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**MAY 2011**

**Coalition Partners**

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- Yolo Clean Air
- Yolo Federal Credit Union
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- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
- Valley Climate Action Center

*If you are interested in becoming a partner, contact Dominique Sayer at (530) 747-5824.*



**City of Davis Environmental Recognition Awards  
By Alan Pryor**

On April 19, the Davis City Council awarded the City's annual Environmental Recognition Awards to Judy Moores and Lynne Nittler in the individual category, Wastebusters in the Business Category, and the Holmes Junior High Green Team in the non-profit category.

Congratulations to all these fine citizens. Readers familiar with CDI activities will agree that the awards to Judy and Lynne are richly deserved. Judy and Lynne are the co-chairs of the Cool Davis Foundation, the non-profit organization formed last year to support the actions and activities of the Cool Davis Initiative. They have devoted an incredible amount of energy forming low carbon diet groups

throughout the City and organizing as co-chairs the Cool Davis Green Living Festival last year. With a total attendance estimated at 1,700 people, the event included the Mayor's Environmental Forum, dozens of exhibitors ranging from solar PV to bicycle vendors and non-profit support groups, and a variety of other school groups and non-profit environmentally related organizations.

Judy and Lynne have also co-chaired the presentation of two public showings of "No-Impact Man" at Veterans Memorial Theater attended by over 500 people in addition to authoring about a dozen articles that have appeared in the Davis Enterprise supporting the Cool Davis Initiative projects and goals. We join the entire Davis community in extending our thanks for their heartfelt efforts on the behalf of climate action. The City has been doubly enriched by their individual efforts and the contributions of the Cool Davis Foundation."



# Quantifying Carbon Footprint Reduction Opportunities for U.S. Households and Communities

*Christopher M. Jones & Daniel M. Kammen*

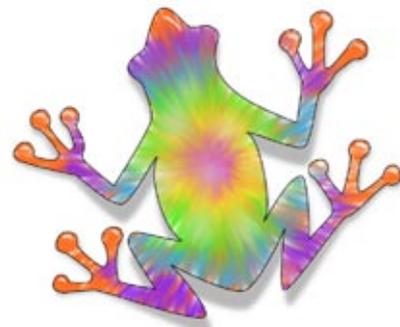
UC Berkeley's Environmental Science & Technology Department has published an interesting article that we felt was worth sharing with our readers.

Carbon management is of increasing interest to individuals, households and communities. In order to effectively assess and manage their climate impacts, individuals need information on the financial greenhouse gas benefits of effective mitigation opportunities. We use consumption-based life cycle accounting techniques to quantify the carbon footprints of the typical U.S. households in 28 cities for 6 household sizes and 12 income brackets. The model includes emissions embodied in transportation, energy, water, waste, food, goods and services. We further quantify greenhouse gas and financial savings from 13 potential mitigation actions across all household types. The model suggests that the size and composition of the carbon footprints vary dramatically between geographic regions and within regions based on basic demographic characteristics. Despite these differences, large cash-positive carbon footprint reductions are evident across all household types and locations; however, realizing this potential may require tailoring policies and programs to different population segments with very different carbon footprint profiles. The results of this model have been incorporated into an open access online carbon footprint management tool designed to enable behavior change at the household level through personalized feedback.

To read the full article visit <http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2011/04/13/when-it-comes-to-carbon-footprints-location-and-lifestyle-matter/>

## Upcoming Activities for May:

**May 6th - 8th : Whole Earth Festival:** A huge, FREE, eco-friendly, three-day, music, dance, arts, crafts and education festival located on the UC Davis campus. The UC Davis Quad area is lined with art & craft tents, music acts, massage tables, food and a child care area. Various workshops occur throughout the weekend as well.



**May 19th: Celebrate Davis** is an annual showcase of the best of Davis. Bring your family and friends as you chat with old and new businesses, enjoy a casual dinner in the park, listen to several local bands and enter to win a \$1,000 shopping spree. And make sure to stick around for the fireworks show.



## **City of Davis Embraces Event Waste Minimization**

**By Alan Pryor**

Attendees at the recent City Council reception honoring our annual Environmental Recognition Awards recipients (see companion article in this issue) were pleased to see a healthy mix of fresh fruit, trail snacks, and fruit drinks served as refreshments. And because of proper planning there was almost no landfill waste generated during the event. As part of the evenings festivities, it was also announced that citystaff is planning a series of steps to minimize the tons of waste going to landfill that are otherwise generated by the 4th of July celebration at Community Park each year.

