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Sustainable Communities: Empty Slogan or Progressive Program?

THE SEVENTH GENERATION

Yes, we've changed our look again. With this issue, John McCrory, the new Editor, puts his signature upon our pages. But more than just the style is changing. In case you haven't noticed, since the beginning of this year PN has been filled with more articles. More of our members are sending us their work, especially after we announced that we would have theme issues, like this one on sustainability. We're keeping PNet Updates and the Resources section, with priority going to Jobs and Conferences, but there are fewer resources than before. Let us know what you think about the new form and content, and give us suggestions for future issues. The September issue (deadline September 1) will be on transportation.

With this issue, we also

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OUR GOAL: Genuine Sustainability, Not Hi-Tech Fixes

by James Miraglia

Public policy makers bandy about the word *sustainability* as a new mantra of correctness and respectability. But what does this word mean? Everyone — global multinationals, UN think tanks, the world's leading environmental organizations — defines this nebulous concept differently, but is there any common ground?

There are basically two distinct voices of sustainability. One speaks from the corporate domain and sees ever more technological fixes to cure past problems — the hi-tech approach. The other voice of sustainability speaks from the perspective of grassroots environmental and community organizations, indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It sees the need for structural change.

In his book, *Ecological Literacy, Education, and the Transition to a Post-Modern World*, David Orr calls these two approaches *technological sustainability* and *ecological sustainability*. About technological sustainability, Orr says, "Every problem has either a technological answer or a market solution. There are no dilemmas to be avoided." On the other hand, ecological sustainability "...is the task of finding alternatives to the practices that got us into trouble in the first place; it is necessary to rethink agriculture, shelter, energy use, urban design, transportation, economics,

community patterns, resource use, forestry, the importance of wilderness, and our central values."

High-Tech Sustainability

In the high-tech approach, there is no need for change in society's economic and political structure. A major example of technological sustainability was the 1987 report by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, entitled *Our Common Future*, (commonly known as the Bruntland Report, after Gro Bruntland, who chaired the UN Commission.) According to the report, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." A purposefully ambiguous statement like this can easily be adopted as policy without the messy need for real change.

Whose needs? America's five percent of the world population consuming twenty percent of the resources, or the one billion of the People's Republic of China poised to emulate our highly consumptive model? The Bruntland Report goes on to say that "sustainable development requires that those who are more affluent adopt life-styles within the planet's ecological means..." But if we are to rely on Americans to miraculously give up parking spots for bicycle lanes, or even give up their cars, the world is in deep

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UPDATES

The editor sends his thanks to all the PNers who sent in news this month. Let your fellow members know what you are up to — send in your update today! Send us mail, or email to <pn@pratt.edu>. —JM

Robyn Bancroft wrote to say that “several things in the May issue of PN got my attention. First, I must thank Tom Angotti for his insight into 3 Planning ‘Commandments’ that I’ve come to know well after 18 months as a Neighborhood Planner in Rockford, Illinois. In his article, ‘PN ’97: Community Organizing and Progressive Planning,’ Tom stated that we should ‘emphasize the *indigenous roots of organizing* in communities of color. . . shed the mantra of *political neutrality* that surround the profession. . . [and] support *truly just, inclusive, and sustainable* community organizing.’ It takes all the energy, attention, and emotions you’ve got, but from my brief experience, I believe there’s no other way to ‘facilitate’ *positive* neighborhood planning than becoming a community activist alongside your ‘neighbors’ and having *them* show you ‘the way.’ Screw the textbooks, the political power games, and those whose true, self-gratifying, driving forces become clear! Second, I can’t believe I ruled out attending this year’s PN conference because of expenses. What on earth was I thinking?!? Pooh! on all of us who didn’t attend! Third, I see that my old Bridgeport friend, Lynn Ciszak, has joined our hallowed organization. Just like a neighborhood, we grow in power, person-by-person, home-by-home, block-by-block. . . the possibilities are endless. Finally, I’ve mailed in my PN dues — have you?”

Housing Policy Debate, Volume 8, Issue 1, includes contributions by three PNers. **Nico Calavita**, **Alan Mallach**, and their co-author Kenneth Grimes published an article entitled “Inclusionary Housing in California and New Jersey: A Comparative Analysis.” **Peter Drier** published “Philanthropy and the Housing Crisis: The Dilemmas of Private Charity and Public Policy.” The journal is available free from the Fannie Mae Foundation by contacting Carol A. Bell at (202) 274-875 or by email: <cbell@fanniemaefoundation.org>.

Sue Keister writes that she is currently seeking entry into the field of community building and planning. With a B.A. in English and Masters in Planning, she draws prominent skills in writing, investigation, mediation, and strategic planning from her previous career in social work. She also has volunteer and intern experience in historic preservation, community visioning and urban design, as well as expert computer and graphic skills. She offers consulting services for community recovery based on spiritual community building models. Contact Sue at: P.O. Box 6005, Charlottesville, VA 22906-6005 or by phone: (804) 979-0417.

Donald Lash’s article “Allocation of Cost of Lead Paint Hazard Abatement in Residential Buildings” is being published in the Summer 1997 issue of the American Bar Association’s *Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development Law*. The article is based on research conducted during Susan Breslin’s Social Planning Seminar in the summer of 1996 at the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. For more info, call Donald at (212) 678-4700.

Ralph Nesson sent us this from Arkansas: “For the past eight years I have been organizing grassroots scholarship funds for economically challenged single parents...you know, the kind with no money. We have found that most scholarship recipients (75%) earn their diplomas and that even more of the graduates (92%) end up with good jobs in their chosen professions. Just needed a little help, encouragement, and someone (the community) to say we believe in you. I have also become interested in how financial aid information is gathered, stored, and given out...so we are doing research on the availability of scholarships, loans, and grants in-state and nationally and on how to keep this information fresh and how to get it into the hands of those who need it the most. That aside, as a refugee from the city, I am enjoying gardening, canoeing, hiking, and sailing in this gloriously underpopulated and unspoiled state, growing old (50) gracefully, watching our babies turning into serious, beautiful, loving, kind, gentle adults, and writing some poetry. Just finished reading James McBride’s *The Color of Water* which I highly recommend to all. Don’t know how I got in with all these city planners and architect types in Planners Network, but I love being associated with progressive people who work to make the world a better place.”

As part of the development of Berkeley’s *Homeless Continuum of Care Plan* process for homeless services and housing, **Tim Stroshane** just completed a background report called *Homelessness in Berkeley*. You can get a free copy simply by sending your postal address to him. Tim’s email is <tisl@ci.berkeley.ca.us>. You can also write him at: City of Berkeley, Housing Department — PPMB, 2201 Dwight Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

We're happy to announce a new book co-edited by PNers **June Thomas** and **Marsha Ritzdorf**: *Urban Planning and the African American Community: In the Shadows*. Published last December by Sage Publications <www.sagepub.com>, the book focuses on zoning and public policy, and includes contributions from PNers **Norman Krumholz** and **Jackie Leavitt**. More recently, June's *Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit* was released by Johns Hopkins University Press, (800) 537-5487. Although much of the material concerns racial change in Detroit, the book also provides a 50-year history of urban planning and redevelopment in Detroit, based on reports, commission minutes, newspaper articles and interviews with several planners. Congratulations on your publications!

This news came in from **Mike Zamm**... "During the 1996-1997 school year the Council on the Environment of New York City's Training Student Organizers Program motivated 1,600 youth (intermediate through college) to organize environmental improvement projects in their neighborhoods, schools, and homes. As we seek to partner with community-based organizations and expand the program's role in linking environmental education to community revitalization, we are becoming more active in communities where environmental justice causes are prevalent, such as Greenpoint-Williamsburg (Brooklyn), Harlem, and the South Bronx. Our education program is also still involved with the High School for Environmental Studies, helping the school to integrate environmental studies into the overall curriculum." Mike Zamm: (212) 788-7932, Ext. 7900.

The Seventh Generation

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inaugurate this column, *The Seventh Generation*, where you will find assorted editorial comment. Here the editors and members can reflect on the broadest issues of interest to progressive planners, hopefully from the vantage point of our sisters and brothers that follow us seven generations from now. This will be a place for frank comment and open debate; to put down bottom-line short-term thinking; ask ourselves the difficult questions about racial, economic and environmental injustice; and heed the epochal lessons taught by Native Americans who believe that land and living things are more important than property. We will look for alternatives to the cynicism and obfuscation that run through the planning professions and paralyze instead of empower.

