Oxford Laboratory, Oxford, MD

Wed, Nov 13, Home Energy Workshop with LEAP-VA, 5 pm, Arlington, VA

As the weather gets chilly, we'll reflect on our own responsibility as people of faith to consider the impact of our electricity use, and learn how to conserve energy in our homes this winter. Hear the story of how our electricity is made and explore practical steps for saving energy in your home. Connect with LEAP-VA, which helps Virginia homeowners save energy, and with Interfaith Power & Light, which works with area congregations of all faiths in responding to climate change. RSVP: Elizabeth Stevens at Interfaith Power & Light - program@gwipl.org Church of the Covenant, 2666 N. Military Rd.

Thurs, Nov 14, Nature Play Space Workshop, 9 am – 3:30 pm, Wheaton, MD

While the concept of creating these natural areas for children and families to explore and enjoy in public spaces, schools and other areas is not new, it is a different approach for many in charge of creating and maintaining conventional play grounds and spaces. This workshop will provide an opportunity for potential nature play space sponsors to experience a nature play space up close, hear from experts, and learn from others in MD and surrounding areas that have designed and installed nature play spaces. Brookside Gardens at 1800 Glenallan Avenue. \$25.00 (includes lunch and workshop). shopdnr.com/2013NaturePlaySpace.aspx

Thurs, Nov 14, Panel Discussion on Greening Business, 6:30-8:30 pm, Washington, DC

The Nature Conservancy and Net Impact have organized a panel discussion around the topic of greening business. Hear from representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Honest Tea, Whole Foods, and more! For more information, contact Kate Arion, karion@tnc.org, 301-897-8570 ext. 204. Details at www.nature.org/dcevents.

Fri, Nov 15 and Sat, Nov 16, Audubon's Tiny Tots, 10-11 am, Baltimore, MD

Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play a game, and read a story around a nature theme. This month, learn about Patterson Park's winged mammals. Ages 2-5 with an adult · \$5 suggested donation per child · Please register at least 2 days before the program. Join Audubon to discover Patterson Park as an outdoor classroom. Meet on the northeast side of the boat lake in Patterson Park. Also on November 16, 10 – 11am. ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410.558.2473. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat-Sun, Nov 16-17, Permaculture Design Course, Baltimore, MD

Weekend topics are Water Harvesting, Nutrient Recycling, Soil & Gardening - Practice site analysis, make an A-frame level, construct a swale, build a hugelculter bed, create a Water Budget, visit an urban edible landscape; enjoy a Saturday evening potluck & skill share. Sherwood House at Cromwell Valley Park, 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road. www.heathcote.org/cms/content/home-scale-permaculture-design-course

Sat, Nov 16, Reel Mower Blade-Sharpener, 9 am – 1 pm, Greenbelt, MD [See also prior event above, Nov 9]

Do you have a push-mower rusting in your garage. Are you curious about the art of blade-sharpening. Mr. Vecchiarelli is one of the last of his kind, who can share his craft. We will be meeting both inside and outside of Club 125, 125 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Reel Mowers: \$30, Hedge-trimmers: \$4, Knives: \$2. For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Sat, Nov. 16, Climate Change: the Reality and the Hope, 9:30 am – noon. Arlington, VA

This presentation invites us to look at the science of climate change and how it is affecting people and environments around the world, review positive action that is taking place, and suggest possibilities that can make a difference. Presenters, Leah Rampy and her daughter Ana have been trained by the Climate Reality Project, founded by Al Gore. Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. To RSVP, email mjschmelzer@yahoo.com. www.uucava.org

Sat, Nov 16, Baltimore Waterworks History, 2-4 pm, Baltimore, MD

Old Baltimore began by relying upon wells and springs and eventually accepted the need for local government to take over responsibility for managing and supplying the public with safe, steady sources of drinking water. State enabling acts, large land acquisitions, flooding a mill town, laying pipes, building dams and reservoirs, treatment plants and tunnels and reaching accords across jurisdictional boundaries have all been part of the ongoing history of Baltimore waterworks between Patapsco River, Jones Falls, Gunpowder River and Susquehanna River. Free, Light Refreshments.