These new efforts are part of an overall sustainability campaign being undertaken by the city as they implement the city's Climate Action Plan and strive for "Zero Waste" operations in the future. Taking the lead from our own Farmers Market where very high landfill diversion rate policies are now routinely achieved, the City of Davis is planning to be a leader in recycling and composting as much waste as possible during city sponsored events including receptions at City Hall and civic events such as the upcoming July 4th celebration at Community Park.

In addition to the normal two containers for recyclables and trash at each disposal station throughout the park, there will now be a 3rd bin available for discarding compostable materials. Instead of just subsequently trucking these compostable materials to the landfill as mixed trash as was done in past events, these discarded compostable materials will now be sent to a separate processing facility where they will be turned into organic fertilizer and soil amendments for farmers and homeowners.

As part of these efforts, staff is planning an aggressive and broad educational outreach program to event vendors and the community at large. Vendors will be encouraged to provide food and services using all compostable and high-grade recyclable products.

Citizens attending the event will be encouraged to do their part by:

1. Bringing their own reuseable water bottles, cups, and tableware;
2. Carefully segregating all waste at the many 3-bin waste disposal stations throughout the Park; and
3. Taking the opportunity to educate their children and visitors about the importance of minimizing the amount of discarded waste sent to the landfill.

These steps taken by our city and our Farmer's Market will move Davis to the forefront of municipal efforts as the city moves toward "Zero Waste" in the future. This is also an excellent public example by the city to inspire many residents to begin to practice waste minimization in their own homes.

## **A Convergence Awakening A Personal Essay by Lynne Nittler**

I have just attended my first Spring Convergence organized entirely by the UC Davis California Student Sustainability Coalition, and I am a convert! I am still marveling at the lessons I learned from this college generation who will have to live in the world my generation has left over populated, depleted of resources, short on drinkable water, in a period of mass extinctions, and tipping fast into irreversible climate change. Quietly, without fanfare, these youth have already begun the necessary transformation.

At registration, students took my name and handed me a simple yarn-tied booklet of the schedule. The name tags were pieces of cardboard no doubt salvaged from recycling bins and strung on yarn rather than gummed paper that doesn't recycle or worse yet plastic name holders. This "conference" had no vendors, no cute gimmicky freebies tucked into bags and envelopes. *Continued on next page....*

At meal time, students reached into their backpacks for their own plates, cups, utensils and cloth napkins as none were provided. After eating, they washed their own dishes before returning them to their packs for the next meal. No paper plates filled the garbage and no supposedly-compostable corn starch forks were turned away from the compost project. With ease, the students had already established a comfortable habit of taking care of their own needs and eliminating the waste entirely. Talk about impressive! *Continued on page 4...*

Naturally they ate vegetarian, right? Wrong. Vegan and local. And no desserts because of the issues around sugar. They called it real food, and they looked grateful and satisfied.

Furthermore, none of the presenters offered hand-outs. Instead, students were encouraged to take notes to remember key ideas and spare the trees.

Here's my favorite part. The kids were amazingly attentive to and respectful of whoever was speaking, nodding and listening closely and never interrupting. They asked serious, probing questions that deepened the conversation, and they built on one another's ideas. Whenever they heard an idea they appreciated, which was often, they snapped their fingers instead of interrupting the flow with applause. It made a soft, gentle clicking if only one person snapped, and when everyone snapped together it filled the room with a pleasing, flutter that affected me like purring. What if our U.S. Congress men and women learned to snap their fingers when an idea worked for them?

As for the content, the convergence was all about action and solutions as students willingly faced the hard truth of what is before them. Tim DeChristopher urged them to consider civil disobedience, believing that one way to



change the established power structure is to get attention through jury trials. Now that we've passed dangerous tipping points with the CO2 levels in the atmosphere, he asked us to consider who we want to be in charge when things get ugly as there are more climate refugees, not enough drinkable water, more extreme weather disasters, more economic collapse...Is it enough to ask the big corporations to be more green, or do we want a different system entirely? Tim will be sentenced in June for his conviction on two felony charges for derailing an illegal sale of public land from the outgoing Bush administration to private oil and gas developers. While the auction was ruled illegal under the Obama administration, DeChristopher's action of civil disobedience – bidding without financial backing – was not pardoned. DeChristopher has no regrets. He explained that the real sacrifice was believing he did not have the power to take action and thus living as a victim. Once he stood up, he experienced a sense of empowerment. In his own words, "Now I have personal freedom. I could never go back to feeling disempowered."