Our contributors to this issue of PN meet the test of *The Seventh Generation*. **James Miraglia** directly answered the call to distinguish between the use of sustainability as an empty slogan and as a progressive program. His distinction between "high-tech sustainability" and "ecological sustainability" sharply engages the debate. These two approaches to sustainability are also found in the article by **Jay D. Jurie** and **Bruce Hossfield**, who compare two plans for Orlando, Florida. One, by the State of Florida, is a muddle driven by deregulation; the other, an alternative plan prepared by the Florida Chapter of ADPSR (Architects, Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility), seems closer to "ecological sustainability," which truly looks beyond the next annual stockholders report. **Joshua Wolfe** advocates building the capability of local government and professional planners to deal with sustainability and

the need to link it with issues of social equity and community participation. In an article excerpted from *Everyone's Backyard*, published by the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste (CCHW), **Liane Waselus** tells her story of protest and organizing for a sustainable community in Phoenix.

Struggles for environmental justice such as the one described by Waselus are a key to genuine sustainability. The reason it's so important for us to define what we mean by sustainability is that too many corporations and governments who are accustomed to displacing our communities and polluting the land, air and water are coopting the thunder. They try to convince us that there's really not much to get worked up about because they too think green, believe in sustainability, and anyway they're in charge of our future.

Eduardo Galeano, in *El Libro de Los Abrazos* (The Book of Embraces), writes about "the culture of terror": "Visible colonialism mutilates you without shame: it prohibits you from saying, doing and being. On the other hand, invisible colonialism convinces you that servitude is your destiny and impotence your nature: it convinces you that *you can't say, you can't do, you can't be.*"

Finally, we note with sadness the death at the age of 90 of Mario Salvadori, a progressive educator who taught engineering to New York City schoolchildren and at Columbia University. Mario was born in Rome and was an outspoken anti-fascist and lifelong pacifist. In a *New York Times* obituary, he is quoted as saying: "Are children capable of influencing the environment? I believe the answer to this question to be a resounding yes, on one condition: that they be empowered to understand, appreciate and wish to modify that environment."

—Tom Angotti

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trouble. Try telling Americans to turn off their air conditioners during the summer, or that their daily burger destroys rain forests and grasslands, contributing to global warming. Try telling Germans that they shouldn't drive 100 miles an hour on their autobahns. Tell the Japanese they shouldn't strip-mine the oceans with 30-mile-long drift nets. Isn't it a mere platitude to ask individuals to live within the ecological means of the planet, while assuming the continuation of the same economic system that creates their enormous wealth because of its unsustainability?

Further on in the Bruntland Report we read that in order to achieve sustainability we must have "...more rapid economic growth in both industrial and developing countries, lower interest rates, greater technology transfer, and significantly larger capital flows." Here we see the hi-tech fixes once again, all within the same economic paradigm that creates unsustainability.

Following their own version of "sustainability lite," the World Bank continues to push the huge, unsustainable projects for which it has become known. The appearance they give of careful management is actually the careful management of appearances. The Bank's enormous dam projects elicit slogans of sustainability (what is more sustainable than hydroelectric power?) even though they relocate tens of thousands of people who already live in sustainable ways to less sustainable environments.

PNer Michael Heiman, in his paper "Community Attempts at Sustainable Development Through Corporate Accountability," notes how the Chemical Manufacturers Association now strives for the goal of

sustainability in its voluntary "Responsible Care" program — a program created to prevent real anti-pollution regulation from being implemented! There are too many examples of this greenwashing by industry. Therefore, environmental planners need to nail down a definition of sustainability that doesn't allow polluters to appropriate environmental terminology.

Ecological Sustainability

Sustainability is a bottom-up approach. It is the grass roots organization fighting an incinerator or new development in the industrialized world. It is the small village or an indigenous people fighting to stay on their land in the face of a government-sponsored land grab. Sustainability

Environmental planners need to nail down a definition of sustainability that doesn't allow polluters to appropriate environmental terminology.

lies on a continuum, and is something we move towards over a long period of time. The little victories can, in time, lead to a paradigm shift. Today, most Americans at least recognize an environmental crisis, which was not the case just thirty years ago.

So what would an ecologically sustainable community, an eco-city, look like? Cities and metropolitan areas need to become once again part of their bio-region, using as many local inputs as possible. We can start now to control food production and distribution, housing location, energy and employment as a first step towards genuine sustainability. Many things can be done without a major policy change by the forces that appear out of our control.

Food should be grown and delivered as locally as possible. This lessens the export-driven nature of the economies of less-developed countries. Other countries could grow more food

for themselves and fewer bananas, coffee beans, and tropical woods for Americans. Under a top-down approach, local food purchase might be mandated. A better model is to create a *community supported agriculture* (CSA) unit. This system puts consumers directly in touch with local farmers who no longer grow monocultures but rather a wide variety of crops for the consumer (all organically, which eliminates pesticides, one of the biggest sources of water pollution). The farmers who participate in the CSA get paid up front rather than on credit. Consumers pay less for fresh organic produce. Transportation costs and the resulting pollution are lessened. The CSA is a sustainable economic model that can be implemented now, without massive government

intervention.

We can take another step toward sustainability if households grow a portion of their own food. Suburban folk grow tens of thousands of acres of lawn and cover them with massive applications of pesticides and fertilizers. Home lawn care is therefore another major source of ground water pollution. For the same amount of effort, families could grow a portion of their own food. In central cities, unused rooftops could be converted to food production. A portion of every household's food supply could be home-grown, less expensive, more nutritious, and less poisonous to humans and the environment.

The location of housing is another consideration on the road to ecological sustainability. Petroleum use is one of the most unsustainable elements of industrial society. Ideally, people should live close to their jobs, preferably within walking distance. But if

they are not within walking distance they should be within the reach of mass transit. For suburban people who now work in cities, this means a drastic move — living in a city! Cities are inherently more sustainable because of their pedestrian orientation. People live more densely in cities, reducing transportation costs while increasing the employment base for a variety of production and services. In areas outside the central city, infill development in low-density areas could create a more sustainable system. The obstacles to these kinds of changes are immense, of course. Suburban property owners feed on the economic life blood of the central city as long as the city's body is kept at a distance.

The technology exists for renewable energy sources. Thousands of acres of rooftops could be producing emission-less energy via solar panels. Geothermal heating is another emission-free technology, that, like solar

electric, could radically alter the current unsustainable energy paradigm. These technologies are not utopian dreams; they are reliable and proven technologies. All over the world, the reliance on mega-energy projects is slowly giving way to community-based energy supplies like solar, wind, and small hydroelectric power.

A major element in the move towards ecological sustainability is the creation of employment for people of all socio-economic classes. The creation of CSAs would mean jobs for many more local farmers, reverse the domination of agriculture by unsustainable mono-culture agribusiness, and preserve open space near metropolitan regions. In urban areas, greenhouses, supply stores, and urban farmers would be part of a new, growing employment sector. More densely developed cities will have more employment opportunities because of the increased demand for goods and

services. The alternative energy industry requires many workers skilled in new technologies. In addition to direct employment opportunities, education facilities are needed to train workers for new jobs. By reducing the consumption of new products and designing products for longevity, job opportunities will be created for repair technicians.

People at the local level need to press for a new way of thinking about the environment, both as individuals and groups. Without pressure from well-organized people, policy makers have no impetus to change the current system. Technological fixes for the environmental crisis may be part of the solution, but the pressure for genuine change must come from the bottom up.

James Miraglia is an environmental education Program Coordinator at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He is currently a graduate student in City & Regional Planning at Pratt Institute.

Sustainability at the Crossroads: *The Orlando Experience*

In Florida, two distinct views of sustainability have produced two very different planning approaches. The official view adopted by the State of Florida could make environmental problems worse. The alternative view, put forth by the Florida Chapter of Architects, Designers, and Planners for Social Responsibility, is based on a simpler and clearer approach to sustainability.

by Jay D. Jurie and
Bruce Hossfield

The State's Approach

The Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project was enacted by the State of Florida in 1996 to further six broad principles of sustainability: key ecosystem restoration; a cleaner, healthier environment; urban sprawl limitation; protection of wildlife and natural areas; advancement of the efficient use of land and other resources; and the creation of quality community and jobs.

