

# About Simplicity Matters Earth Institute



## SIMPLICITY MATTERS EARTH INSTITUTE (SMEI)

*Encouraging individuals to make informed choices for simpler and more fulfilling lives, leading to a more sustainable future for Earth and all its inhabitants.*

[www.simplicity-matters.org](http://www.simplicity-matters.org)  
[contact@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:contact@simplicity-matters.org)

**Simplicity Matters Earth Institute** is an expanding community that has started and supported more than 220 discussion circles in Maryland and the District of Columbia since January 2002. We consist of a core group of six volunteers in our steering committee and about 30 other volunteers who support our mission in myriad ways. More than 1,500 people in our area benefit from at least one of our offerings each month. We are part of the NWEI Network (see below). We operate as a volunteer association, and have no paid staff.

We believe in the power of deep conversation to improve the quality of our lives and to promote sustainable communities. To encourage deep conversations we organize the following activities:

- **Discussion circles** that use the eight discussion guides produced by NWEI, other texts, and videos. More info about our offerings: [www.simplicity-matters.org/info](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/info). Circles starting by region are listed within our monthly announcement at [www.simplicity-matters.org/events/announcements](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/announcements).
- A monthly **Simplicity Forum** held in Bethesda on most second Sundays, a monthly **Green Forum** held in Towson on most fourth Sundays, and a monthly **Earth Forum** held in Columbia on most third Sundays. Currently scheduled events: [www.simplicity-matters.org/forums](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/forums).
- A **monthly e-mail announcing our forum topics, discussion circles that are starting, and community events** supporting our mission. Subscribe: [subscribe@simplicity-matters.org](mailto:subscribe@simplicity-matters.org), or read the current issue at [www.simplicity-matters.org/events/announcements](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/announcements)
- **Yahogroups:** DCMetroSimplifiers and GreenCityBaltimore, FoodPassionESA, and AGreenerHome. More info: [www.simplicity-matters.org/online](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online).

Our volunteers will be delighted to help you **join or start a discussion circle** in your neighborhood. Find the volunteer closest to you: [www.simplicity-matters.org/info](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/info). For general inquiries or correspondence please contact Lena Rotenberg, 301-432-8721, or 15 Millrace Lane / Keedysville, MD 21756.



## NORTHWEST EARTH INSTITUTE (NWEI)

Inspiring people to take responsibility for Earth.  
[www.nwei.org/about\\_us](http://www.nwei.org/about_us)

**The Northwest Earth Institute** was founded by Dick and Jeanne Roy in 1993 in Portland, Oregon, to encourage the emergence of grassroots leadership toward a sustainable culture. NWEI programs encourage participants to explore their values, attitudes, and actions through discussion with other people. These programs are organized around three key principles:

- An earth-centered ethic promoting individual responsibility for the earth.
- The practice of engaged simplicity to enrich life and reduce personal impact on the earth.
- A dedication to living fully in place and protecting the unique bioregion in which you live.

There are eight discussion guides available from NWEI: *Voluntary Simplicity*, *Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse*, *Menu for the Future*, *Choices for Sustainable Living*, *Healthy Children—Healthy Planet*, *Reconnecting with Earth*, *Discovering a Sense of Place*, and *Sustainable Systems at Work*. For details see [www.simplicity-matters.org/circles](http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles) or [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org). These guides are kept current through frequent curricular revisions, and are continually being improved upon based on participant feedback.

The [North American Earth Institute Network](#) is comprised of NWEI, SMEI, 16 other sister Earth Institutes in the US and Canada, and hundreds of affiliates and local organizers in communities across the country. Individual enrollment in discussion circles has exceeded 100,000 (plus thousands of others reusing discussion guides), encompassing more than 900 communities in all 50 states and D.C., Canada, Puerto Rico, Sweden, and New Zealand.