

1ST ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS DINNER

The Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy will hold its first annual Sustainability Awards Dinner on Saturday, November 7, 2009. According to Tanya Narath, CEO of the Institute, "The dinner will recognize and celebrate community leaders who have displayed remarkable achievements in creating socially, economically and environmentally sustainable communities."

The evening will include a Who's Who of North Bay leaders in the areas of social, economic and environmental sustainability. "We want to celebrate new ideas and innovative approaches to implementing sustainable practices while we showcase community leaders who are spearheading these efforts," Narath said.

The event will include a major keynote presentation by David W. Orr on sustainability challenges and opportunities. Orr is an internationally known scholar, author, educator and entrepreneur.

The evening is also a cause for celebration, as the Leadership Institute begins its tenth year of educating and inspiring community leaders to create public policy that is environmentally friendly and socially equitable for a healthy economy and a sustainable community.

The Sustainability Awards Dinner will revolve around the presentation of four awards. The honorees will be in three categories: an individual; an organization or business; and a project that meet the criteria for innovative approaches to sustainable practices. "In addition," said Narath, "we're very

excited to announce that a Trailblazer Award will be presented to a champion of sustainability in Sonoma County."

The dinner, held at the Mary Agatha Furth Center in Windsor, will highlight locally grown, organic, and sustainable food. The physical awards will feature sustainable materials; and the event will be zero-waste and will strive to support local, sustainable objectives wherever possible.



LEADERSHIP *in* SUSTAINABILITY

AWARDS

Tickets are \$75 per person, and table sponsorships are available at a discount. Other sponsorship opportunities are available for sustainability supporters.

According to Suzi O'Rear, Event Coordinator for the Leadership Institute, "This will be the premier awards event of the year for those working in the areas of social, economic and environmental sustainability. We invite elected and appointed officials, community leaders, government and agency representatives, philanthropists, and community advocates to join us for an inspirational and enjoyable evening."

For more details, contact O'Rear at 707-578-9133 or suziorear@ecoleader.org.

OFFICE NEEDS

The Institute is in need of newer office equipment to replace our aging systems:

- phone system (5-6 phones with voicemail capability)
- two Windows XP computers (2.8 GHz-3.0 GHz Pentium 4 or faster) for use by our volunteers
- printer capable of two-sided printing
- speakerphone (Polycom or similar model) for use in our shared conference room (to help us lighten the carbon footprint of our meetings!)

Contact the Institute at 707-578-9133 if you would like to donate and/or underwrite these equipment upgrades.

SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCE *cont. from page 1*

Training are echoed and amplified in the Resource Web section of our website.

The website includes cutting-edge Web 2.0 features as well. Are you on Facebook? Do you Twitter? Do you follow Newsvine? Digg? How about del.icio.us? Our website allows you to link resources via any of these networking sites, thanks to the efforts of Leadership Institute staff and volunteers, especially Alicia Virtue, a librarian by training and an expert

in web resources, who implemented much of the new website design singlehandedly (Thanks, Alicia!).

A useful and fun feature of the Sustainability Resource Web is a "tag cloud" that depicts key concepts from the resource section in a graphic format, allowing the user to click on key words and be taken directly to an up-to-date list of resources and links.

Please visit our redesigned website at www.ecoleader.org and make use of the remarkable Sustainability Resource Web.

FELLOWS PROFILE: MARY ANNE LANDIS & MARI RODIN

Translating ideas into policy and politics

Leadership Institute Fellows Mari Rodin and Mary Anne Landis are gradually shifting the political and cultural landscape in Ukiah—the largest city in Mendocino County—towards sustainability.

Mari was appointed to the Ukiah City Council in 2002, to fill the unexpired term of another City Councilmember. She ran for re-election in 2004 and 2008, winning easily both times. Mary Anne, a former Ukiah Planning Commissioner, is now a City Councilmember as well. Mary Anne was appointed recently to the Council, also to fill the term of another Councilmember who left early for another position.

Mary Anne and Mari both graduated from the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future. They were in the Class of 2006-2007, and they credit the Leadership Training with helping them expand their ideas about sustainability and apply them to small town politics and issues.

“The more I work in public service,” says Mari, “the more I see connections that go beyond city government. The balance of jobs, where people live, where people work, it all connects.”

Mary Anne also found that the Leadership Training helped her see the big picture. With a background in education, Mary Anne “didn’t know much about agriculture or timber, but they’re significant up here, and social justice was important to me. I also wanted to focus on how to sustain a call to action ... I was looking for that juncture for change. Where do you push the lever to make things move?”

Mari says she enjoyed meeting the diverse group of people that made



Mary Anne Landis (left) and Mari Rodin

“ I was looking for that juncture for change. Where do you push the lever to make things move?”

up her class, and she picked up “policy making ideas. I was able to stretch my thinking quite a bit.”

Mary Anne says, “The three E’s (economy, ecology, equity) have become the filter for so much of what I’m thinking about. It affects my decision making in a really positive way.”

For her Leadership Training project, Mary Anne organized a community education process called “Citizen U.” that taught Ukiah citizens about city government and key issues in their community. “I believe in the process,” she says. “Give people the right information and the right things will happen.”

Want to learn more about Ukiah and sustainability? Visit www.ukiasmartgrowth.org, www.mendofutures.org or www.mecgrassroots.org.

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WHY “VANGUARD?”

Its origin is Late Middle English, and was a shortening of the Old French “avant-garde”—literally, “going before the army.” Nowadays, Vanguard refers to those who are in the forefront of new ideas, who lead new intellectual or political movements. We named our newsletter Vanguard to acknowledge that being out in front of change can be exhilarating and rewarding.



WORD POWER

AWARD

A versatile word, both noun and verb, “award” suggests both a journey and a destination. As we prepare for our first annual Sustainability Awards, we are reminded that, while we intend to “award” and honor key individuals, organizations and projects, there are many who labor in the cause of sustainability, and we value all of their efforts. Together, we make a difference!



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SUSTAINABILITY MINUTE

Take a minute and learn how to create a sustainable future



OCTOBER 24: 350—GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION DAY

Join the Leadership Institute, Climate Protection Campaign, and many other local organizations on October 24 for the 350—Global Climate Action Day. The 350 campaign promotes the scientific finding that 350 parts per million (ppm) is the safe level for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and promotes action to get us back to that level (the most recent count is 390 ppm). On October 24, there will be actions throughout the world to bring attention to this finding, and to urge leaders to take urgent action to reduce emissions to 350 ppm. The day of action is set less than two months before world leaders meet in Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Conference. You can help the world get to 350 by:

1. Making and holding up a 350 banner or poster on October 24 at a prominent public place.
2. Participating on October 24 at the Sonoma County 350 event at CHOPS Teen Center in Santa Rosa.
3. Signing up on the www.350.org web site to receive the latest updates on progress towards 350 ppm and to learn about 350 events planned around the world.

For more information on Sonoma County’s plans for October 24, go to the Climate Protection Campaign’s web site at www.climateprotectioncampaign.org or contact Maitreyi Siruguri at 707-823-2665.



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