The legislation authorized Florida's

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to designate up to five local governments as "sustainable communities" under this project. According to DCA Secretary James F. Murley, "If a local government is designated as a sustainable community, the Department will substantially reduce its oversight of local comprehensive plan amendments and developments of regional impact within the local government's jurisdiction," and "...state agencies will give increased priority to programs and projects that assist designated local governments to create and maintain self-sustaining communi-

ties." The State of Florida did not articulate any clear definition of "sustainability" or "sustainable communities." Nor, at least in the case of the City of Orlando, did the State provide any additional resources to help local governments achieve any sustainability objectives.

By January 1997, the five demonstration communities had been designated. These were Hillsborough County (including Tampa), Martin County, and the cities of Ocala, Orlando, and Boca Raton. Why discuss Orlando? To meet State objectives, Orlando's program is aimed at enabling citizens to "benefit from the growth and prosperity that will transform Orlando into a world class city." Orlando defined sustainable communi-

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Environmental Justice: A Key to Sustainability

by Liane Waselus

Sumitomo of Japan is nearing completion of its new Sitix silicon wafer manufacturing plant in northeast Phoenix, Arizona, but organized citizens are determined to shut it down before it opens. One of the richest corporations in the world, Sumitomo will receive huge tax breaks and incentives to build a factory which will poison our environment and jeopardize our well-being. The factory will use and emit hazardous chemicals, including ammonia, hydrofluoric acid, and Silane gas, which is violently explosive when it contacts air. To make matters worse, all of these hazardous chemicals will be transported to the factory on our busy city streets. We will all be living with the constant threat of the inevitable accident, either on the streets or at the factory.

When this facility was proposed originally, Sumitomo released a memo that objected to an urban location, contending that the poisonous emissions would make only a rural site appropriate. However, local officials simply shrugged and insisted on an urban location. Even though Phoenix has many industrial areas zoned for manufacturing activity, our foolish city officials chose to site this factory in the middle of our residential area in northeast Phoenix.

The vast majority of residents in northeast Phoenix are opposed to this plant, but since there was minimal publicity when the factory was in the planning stages and few people knew

about it, most citizens learned of the facility only after it had been approved. The project was on an extremely fast track, even during the planning stages, since the company needed to build the factory quickly to meet their production schedule.

The general public became aware of the Sumitomo project very slowly, due in part to the fact that the local government officials involved kept the plan hidden to protect it from public scrutiny. They knew if the public became aware of the project, they would have to answer a lot of difficult questions, which would slow down the process. So, our officials essentially left out the citizens, going so far as to make illegal zoning changes just one day before the City Council's final approval of Sumitomo-Sitix. Originally, the site of the facility was zoned for non-dusting, non-hazardous, non-polluting use. However, that language was illegally removed, and it is unclear if proper public notification was given before hearings were held.

Public Protest

In the fall of 1995, there was already a small group of citizens who caught wind of the plan, but public awareness didn't mushroom until after the permit hearing in January 1996. At that meeting, there were many unanswered questions as to the safety

of this facility. Even the EPA asked for an extension to review the air permit, but county officials denied the request and Sumitomo was granted its air permit (despite the fact that the facility will emit 3,200 pounds of hydrofluoric acid annually, which can increase to 20,000 pounds without public notification).

On February 8, 1996, the Coalition of Valley Citizens Opposed to Sumitomo held its first official meeting. In the past year, we have had weekly meetings and have evolved into a powerful grassroots organization consisting of hundreds of resi-

dents determined to prevent the industrialization of northeast Phoenix.

We struggle along in building our roster of concerned residents through phone calls and a Coalition hotline with information about meetings, rallies, and other community events. In an effort to increase community awareness, we have made appearances on television programs and radio shows and held demonstrations at the factory site and City Planning Committee meetings. In one successful part of the campaign, our group gathered 2,500 signatures and successfully recalled our City Council representative for failing to inform us of the factory and for not representing our best interests. Our most recent tactic has been to hold weekly rallies in front of the facility (all 500,000 square feet

Our officials left out the citizens, going so far as to make illegal zoning changes just one day before the City Council's final approval.

of it) and it is encouraging to see the outpouring of support we have received. However, the factory is nearing its opening date and many people are taking on a "what's the use?" attitude in fighting this enormous and wealthy corporate giant.

Our best chance to shut the factory before it opens is with a suit against the illegal zoning of the Sumitomo facility. If this tactic fails, we will likely go ahead with a hazard and nuisance suit (surely the factory meets both of those criteria). In our "show cause" hearing in September 1996, the judge refused Sumitomo's request for dismissal and refused to allow the defense of laches, meaning that he does not care how much of the factory has been built already. Sumitomo's lawyer even whined that the company had already invested millions in the project, but our lawyer quickly reminded the judge of a copper scandal in which Sumitomo lost \$2 billion and had no problem absorbing the loss.

Putting a facility of this type so close to homes is insane. Sumitomo and our city and county officials show an appalling lack of concern for the safety of residents living near the facility and workers inside the facility. Our opposition's dream of a Silicon Desert is truly a nightmare, and we will continue to fight until the facility is stopped.

Liane Waselus is a homemaker in Phoenix who has not had any previous activist experience. The threat of a silicon wafer manufacturing facility forced her to action, and she is now an active member of the Coalition of Valley Citizens Opposed to Sumitomo. Reprinted from Everyone's Backyard, the Journal of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice and published by the CCHW Center for Health, Environment, and Justice. 150 S. Washington St., Suite 300, P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040. (703) 237-2249.

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ties as "...those that prosper because people work together to produce an excellent quality of life." However, the private automobile would continue to be the main mode of transportation, and efforts to limit urban sprawl would depend on weak interlocal agreements.

In Orlando's program, virtually no attention is devoted to the restoration of "key ecosystems," a "cleaner, healthier environment," or the "protection of wildlife and natural areas."

ADPSR's Approach to a Sustainable Orlando

The Florida Chapter of Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR), a national nonprofit organization of design professionals, has a very different approach to sustainability. This approach is guided by a very simple definition of sustainability: people should live in a way that doesn't sacrifice the resources available for future generations, taking only what can be supported by the planet we live on and giving back what it needs to endure.

The ADPSR approach is capsulized in a 28-page booklet, "A Vision of a New Central Florida," released in 1996. It includes vision statements on various sustainable design principles, discussions of current conditions, and specific proposals. Among the recommendations are: alleviation of Orlando's economic dependence on tourism; development of in-state energy sources sufficient to serve all energy uses; and increasing reliance on conservation and energy-efficient technologies. Particularly important are replacing auto-centered transportation with public transit alternatives, and the

accommodation of growth pressures through dense infill centers within existing urban areas. The overall objective of this approach was to produce an "alternative regional plan" and move Orlando and Central Florida toward a sustainable future.

The main effect, if not the intent, of the 1996

Florida's Sustainable Communities program could ultimately undermine, not reinforce, sustainability.

"Sustainable Communities" legislation was to curtail the cumbersome development permitting process imposed on

localities under Florida's 1985 Growth Management Act. The 1985 Act was a progressive attempt to regulate the rapid growth that was having a negative impact on the environment. The Sustainable Communities program begun in 1996 could ultimately undermine, not reinforce, sustainability.

Thus, the Sustainable Communities program lacks a coherent approach to sustainability, even though there are a variety of programs geared to comprehensive planning. The most significant aspect of Orlando's program is the vision of the city as "world class," meaning competitive in a cut-throat global economy in which sustainability is at the mercy of the whims of transnational corporations.

ADPSR cannot match the State's capacity to offer regulatory relief for the implementation of its vision of sustainability. Implementation of an alternative plan will require a departure from business-as-usual, for which there is presently little political will. ADPSR's education and advocacy on behalf of its "Vision of a New Central Florida" seeks to change that.

Jay D. Jurie is Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Central Florida. Bruce Hossfield, AICP is a Planner for the City of Orlando.