www.historicbaltimore.org/program/bulletinboard.htm

Sun, Nov 17, Irvine Nature Preschool Open House, 12-2 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Looking for an eco-friendly preschool? Then come out to play! Join us for a casual, drop-in open house to discover our nature-based approach to learning. Little ones are always welcome. 11201 Garrison Forest Road.

www.explorenature.org/

Sun, Nov 17, Food and Spirituality Workshop, 2-5 pm, Takoma Park, MD

When we are out of synch with our proper dietary place in the food chain, we violate Nature's design and damage our relationships to plants, to other animals, to other humans, our ecosystem, and more. How can we know our proper place, and what possible consequences might we consider? \$30-50, Sliding Scale. Contact Mary "Tyrte" Rooker, tyrtle@ShamanicSpring.com, (301) 891-1288. Directions and details at <http://www.shamanicspring.com/Workshops.htm>

Mon, Nov 18, Hosta Care and Selection, 8-9:30 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

Susan Hedrick, president of the Potomac Hosta Club, will walk us through the best hosta cultivars for our region as well as how to care for them. This talk is Silver Spring Garden Club's monthly meeting. Open to all. Free. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, Washington Gardener Magazine, 301-588-6894, Wgardenermag@aol.com.

Directions: www.brooksidegardens.org

Mon, Nov 18, MD Transportation Summit, 8-9:30 am, Baltimore, MD

This year's annual Transportation Summit will focus on Maryland's mobility future, specifically on Northeast Corridor improvements, Light Rail usage for the Red and Purple lines, MARC weekend service which will begin on December 7, use of P3s, and the reduction in auto usage, which was highlighted in a recently-released Maryland PIRG study, Moving Off the Road. Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards, 110 S. Eutaw St. www.gbc.org/event/2458/

Tues, Nov 19, Bike Friendly Community and Business Workshop, 6:30-8:30 pm, Brunswick, MD

The purpose of this event is to promote bike-ability in your area, educate citizens and make the community a safer place to ride for transportation and recreation. This workshop is sponsored by the Potomac Pedalers and you can register for this FREE event here: <http://bikefriendlybrunswick.eventbrite.com/> Brunswick City Park Building, 655 East Potomac Street, Brunswick, MD. For more information, contact Katie Lupo at KatieLupo@bikemd.org.

Tues, Nov 19, Baltimore Green Drinks, 6-8 pm, Baltimore, MD

www.facebook.com/BaltimoreGreenDrinks, Waterstone Bar and Grille

Tues, Nov 19, Health Care Programs of Progressive Countries and Obamacare, 7-9 pm, Takoma Park, MD

George Gluck, consultant on health care information systems to national organizations, presents an overview of the various national health care options used in the US, Canada, and Europe, including Obamacare and the single payer health care system recommended by the Green Party. He will answer questions about the practical implementation and political implications of Obamacare, based on many years of research on national programs. For more information, contact Mary Rooker, 301-891-1288. Directions and details at www.montgomerycountygreenparty.org

Tues, Nov 19, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15

Crescent Drive. Guest speakers will be Sheella Mierson and John Buck on "Dynamic Self Governance". For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234, <http://chears.org/gcan/monthly-meetings/>

Wed, Nov 20, Bees in Your Garden, 7:30-9 pm, Takoma Park, MD

Join the Takoma Horticultural Club for a presentation by Sam Droege of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Few people realize that Takoma Park is not only the city of trees, but the city of bees. Solitary nesting and non-stinging, there are over 100 species of bees in the city that do much of the pollination. This event is free and open to the public. Historic Takoma, Inc., 7328 Carroll Ave. You are encouraged to bring a snack to share and to wear a recycled nametag. Find out more about the Takoma Horticultural Club on our website: www.TakomaHort.org.