Another keynote speaker, Rikki Ott of Alaska, a marine toxicologist with a specialty in oil pollution, has documented the Exxon Valdez oil spill since 1989 and has just spent the last year volunteering in the Gulf after the BP oil spill. Her book, *Changing the Endgame* takes the premise that we live on a low energy planet that operates on a "solar" system. It is only a matter of time until the fossil fuel economy runs out. The change is coming, but not from the top down. According to Ott, it's not really a political call, but a cultural, moral and ethical call to do what's right on the planet. Echoing Tim DeChristopher, Ott asked, "Is it we the people or we the corporations in charge?" as she observed first hand the cover-up stories. She is working for the vision of passing a livable planet to our children and defines quality of life by environmental wealth, social wealth, and economic wealth. She is one of the founding members of [Movetoamend.org](http://Movetoamend.org) dedicated to passing a constitutional amendment that gives human rights only to humans, not to corporations.

The afternoon workshops covered an array of topics from building a yurt, making vegan soap, worm composting and touring gardens to changing our food systems, fighting climate change denial in the US to campaign planning and education and outreach against corporate personhood. In every workshop I attended, the students were intensely interested and alert, listening deeply, asking questions, networking, and snapping their fingers when something clicked. They are not naïve. They know the social change they seek will take years or decades, yet they organize and take *Continued on next page...*

action anyway.

Of course the evening was reserved for dinner, a talent show, and a drum circle. They began each day with sun salutation yoga. As a child of the 60's myself, I glimpsed the past in this gathering of youth. And I rejoiced to see them finding their path to sustainable living and I hope leading the rest of us.

The convergence planners urged their fellow students from campuses all over the state to get to know as many people as possible, to make something (DIY patches, mosaic projects, food, mandalas...) and to learn something new.

Perhaps Cool Davis could adopt their motto:  
Go Green!...Inspire change!.....Take Action!



**FREE COOL DAVIS GREEN LIVING FESTIVAL**  
**People-Powered Climate Solutions**

With Shows by ACME Theatre Company and the Davis High Madrigals.  
Music including TREE-O and the Vocal Art Ensemble.  
and Food from Dos Coyotes and Café Bernardo and desserts by Ciocolat.  
Eco-Living using solar and pedal power plus home energy saving tips and products.  
Fun for Kids too, including a children's play and art projects. All this and much more. FREE.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 10th, 2-5 pm**  
**VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER**

Sponsored By:  
TALBOTT REALTY OF DAVIS, Yolo Air, Davis, ENERGY SOURCE SOLAR, at&t, RUX ONE ENERGY, enterprise, Comcast, AWY, Davis Credit Union, Lynn Real Estate, University Honda, Member's Toyota of Davis, Lynne Witter, M&M Design/Build, Meyer Don Saylor, Sierra Club Yuba Group, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation of Davis, The Davis Graduate, Mohai's Cafe, Carhart & Company, Wilbur & Nancy Rose, Valley Action Climate Center, Church of Scientology

[www.cooldavis.org](http://www.cooldavis.org)

Save two dates:

**Saturday, October 15, is the  
Day of Service!**

**Sunday, October 16, 2011, is the  
2nd Annual Cool Davis Festival!**

If you enjoyed the Cool Davis Festival last October, please consider bringing your ideas and energy to the planning sessions and help make this year's festival even better. Help us choose the theme for the 2011 festival and fine tune the program to match.



Cool Davis Festival Planning Meeting

Wednesday, May 4

Veterans Memorial Game Room

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Refreshments

Creating the 2011 Cool Davis Festival will be a rewarding experience of collaboration and discovery as we work together toward our goal of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions in Davis while we build community and improve the quality of life for all.

Contact Lynne Nittler if you cannot attend but wish to be involved in the planning or have ideas to offer. [Inittler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Inittler@sbcglobal.net) or 530-756-8110. Watch [www.cooldavis.org](http://www.cooldavis.org) for additional meeting dates. If you participated last year, you will be contacted later regarding exhibits for the 2011 festival.

To subscribe to future editions of the Cool Davis Initiative Newsletter visit [www.cityofdavis.org/email](http://www.cityofdavis.org/email)  
If you are not currently enrolled to receive email communication from the city, you may create an account at this time.  
Once complete or if you are a current user, log in and simply check the box for 'Cool Davis' to subscribe.