Local Agenda 21: Ensuring Community Well-being is Part of Sustainability

by Joshua Wolfe, AICP

"Sustainable development" has become a trendy term with as many meanings and nuances as "planning." A study by Public Technology Inc. (the technology, research and development subsidiary of the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the International City/County Management Association) found over 1,500 initiatives in 700 cities that use the term sustainability. The term is used so indiscriminately that many progressive planners might dismiss it as only a marketing term for builders and redevelopment agencies.

Sustainable development received worldwide governmental recognition at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, where world leaders adopted Agenda 21. Agenda 21 is the global action plan which calls on nations to undertake a comprehensive process of planning and action to attain sustainability.

This treaty detailed a role for cities and counties as well. Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 (known as Local Agenda 21), directs local governments to undertake their own sustainability processes. Chapter 28 speaks directly to the responsibility of planners and the planning and management activities of municipalities:

"[L]ocal authorities construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and, as the level of government closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable

development."

In its Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), presents sustainable development as three intersecting circles, comprising ecological protection, economic development and community enhancement. At the Rio Conference, ICLEI promoted the crucial role that cities and counties can play in sustainability. To ICLEI, an organization of over 250 municipal governments worldwide, sustainability deals with more than just environmental or economic concerns. Building sustainable communities encompasses the following social objectives as well:

- Increasing local self-reliance
- Satisfying basic human needs
- Increasing equity
- Guaranteeing participation and accountability
- Using appropriate technology.

The Local Agenda 21 process can bring together a broad spectrum of allies. People working on separate components of the economic-social-environmental matrix can unite to build a sustainable society.

ICLEI helps local governments on every continent draw up Local Agenda 21 action plans to attain community sustainability. Public participation is a crucial component. For example, municipalities like Quito, Ecuador, Hamilton-Wentworth, Canada, and Pimpri Chinchwad, India, have established committees with representation of all members of the community,

including ethnocultural and socioeconomic groups traditionally excluded from the planning process. These partnerships develop a common vision of a sustainable future for the community, devise and agree on actions that the municipality, business, community groups and other stake-holders can take to implement this plan, and include an on-going evaluation process.

Some community groups and municipalities have begun to measure sustainability through quantifiable indicators. While these include environmental data

such as tons of landfilled waste, they also take note of social indicators like unemployment rates, number of high-school drop-outs, infant mortality and rent-to-median income ratios.

Sustainability and the Planning Profession

Whichever term is used — sustainable communities, sustainable development, or Local Agenda 21 — I believe two challenges face planners: first, to explain to citizens, professionals, and elected officials that planners can contribute to sustainability efforts; secondly, to ensure that planners do not see sustainability as an empty slogan.

The planning profession needs to play a leadership role in efforts to create sustainable communities. Although cities like Austin, Texas, Burlington, Vermont, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Olympia, Washington initiated sustainability planning work in the 1980s, planning as a profession has largely

Economic prosperity and protection of other species must be linked to community well-being and social equity.

ignored the potential of sustainability to enhance the public's interest in planning. In fact, the American Planning Association did not adopt an official policy statement on sustainable development until last year.

In some ways, sustainability efforts under Local Agenda 21 may be a restatement for the 21st century of traditional planning objectives. However, with new groups taking an interest in communities, the planning profession may be forgotten. When the Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood housing activists, politicians, public works engineers, ecologists, church groups, and large corporations sit down together to devise ways to make communities sustainable, planners need to participate to show how planning tools can be useful.

One concern is that the physical layout of our communities and the planning of social and municipal infrastructure are significant for sustainability.

A second concern is that equal attention be given to all three aspects of sustainable development. Economic prosperity and protection of other species must be linked to community well-being and social equity.

What role can progressive planners play within sustainability planning? Planners interested in ensuring that sustainable development is not just an empty slogan can do the following:

—Insist that consultation go beyond formal public hearings at planning commissions. Sustainability requires all members of the community to accept common principles. Community organizers, women's groups, tenants' rights organizations, unions, and other activist groups with particular concerns must participate; the input of people normally overlooked in decision-making (e.g., seniors, people living in emergency shelters, or linguistic minorities) can be obtained from focus groups, as was done in Hamilton-

Wentworth, Canada.

—Design broad public education efforts about sustainability, its issues and impacts. Present the concept and principles of sustainability in different venues and media, such as displays at street fairs, community festivals, and sporting events. Getting on the agenda of other organizations is a better strategy than calling a public meeting to discuss sustainability.

—Include specific actions of implementation and public reporting in the sustainability action plan. The plan must not be a theoretical document. It must change policies and actions.

—Remind people of useful planning techniques and tools. These include public discussion and consensus building, determination of objectives and priorities, impact assessment, ensuring feedback and monitoring.

Conclusion

The Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, ICLEI's sustainable development planning manual, explains why planners have a responsibility to be part of the sustainability process, and why inclusion of all components of society is necessary:

"...At the local level, sustainable development requires that local economic development supports community life and power, using the talents and resources of local residents. It further challenges us to distribute the benefits of development equitably, and to sustain these benefits for all social groups over the long term. We can only achieve this by preventing the waste of ecological wealth and the degradation of ecosystems by economic activities."

Joshua Wolfe is the director of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative's Local Agenda 21-U.S. project. For further information, contact him by phone at (510) 540-8843 or surf to ICLEI's website at <<http://www.iclei.org>>

The First Sustainability Revolution

Despite the rhetoric that sustainable development is about change at the grassroots, the Sustainability Revolution of 1985-2035 is a predominantly top-down movement driven by the United Nations, and progressive factions in science and academia. It is supported by peak NGO groups whose mandate and community support is almost as tenuous as elected national governments. Even national governments and some corporations appear more proactive than the community in general. The Local Agenda 21 has led to a global network of local governments setting their goals for sustainability. But progress is slow, and in general, local governments are dominated by developers and commercial interests, and plagued by petty bureaucrats and corruption.

Perhaps there is not sufficient time to wait for a truly participatory grassroots move to sustainable policies and systems.

Perhaps the top-down move to sustainable policy is itself not sustainable since it has been (will have been) imposed, and may therefore be followed by a second Sustainability Revolution whose central feature is not the greening of capitalist-based consumer society, but self-determination at the grassroots. There would be a diffusion of the control of capital — to shareholders, and through the rise of cooperatives and small business, through vastly improved regulation and monitor groups, ultimately working in conjunction with a shift in values and a broad based movement toward self-determination — giving rise to Post-Consumer Society.

—*Geoff Holland*

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A Conference Diary

by John McIntosh

Thursday, June 26: Tours

The afternoon began with the Southeast/South Central Los Angeles tour guided by John Sheppard, Planning Deputy for Council District 10. We saw everything: the worst of the illegal alien "first settlement" areas where dilapidated single-family dwellings house two or three families each; the well-kept streets of wonderfully-preserved old craftsman-style bungalows owned by aging African-American couples; the industrial wasteland of unregulated businesses and illegal dumping; and the colorful entrepreneurial Latino commercial strip.

We stopped at the historic jazz-age Dundar Hotel, which is now elderly housing, and also went by the intersection of Florence and Normandie — ground zero of the 1992 "civil unrest" — around the corner from which are the manicured lawns of still-thriving working-class neighborhoods. All tours met at the Watts Labor Community Action Center for a reception dinner, with music by an all-city high school jazz band.

This immersive first-encounter with South Central LA for me was a radical reprogramming of perception, from a TV-created image of burned-out urban wasteland to be avoided on fear of death, to feet-on-the-street knowledge of a vibrant, culturally-diverse community, albeit under severe economic stress.

Friday, June 27: Workshops

The keynote speaker at 9:30 was Peter Dreier, Director of the Public Policy Program at Occidental College in Pasadena, who gave a brief history

of affordable housing and advocacy planning since the mid-19th century, which he characterized as the struggle between organized money and disorganized people. Then Rebecca Gifford of the Industrial Areas Foundation gave us an overview of that multi-issue coalition, which she characterized as "creating the public square where we can tell each other our stories of personal history and shared experience", versus the virtual squares of organized chaos created by institutional spin-doctors that promote the futility of making sense of anything so that we will just leave it to the corporate experts. (Heady stuff for this recovering computer nerd.)