Thurs, Nov 21, Money and Life screening at the Creative Alliance, 7:30-10 pm, Baltimore, MD

See the brand new documentary exploring how our use of money colors our relationships in society and how we can recapture our humanity in the face of dog-eat-dog capitalism. Panel to follow, including local and regional activists and economic change-makers. 3134 Eastern Avenue in Baltimore. For more information, Gina Caruso at gina@creativealliance.org or 410-276-1651, or Jeff Dicken at baltimoregreencurrency@gmail.com. Directions, event details, and tickets at <http://www.creativealliance.org/events/2013/money-life> and film details and preview at <http://moneyandlifemovie.com>. \$12, \$7 for Creative Alliance members. BNotes gladly accepted!

Tues, Nov 26, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4-5 pm, Baltimore MD

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. Department of Planning, 8th Fl, 417 E. Fayette St.
www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Sat, Nov 30, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8-9:30 am, Baltimore, MD

Audubon experts from Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. Bird walks occur rain or shine on the second Friday and the last Saturday of each month. Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Nov 30, Parks & People Tree Planting, 9 am – 1 pm, Baltimore, MD

Plant trees with Parks & People this fall! Dress for the weather and to get dirty. All materials will be provided, but please bring a reusable water bottle. Maisel Street Park, Washington Blvd. & Hollins Ferry Rd. Please email alerie.rupp@parksandpeople.org to RSVP and for additional questions
www.parksandpeople.org/events/calendar/details/948/2013-11-30/

DECEMBER PREVIEW

Sun, Dec 1, Wetiko: Collective Insanity Meets Conscious Living, 1:15-5 pm, Takoma Park, MD

What aspects of everyday life might we change once we awaken from the insanity of Western consumption norms into conscious living? Designed for those interested in our environment and green lifestyles, simplicity, or dietary changes. \$35-75, Sliding Scale. Contact Mary "Tyrle" Rooker, tyrtle@ShamanicSpring.com, (301) 891-1288. Directions and details at <http://www.shamanicspring.com/Workshops.htm>

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES & TIDBITS

KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN: Peace Corps Goal 3 is about bringing the experience back home. I'm a newly returned Peace Corps volunteer who left Washington mid-career to explore another culture - AND myself. It was the toughest job I'll ever love! Allow me to share my stories, photos and lessons-learned from South of the Border. Engage in this important conversation about what sustainability really means in our lives, communities and work. Find out more at <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2074468560/a-story-of-sustainability-from-south-of-the-border>. **DEADLINE is Nov 5th!**

Watershed Education Video Contest Deadline, Sun, Nov 3

Are you planning to conduct a stream study, restore a local habitat, raise trout in the classroom, or construct a school garden? then grab a camera: the Bay Backpack wants to see a video of how your students are being engaged in watershed education! To enter, upload a video of your students participating in their Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) to YouTube or Vimeo and send a link of the video to info@baybackpack.com. blog.baybackpack.com/?p=4239

America Recycles Day, Friday, Nov 15

americarecyclesday.org/

Universal Children's Day, Wed, Nov 20

By resolution 836(IX) of 14 December 1954, the General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. It recommended that the Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world. The date 20 November, marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989.
www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/

Baltimore Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge Grant Deadline, Fri, Nov 29

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability, in partnership with the Baltimore Energy Challenge, Baltimore Community Foundation, and City Schools, offers "Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge" grants to help students at Baltimore City Public Schools improve the environment. All projects must be student-led. Schools may apply in one or both of the following categories: Sustainability. Grants of up to \$1,000, or up to \$1,500 for certified Maryland Green Schools. Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis through November 29, 2013. www.baltimoresustainability.org/media/grants/green-healthy-smart-challenge-20132014-grants-now-available

Food Safety Action Alert - Take action now! [from Joan Clement]

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed regulations for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) which will slow the local food movement down, maybe even stop it if the proposed rules are allowed to stand. The FDA estimates that its regulations will cost small farms an average of \$13,000 and very small farms an average of \$4,700 annually.

The Comment Period for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Rules for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) **will close on November 15**. Your comments are our best hope for changing the FDA's restrictive Rules. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC), a NOFA partner, has prepared lots of resources, including sample letters for you modify and easily submit electronically.

Click here for templates:

http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5735/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=9861#consumers
Comment now to protect small and local farms against the assaultive regulations needed for distant industrial farms.