In the afternoon, we headed south to Leimert Park. Renata Smith, from the city's Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) gave us an overview of redevelopment in the neighborhood, which is a fascinating story. It was one of the first master-planned communities in the country, an Olmsted & Olmsted plan, the small-lot houses and apartments built uniformly in the mission-revival style. The white-only deed covenants of Leimert Park Village were challenged in the US Supreme Court in the late-40's by a local lawyer, resulting in a decision outlawing this form of discriminatory restriction nationwide. It is now an immaculately-kept middle-class neighborhood of African-Americans who have migrated economically upward and geographically westward from South Central. Noel Vernon, head of Landscape at CalPoly, arrived. She unrolled some original drawings of the park on the picnic table; soon we had an impromptu gathering of park denizens wanting to know what we were planning for "their park".

At Good Shepherd Episcopal Church across the street, we heard presentations by city and community folk. When it was telegraphed around the village that "a meeting with the city" was underway, business owners started arriving. They represent the largest concentration of black-owned businesses in LA. By the end of the afternoon, we had a full-blown business community meeting with a heated debate on parking — an impromptu urban opera before our eyes. Frequently referenced was a charrette that Professor Charles Loggins and his students, with city cooperation, did in Leimert Park in 1992, which was the catalytic turning point for the community in its relationship with the city.

Saturday, June 28: Speaker Sessions

Professor Norman Krumholz, of Cleveland State University and former Planning Director of Cleveland in the 1970s, gave the keynote address: "The Future of the Planning Profession." He characterizes himself as an "equity planner," seeking to move power and resources from the moneyed elite to the working class and poor. His research reveals a good deal of equity planning going on around the country, in the old progressive tradition, although it's rarely labeled as such.

Krumholz and his colleague Pierre Clavel wrote a book on equity planning called *Reinventing Cities*, which he contrasted with the traditional planning examined in the recent book *Planners on Planning* by Bruce McClendon and Anthony Catanese. Traditional planning, he said, has adopted a corporate model of scientific management. He compared "equity planners who try to change peoples' lives with scientific planners who provide customer service." The traditional approach cannot deal with market failure and it can't seem to deal with

sustainability — everything is predicated on continued, unending growth.

I gave a presentation about The Capitol Mall Charrette in Phoenix. Adopting Dreier's theme, I told it as a story of extremely well-organized corporate money versus totally disorganized homeless street people.

Lunch was at the CalPoly Renewal Center, a sustainable residential instructional/research facility paid for by leasing CalPoly land to a regional landfill. It's way up on the hillside with a grand view of the valley. I stayed for the tour, instead of going back down to campus for the first afternoon session. The Renewal Center is sort of a BioSphere without the dome, doing legitimate science.

I sat in on a session discussing the monthly Planners Network Forum that Pratt hosts at its Manhattan campus. Under New York Mayor Giuliani's current administration, public involvement is discouraged and the information flow from city agencies has been turned off. The PN forums partly fill this need, often attended by planners working for the City.

The last session I attended was with Norm Krumholz informally talking about his experience interviewing for LA Planning Director. There were several LA planners there to give us an inside take as well. His philosophical position as an equity planner probably lost him the job to Con Howe, under whose leadership(?) the LA planning staff has gone from 350 to less than 250. Once perhaps the most important planning department in the country, they now defer decision making to all other non-planning departments in the city.

John McIntosh is Coordinator of the Joint Urban Design Program at the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University.

PN 1997 Annual Conference: Pomona

Sharing Stories Shaping Strategies

by Ann Forsyth

Planners Network moved to the west coast for its 1997 conference, held at Pomona in Los Angeles County. Highlights included keynotes from PNers Norm Krumholz and Peter Dreier, and LA Council member Mark Ridley-Thomas. Progressive Los Angeles City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg gave a stirring speech about planning and progressive politics.

Participants spread out across the central Los Angeles region for Thursday tours that reached from a garment district sweatshop to the ballroom of a historic hotel turned

SRO, and ended up at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee headquarters in south central Los Angeles. Friday workshops dealt with issues ranging from the future of Leimert Park, a historic African-American arts and entertainment area, to conflicts over a superfund site in Baldwin Park. Saturday sessions centered around cases of progressive planning practice.

A diverse group of one hundred and forty activists, professional planners, academics and students participated in the conference, many from the local area. A Southern California chapter of Planners Network is being formed to build on the work started at the conference. Contact John McCrory at the PN office, (718) 636-

3461 or by email at <pn@pratt.edu> if you are interested. Thanks to PNers Gwen Urey, Ruth Yabes, Robert Yabes and Chuck Hotchkiss from the local organizing committee for helping PN move activities to the west.

At the PN business meeting it was resolved to focus 1998's activities on a publication and/or regional meetings. The next national conference will be held in 1999. Possibilities for publication subjects include, community-university partner-

ships, neighborhood planning for children and youth, case studies in community-based planning, community development and community

organizing, and debates over important new publications such as William Julius Wilson's "When Work Disappears." Possible publication formats include a book, a Planner's Advisory Service report, a self-published work book or how-to manual, an AICP case study, or articles debating key issues. If you are interested in the publication project contact John McCrory at the PN office.

The Conference Organizing Committee also wants to extend their thanks to Ann for all the great work she did to make it happen, and to Winton Pitcoff for helping them finish everything at the last minute!

Planners Networker

Resources

Jobs

• **Project Coordinator.** East St. Louis Action Research Project. Salary: \$30,000-\$36,000. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is seeking an experienced community development professional to manage its East St. Louis Action Research Project. This individual will assist neighborhood leaders, public officials and university faculty in devising and implementing strategic plans that address the community development research and technical assistance needs of community-based development organizations and municipal agencies serving this severely distressed community. This position requires excellent organizational, communications, planning, fundraising and management skills. The position is a full-time, academic professional position funded for one year with possible extension. The individual will be based on the Urbana-Champaign campus but will make frequent trips to East St. Louis. Starting date is 10/1/97. UIUC is an AA-EOE. Requirements: Candidate must possess a masters of urban planning or related professional degree; three years of community service or urban planning experience; as well as one year managing university-based community service-learning programs. Send resume and three reference letters to: **Kenneth Reardon**, Assistant Professor in Urban and Regional Planning, 312 Temple Buell Hall, 611 E. Taft Drive, Champaign, IL, 61820. (217) 333-3890. FAX:

(217) 244-1717. Filing Deadline: To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 8/15/97.

• **Office Manager.** The Poverty and Race Research Action Council seeks an Office Manager to ensure smooth operation of a small office. Duties include maintaining financial records, coordinating with outside bookkeeper, organizing meetings and conference calls, maintaining a 9000-person database, processing newsletter subscriptions and book orders, and other general clerical work. To apply, send resume, cover letter, salary history / requirements, and references to: **Chester Hartman**, Executive Director, PRRAC, 1711 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 207, Washington, D.C. 20009.

• **Program Assistant.** Washington, D.C. — National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Someone to help our traveling community development staff stay (or get, as the case may be) organized, to push contracts through the system, to field phone calls from confused and sometimes panicked communities, and similar things. Our office environment is slightly zany, very creative, and deeply committed to preserving communities and historic buildings. The position starts at about \$28-30K. Call Kennedy Lawson Smith, Director, at (202-588-6219) or email (kennedy@world-web.net) post haste. National Main Street Center, National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036.

• **Experienced Mortgage Professional.** The National Federation of CDCUs seeks an Experienced Mortgage Professional to assist in developing

training program to expand mortgage lending by low-income credit unions. Call National Federation of CDCUs (Sharon Bernard, Office Manager) for complete job descriptions. (212) 809-1850.

• **Writer/Editor.** The National Federation of CDCUs seeks a Writer/Editor to produce newsletters, reports brochures, manuals. (See contact information above.)

• **Loan Officer.** (Contractual Position). The Oakland Business Development Corporation is a non-profit public benefit corporation which works under a contractual agreement with the City of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency to provide financing, and management and technical assistance to Oakland-based small businesses. Currently, we are seeking a qualified person to work part-time (20 hours per week) that may lead to full time position in the capacity of an independent Contractor. This position will require the incumbent to operate and manage duties as assigned and more specifically package, market, and service loans for various OBDC loan programs. Salary depends on qualifications. Contact: Oakland Business Development Corporation, Job Search, 519 17th Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612. (510) 763-4297. FAX : (510) 763-1273. EMAIL: <info@obdc.com>.

• **Research Assistant.** An immediate job opening for Research Assistant with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), a national nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. The Research Assistant will work with NCRC's professional staff in several project areas, including federal legislation

and regulatory issues related to banking, finance, and access to capital. The research assistant may prepare comments on pending legislation and regulation, write newsletter articles and policy papers. The assistant may also offer technical assistance to community groups in HMDA data analysis. Finally, the assistant will provide technical assistance to community groups in interpreting the Community Reinvestment Act regulations and in other matters related to reinvestment and fair lending. The assistant will have significant input in developing and implementing the special project(s) he or she will carry out. Applications (cover letter, resume and a short writing sample) are now being accepted. We are an equal opportunity employer. To apply, please send materials to Joshua Silver, Vice President of Research, NCRC, 733 15th St. NW, Suite 540, Washington DC 20005. phone: (202) 628-8866, fax (202) 628-9800. For further information, please speak to either Joshua Silver, Alison George, or Leslie Johnson.

• **Executive Director.** The Citizen's Environmental Coalition (CEC) is seeking an Executive Director. The CEC is a nonprofit statewide grassroots environmental organization of 9,000 members and 90 community and environmental groups working to eliminate pollution problems in New York State through the Citizen Assistance Program, Publication Clearinghouse and statewide Advocacy Campaigns on Superfund toxic waste dumps, groundwater, dioxin, labor and environmental justice and other issues. Contact CEC, 33 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12210. (518) 462-5527. FAX: (518) 465-8349. EMAIL: <ctctoxic@igc.apc.org>.

• **Loan Fund Manager.** Equity Trust, a small, non-profit organization with an innovative program of land reform and community development finance, is seeking a Loan Fund Manager to oversee a fund which has commitments to date of approximately \$1.5 million and substantial growth potential. Contact Chuck Matthei at: Equity Trust, Inc., 539 Beach Pond Road, Voluntown, CT 06384. (860) 376-6174.

• **Assistant to the Director.** To support and assist the Director in all aspects of a variety of program tasks, development initiatives, and administrative duties. Equity Trust, Inc. (See contact information above.)

• **Office Manager.** To be the primary administrative staff person in Equity Trust, Inc.'s next stage of organizational development, responsible for the basic infrastructure of communications, simple bookkeeping, and daily business activity. (See contact information above.)

• **Executive Director.** The New York Mortgage Coalition, a consortium of 10 financial institutions and 9 locally based community organizations created to help potential low and moderate income homebuyers qualify for mortgage financing is seeking an Executive Director to assist in the program management of its successful four-year-old program. Salary is in the \$50,000 range, commensurate with experience. NYMC is administered by the New York City Housing Partnership, and the Executive Director will report to the VP/Director of Finance for the Housing Partnership. Contact: Kathleen A. Parisi, VP/Director of Finance, NYC Housing Partnership, One Battery Park Plaza, 4th Floor,

New York, NY 10004. (212) 493-7419. FAX: (212) 344-3344.

If you are looking for a job after you graduate, you might want to get hold of one of PNER **Daniel Lauber's** new books, **Government Job Finder** (\$16.95, 325 pages), **Non-Profits and Education Job Finder** (\$16.95, 340 pages), or **Professional's Job Finder** (covers the private sector; \$18.95, 520 pages). They are the top books recommended by *What Color is Your Parachute?* for finding job leads. They are available at bookstores everywhere or by ordering directly toll-free: (888) 366-5200 weekdays, 9 am to 6 pm with VISA or MasterCard.

Events and Conferences

• **August 23-26. The Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE) Annual Summer Conference.** Academics and activists interested in a left-oriented analysis of economic issues and political topics will meet at Camp Chinquea in Bantam, CT. This year's conference theme is "What is the Good Fight: Economic Questions for the New Labor Movement," and there will be three plenary sessions: *Workfare vs. Work; Progressive Macroeconomic Policy; What Does it Mean to be a Radical in 1997?* Speakers include Nancy Rose, Bill Fletcher (AFL-CIO), Robert Pollin (UC, Riverside), Tom Palley (AFL-CIO), and others. A special lecture series honoring the life and work of David Gordon (1944-1996), a prominent radical economist and co-founder of URPE will begin this year as Robert Pollin

Resources

Continued

gives the first annual David Gordon Memorial Lecture. Contact the URPE National Office at One Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143. (617) 776-5888. EMAIL: <urpe@igc.apc.or>.

• **August 23-27, 1997.** Toronto, Canada. **The Humane Village Congress — ICSID '97.** The biannual congress of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) which is hosted by cities such as Taipei, Ljubjana, Glasgow, and now Toronto. A gathering of international designers, thinkers, and people concerned about the future. A forum for developing solutions to the many challenges, changes, and stresses facing the globe. A community where human experience will be valued and local needs will be balanced with global imperatives. A beginning for Toronto to share its wisdom and experiences and learn from the world. For more information, please contact: The Humane Village Congress— ICSID '97. Design Exchange, 234 Bay Street Box 18, Toronto-Dominion Centre Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5K 1B2. (888) ICSID97 or. (416) 216-2124. FAX: (416) 368-0684. EMAIL: <dx@pathcom.com>. WWW: <<http://www.designexchange.org/humanevillage>>

• **September 2-5, 1997.** The National Association of Community Action Agencies holds its 1997 Annual Conference **Community Action Works** in Nashville, TN. This conference offers the most comprehen-

sive training on issues of importance to Community Action Agencies and the services they provide. Sessions will address service and non-service delivery programs. Contact: NACAA, 1100 17th Street NW, #500, Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 234-5009.

• **September 6-10, 1997. International Association for Public Participation Conference** in Toronto, Canada. The IAP2 Toronto Conference explores the practice of public participation in the 1990s, years of cuts, conflicts and changes in both our work and our communities. The conference addresses the uncertainty we now feel as practitioners, proponents, and participants in the process. The experience of various sectors of practice, including environment, planning, health and social services, ranging from the international to the local community will be shared in three tracks: ACCESS — Who participates and why? PROCESS — How is public participation being carried out? IMPACT — What is the effect and influence public participation has on decisions? Contact: IAP2 Conference Headquarters, P.O. Box 10146, Alexandria, VA 22310. (800) 644-4273. FAX: (703) 971-0006. EMAIL: <iap2hq@pin.org>.

• **October 3-5, 1997.** Arlington, VA. **CCHW Center for Health, Environment, and Justice 1997 Convention: "Winning Justice Step by Step."** Over 1,000 grassroots activists from across the country will gather for workshops, speeches, exhibits, share ideas, and build stronger ties in the environmental justice movement. "The experts you've turned to for advice will be there; the staffers of groups who have helped will be there; foundation officers who

have funded grassroots efforts will be there...and you should be too!" For more information and a registration packet contact CCHW Center for Health, Environment and Justice, P.O. Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040. (703) 237-2249. EMAIL: <CCHW@essential.org>. WWW: <<http://www.essential.org/cchw>>.

• **October 19-23, 1997. Co-ops in the Northeast Leadership Tour.** Learn about the ways cooperatives and credit unions build community in the Northeastern United States. Tour agricultural, consumer, financial and employee co-ops who are really making a difference. Cost: approximately \$900; includes travel, food, and hotel. Contact: Lynn Benander, Cooperative Development Institute, 50 Miles St., Greenfield, MA 10301. (413) 774-7599 ext. 11. FAX: (413) 774-6432. EMAIL: <lbanande@mhc.mtholyoke.edu>

• **November 6-9, 1997.** The **Livable Cities for All / Ciudades Confortables para Todos** conference will be held this year in Lima, Peru. Organized through the cooperation of ARC • PEACE Peru, the Colegio de Arquitectos del Perú and the Secretariat in Stockholm, this year's conference will feature keynote speakers Erik Vittrup, chief technical adviser at the Habitat Centre in Costa Rica, Aliye Celik of the Habitat office in New York, Geoffrey Payne, a housing and urban development consultant in London, and a World Bank expert in the Habitat Agenda. Participants will focus on seven themes: Recovering historic cities; Local building materials for housing; Housing for production at home; Sustainable infrastructure for third world cities; Cities and health. Can cities be designed for better health?;

How do new technologies influence architecture and city planning?; Education for social responsibility. Contact ARC • PEACE, c/o BBA Dept. of Architecture & Town Planning, Royal Institute of Technology, S-10044 Stockholm, Sweden. PHONE: 46 8 7908522. FAX: 46 8 7908580. EMAIL: <dickurba@arch.kth.se>. WWW: <<http://www.arch.kth.se/hemsidor/otherhome/arcpeacehome/arcpeace.html>>

Publications and Videos

- **Environmental Justice.** The Community Environmental Law Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ) and the Environmental Law Institute, has produced an excellent legal tool for community groups. *Working with Lawyers: A Guide for Community Residents and Environmental Justice Activists*, is a tool for those considering hiring a lawyer to help them with an environmental problem. It gives excellent advice on the role of a lawyer, how to hire a lawyer, and how to effectively work with a lawyer to get what you want. Contact SNEEJ, P.O. Box 7399, Albuquerque, NM 87194. (505) 242-0416.

- **Environmental Organizing.** Media Activist Branda Miller has produced *Witness to the Future*, an experimental documentary look at grassroots environmental organizing. Traveling through the states of Washington, California, and Louisiana, Miller met and interviewed dozens of citizen activists to learn what motivates them

to do the work they do. She found a common drive in activists to achieve social and economic justice, and a feeling that elected officials are not adequately protecting us. Available as a 50-minute videotape from the Video Project at (800) 4-PLANET and as an interactive CD-ROM. WWW: <<http://www.witnesstothefuture.com>>

- **Environmental Policy.** *Linking Land Use and Superfund Cleanups: Uncharted Territory* examines how the EPA currently integrates future land use into remedy selection at Superfund sites, presenting case studies of cleanups at three National Priorities List sites: Abex (Portsmouth, VA), Industri-Plex (Woburn, MA), and Fort Ord (Monterey, CA). Published by Resources for the Future, this report finds significant shortcomings in the EPA's current approach. It makes specific recommendations on how the National Contingency Plan can be amended to address the role of land use in remedy selection and outlines a strategy to ensure the effective long-term regulatory oversight of Superfund sites that remain public health risks even after cleanup. Resources for the Future. Contact Michael Tobo, (202) 328-5019. 1616 P Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. WWW: <<http://www.rff.org>>. EMAIL: <info@rff.org>.

- **Activism.** *The Activist Cookbook: Creative Actions for a Fair Economy*, by Andrew Boyd, has just been published by United for a Fair Economy, a national organization founded in 1994 to focus public attention on economic inequality in the United States. The 100-page, hands-on manual showcases media stunts, street theater skits, and creative direct actions from the labor and social justice move-

ment. To order, send a check for \$16.00 (price includes shipping and handling) to United for a Fair Economy, 37 Temple Place, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02111. (617) 423-2148. FAX: (617) 423-0191. EMAIL: <stw@stw.org>. WWW: <<http://www.stw.org>>. Bulk rates are available.

- **Community Building.** *Community Building: Coming of Age*, a monograph based on The Development Training Institute's 1995 Community Building in America seminars, is now freely available. Surf to <<http://www.ncbn.org>> or write to: The Development Training Institute, 2510 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. (410) 338-2512. FAX: (410) 338-2751.

- **Community Development.** The Community Development Corporation Oral History Project announces the video documentary, *A Practical Man*, which chronicles the efforts of Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) founder Ted Watkins to rebuild both the physical neighborhoods and the spirit of hope in the impoverished residents of South Central Los Angeles. The 46-minute documentary is available now for a special price of \$25.00 from the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development. Included with the video is an insightful 10-page brochure that provides a background on Ted Watkins and the WLCAC, a founding generation CDC. To order *A Practical Man*, write to: Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PICCED), 379 DeKalb Avenue, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11205. FAX (718) 636-3709. For more details, contact Vojislava Filipcevic at (718) 636-3496.

Resources

Continued

• **Community Development.** *Growing Together: Linking Regional and Community Development in a Changing Economy* looks at regional economic development, community development, and anti-poverty efforts in the nation's metro areas. It shows that metropolitan regions do better economically if they incorporate community development and anti-poverty efforts in their efforts to achieve economic growth. The study — undertaken by Manuel Pastor, PN'er Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garza at the International and Public Affairs Center at Occidental College — draws lessons from the most successful metro regions to suggest public policies to link regional and community development in the Los Angeles region, policies that may be appropriate for other regions as well. Copies of the summary report (\$5) or the 300+-page full report (\$25) can be obtained from: Wendy Clifford, International & Public Affairs Center, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles, CA 90041. (213) 259-2991.

• **Community Development.** The Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington is pleased to announce a new publication for planners and interested persons entitled *Infill Development: Strategies for Shaping Livable Neighborhoods*. It summarizes some of the barriers that have discouraged infill development in the past and the emerging opportunities for such development; provides a checklist for successful infill development; and provides strategies to

make infill development more feasible for developers. Contact: Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington. 1200 5th Ave., Suite 1300, Seattle, WA 98101. (206) 625-1300. FAX: (206) 625-1220. EMAIL: <mrsc@mrsc.org>. WWW: <<http://www.mrsc.org>>.

• **Community Development.** "Models that Work" gives case studies of 50 successful housing and community development programs. Available from America's Community Bankers, 900 19th St., NW, Ste. 400, Washington, DC 20006; 202-857-3100.

• **Community Economic Development.** "At Your Fingertips: An Annotated Bibliography for CED Practitioners," is available from the National Congress for Community Economic Development, 11 Dupont Circle, Ste. 325, Washington, DC 20036; 202-234-5009. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers.

• **Community Reinvestment.** The Woodstock Institute, a nonprofit applied research and technical assistance organization focusing on issues of community reinvestment and economic development, has just released a new publication on partnerships between community development and mainstream financial institutions. Examples include partnerships between a low-income credit union and mainstream credit union, micro-enterprise lenders and banks, and community development loan funds and banks. For more information, EMAIL: <woodstck@wwa.com>.

• **Progressive Economics.** The Institute for Social and Cultural Change / South End Press has just published

Chaos or Community? Seeking Solutions, Not Scapegoats for Bad Economics, by Holly Sklar.

According to *The Progressive*, the book "dismantles the conservative apologies for this sorry state of affairs [and] offers a compelling approach to our political renewal." Sklar's earlier book, written with Peter Medoff, *Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood*, tells the story of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. Both books are available in paperback and hardcover from South End Press, 116 St. Botolph Street, Boston, MA 02115. They can be ordered toll-free at (800) 533-8478.

• **Farmland Preservation.** Island Press announces the publication of *Holding Our Ground: Protecting America's Farms and Farmland*, by Tom Daniels and Deborah Bowers, a primer on farmland preservation. The book describes the many challenges involved in protecting farmland and explains how to create a package of techniques that can meet those challenges. Appendices on model zoning ordinances, nuisance disclaimers, conservation easements, and other useful documents. Available in paperback for \$34.95. ISBN: 1-55963482-0. To order, send a check to Island Press, Box 7, Dept. 2PR, Covelo, CA 95428 or call toll-free (800) 828-1302.

• **Labor Policy.** The Center for Community Change just released the first installment of its Reports on Economic Development and Jobs series, *Developing a Public Policy Agenda on Jobs*. The 56-page report focusses on policy issues that have emerged from the concerns of low-income community groups, local and

state officials, and others, relating to job creation, job quality, and job access. It examines specific governmental policies that can improve job-related programs and policies for which community organizations can push. It suggests ways the entire job creation/training system can be reformed and reviews systematic reforms undertaken by governments in Wisconsin, Oregon, Cleveland, Ohio, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. (202) 342-0567.

• **Public Housing.** "Community First: A Public Housing Residents' Guide" is available from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1012 14th St. NW, #1200, Washington, DC 20005; 202-662-1530 x242; linda@nlihc.org

• **Support Systems.** "Building Systems of Support for Neighborhood Change" describes a variety of approaches to broadening community groups' access to the kinds of support they need. Cost is \$10 from The Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20007; 202-342-0567.

• **Urban Manufacturing.** PN'er Isabel Hill's film, *Made In Brooklyn*, a documentary about urban manufacturing and the future of cities, focusing on success stories in Brooklyn, NY, is available for \$199 (purchase) or \$50 (rental) from New Day Films, 22-D Hollywood Ave., Hohokus, NJ 07423. (201) 652-6590. EMAIL: <tmcndy@aol.com>.

Internet Resources for Organizers

Jobs. A new website devoted to linking nonprofit employers with professionals in housing and community development is located at: <<http://www.nonprofitjobs.org>> Web surfers can search for jobs, search for candidates, post jobs, and post resumes.

Community Information Exchange has a new address for its home page:

<<http://www.comminfoexch.org>> Since launching this new address, the Exchange has put up a page for the National Neighborhood Coalition, at

<<http://www.comminfoexch.org/nnc.htm>>

Comm-Org has working papers, syllabi, and links to other organizing resources on-line.

<<http://uac.rdp.utoledo.edu/docs/comm-org/cohome.htm>>

Top Ten Painless Things You Can Do For Planners Network

1. Send in a contribution.
2. Get a friend to join.
3. Send in a PN'er update.
4. Put PN on your organization's mailing list.
5. Include PN in your bio when submitting articles for publication
6. Get your local library to subscribe.
7. Request copies of newsletter or brochure to distribute at conferences you attend.
8. Subscribe to the listserv (see p. 18)
9. Submit job postings, resource listings, etc. for publication.
10. Start a local chapter.

Welcome...

new **PLANNERS NETWORK** members!

Dennis Bell, Robert Bennett, Nevin Cohen, Reid Cramer, Angela Csinsi, Orly Gilat, Valarie Donnelly, Tansel Erbil, Luis Facundo, Christopher Glick, Yael Levitte, Beril Ozalp, Katherine Gray, Rick Lewis, Jennifer Quinn, Douglas Kearney, Planners in Latin America.

...and thanks to all those renewing members who contributed in the last two months...

Carla Chifos, Donald Loggins, Holly Kaye, Gray Smith, Louise Simmons, Sue Keister, Olga Kahn, Tim Strohane, June Thomas, Duane Bay, Robyn Bancroft, Chris Tilly, Barbara Knecht, Tarry Hum, Ruth Lampi, Michael Tanzer, Thomas Nutt-Powell, Michael Pyatok, Bob Palmier, Karen Brown, Anne Kilponen, Barbara Sack, Kerry Rice, Norbert Goldfield, Eve Holberg, Martia Lamar, Carol Smolenski, Herb Cooper-Levy, Thomas Lenz, Nancy Nye, Dudley Burton, Richard Schramm, Maurizia Antotineti, Jack Stokvis, Jean Riesman, Philip Shapira, Marina Davis, Michael Replogle, Andree Tremoulet, Dennis Keating, Walter Thabit, Dayna Ashley-Oehm, Shefali Dastidar, Anne Henny, Loren Bernardi, Billy Feitlinger, Grace Braley, Jim Cohen, David Kovacs, Lewis Lubka, Gary Kitahata, Vivian Kahn, Raisa Lawrence, Fred Markus, Eric Novak, Bill Goldsmith, Gordon Schiff, Tom Bartnik, Kevin Ryan, Cornell University Library, Lillian Randolph, Dwayne Wyatt, Sy Adler, Roberta Brandes Gratz, John Nettleton, Arnie Fischman, Elizabeth Neill, Ralph Nesson, Louise Elving, Lucilla Fuller Marvel, Norman Krumholtz, Gale Trachtenberg, Kris Palmer, Hisashi Sugaya, Feygele Jacobs, Adriana Scopino, Shefaali Maneesha Bidani, Steve Fahrer, Beryl Fernandes, Jack Stokvis, Robert Fisher, Karen Brown, Yale Rabin, Michael Zamm, Tim Strohane, Melissa Mandos, Roger Colton, Michael Skrebutenas, Cy Richardson, Jane Wright, Morris Sweet, Harold DeRienzo, Anicca Jansen, Barbara Garrity, Don Neuwirth, Joseph Weisbord, Prentice Bowsher Associates, Daniel Egan, Diane Meyerhoff, Jerry Rubin, Sara Gould, Bob Beauregard, Rick Surpin, Paula Habib, Judy Flynn, Eve Bach, Gale Bach, Deb Gray, Gary Fields, Janet Scheff, Steve Strahs, Grassroots Policy Project, Gail Schechter, Solutions for Progress, K. Elizabeth Mros, Linely White, Tom Samuels, Harry Schwartz, Jean A. Garren, Ron Sakolsky, Bish Sanyal, Fredric C. Cooper, Michelle K. Whetten, Irwin Mussen, Kathryn Cowan/HomeBase, Julia M. Paulsen, Theresa A. Kilbane, Philip Ashton, Frances Stanley, Eugene Feingold, Larry Bennett.

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The Planners Network web site contains case studies, working papers, and more. Surf to:
<http://www.picced.org/resource/pn>

To subscribe to our email listserv, email:
pn-net-request@pratt.edu
with the body blank and the subject:
subscribe your-email-address

PLANNERS NETWORK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The surest sign of an effective network is active participation. As we strive to make each issue chock-full of insightful writing and timely resources, we rely on members like you to send in your comments, suggestions, news, and most of all — articles.

Has it been a while since you last told other PN members what you are involved in? Send in your PNER update!

Is there a local issue in your area that would be of interest to other PN members? Send us the news!

Have you been involved in work that has taught you valuable lessons you can share with other PN members? Tell us what you've learned!

Do you know of a job opening, conference, event, or campaign that other PNers would find useful or informative? Sending us a notice for our resource listings.

We can't continue to provide the important information and thoughtful articles you've come to expect with each issue of this newsletter unless you help. Don't delay — write today!

Upcoming Issues

September Issue, Number 125

Transportation: Challenging Auto Dependency

COPY DEADLINE: Monday, September 1st

November Issue, Number 126

Public Housing: What are Progressives to Do?

COPY DEADLINE: Monday, October 27th

Please submit articles, notes, updates, and resources typed and double-spaced. Feature articles of 500 to 1,500 words are always welcome. Submissions on disk or by email are greatly appreciated. Send your submission to John McCrory at the address given at left.

FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, Planners Network has been a voice for progressive professionals and activists concerned with urban planning and social justice. PN's 1,000 members receive this bimonthly newsletter, network online with PN-NET, and take part in the annual conference. PN also gives progressive ideas a voice in the mainstream planning profession by organizing sessions at annual conferences of the American Planning Association and American Collegiate Schools of Planning.

The PN Conference has been held annually each spring since 1994. These gatherings combine speakers and workshops with exchanges involving local communities. PN conferences engage in discussions that help inform political strategies at the local, national, and international levels. Recent conferences have been held in Washington, D.C., East St. Louis, IL, Brooklyn, NY, and Pomona, CA.

Whether face-to-face, in print, or over the internet, PNers are part of a network that shares progressive ideas and experiences. Join Planners Network and make a difference while sharing your ideas and enthusiasm with others!

Annual financial contributions are voluntary, but we need funds for operating expenses. The Steering Committee recommends the following amounts as minimums for Network members:

- \$15 for those with incomes under \$25,000, students and unemployed
- \$25 for those earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000
- \$45 for those earning over \$50,000
- \$30 for organizations and libraries

The Planners Network

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. This includes opposition to racial, economic and environmental injustice, and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

Yes! I want to join progressive planners and work towards fundamental change.

I'm a renewing member — Keep the faith!

Enclosed is my check payable to **PLANNERS NETWORK** for \$ _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

PLANNERS NETWORK
379 DeKalb Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Name _____

Organization _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

NOTE: If you are located outside the United States, please take care to ensure your payment is in U.S. dollars — we are unable to deposit any other currency in our account. Thanks.

PLANNERS NETWORK
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

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PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. IF IT IS FROM 1995 OR EARLIER, OR IF THERE IS NO DATE AT ALL, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE UNLESS WE HEAR FROM YOU SOON! SEE PAGE 19 FOR CONTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS.