



Earth Year: Resolve to live a bit more sustainably? Here's help

By MAUREEN BEEZHOLD, Gazette-Times Columnist | Posted: Saturday, December 31, 2011 8:00 am |

Correction

The date for the League of Women Voters' forum on "Rethinking the Economy" was incorrectly reported in the original version of this story. The correct date, as reflected now in the column, is Jan. 10.

New Year's resolutions will be talked about over the next month or so.

As North Americans we consume more than our share of the Earth's resources. Consider adding some or all of the Worldwatch Institute's recommended resolutions to help us live more sustainable and equitably:

Recycle, turn off the lights if you are not using them, switch to compact fluorescents or LED bulbs, turn down the heat while you are gone and wear a sweater when you're home, buy local, ride a bike if you are able, consider sharing a car, plant a garden, compost, reduce your meat consumption.

You can initiate one of these suggestions every month or come up with other ideas. Inspire others as you set an example.

In the meantime, consider attending some of these January events, which could shape some of your resolutions for 2012:

- Corvallis International Film Festival, Part 6: All films are free.

Jan. 10 and 12, 7:30 p.m.: "Human Planet: Jungles — People of the Trees" and "Voices of the Forest: Thailand," both movies from the United Nations-sponsored Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. Richardson Hall room 107 (30th Street and Jefferson Way on the OSU campus).

Jan. 24 and 26, 7 p.m.: "Amazon Alive: Jungle of the Mind" and "Hope in a Changing Climate," plus short film "Death of a Forest." Richardson Hall room 107 (30th Street and Jefferson Way on the OSU campus).

Contact Susan.Morre@oregonstate.edu or see <http://international-programs.forestry.oregonstate.edu>. Sponsors: Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, OSU College of Forestry, International Forestry Students Association, Student Sustainability Initiative, and Majestic Theatre.

- Introduction to Building Science and Home Performance Diagnostics: 9 a.m. Wednesday, Community Services Consortium Weatherization Training Center, 240 S.W. Washington St., Corvallis. This free, three-hour class covers an introduction to residential building science followed in the lab with hands-on training on the blower door and duct blaster. To register contact Dennis Feeney at dfeeney@communityservices.us or call 541-753-0509.

- Sustainability Coalition Annual Meeting: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday. Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 675 N.W. Monroe Ave. Learn about the coalition's latest projects at this free gathering. For more information email info@sustainablecorvallis.org, or call 541-230-1237. Sponsored by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition.
 - Tenacity of Living Things in a Hostile World: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9., Avery House Nature Center, 1200 S.W. Avery Park Drive, Corvallis. A free presentation sponsored by the Corvallis Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon. For more information, contact Esther at 541-754-0893.

 - "Rethinking the Economy: Are There Viable Solutions to 'Business As Usual'?: 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Jan. 10, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 675 N.W. Monroe Ave., Corvallis. Presentations and panel discussion featuring Rob Dietz (Center for the Advancement of a Steady State Economy), Steve Hughes (Oregon Banks Local), Jason Bradford (Farmland LP), and Cheryl Good (Corvallis HOUR Exchange) For details, go to www.lwv.corvallis.or.us. Contact amills@virginiavillageproductions.com, or 541-230-1237. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Corvallis

 - Sustainable Economy Discussion Group: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11, at Imagine Coffee House, 5460 S.W. Philomath Blvd., Corvallis. All welcome at this free discussion/book group. For more information contact Skip Wenz at editor@ecotecture.com. Sponsored by Ecotecture Publishers.

 - The Boardwalks of Benton County: 12:30 p.m. Jan. 11, several locations. Explore the boardwalks at Jackson Frazier Wetlands, Marys River Natural Park and Finley Wildlife Refuge on this winter walk. There is no cost but registration is required. For more information, contact Leslie Hogan at 541-924-0130 or qwizats@peak.org. Sponsored by the Marys Peak Group of the Sierra Club.

 - Local Birding Walk: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 14, meet at Benton Center, 757 N.W. Polk St., Corvallis, to organize carpooling. The birdwatching will be at Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge and Livermore Road, north of the refuge. See what winter bird residents you find on this free trip. Contact Bill Proebsting, proebstw@gmail.com for more information. Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Corvallis.

 - Presentation and discussion on the chemical industry: 7 p.m. Jan. 15, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Room 7, 2945 N.W. Circle Blvd., Corvallis. This free program includes an audio program with pictures based on the book, "The Polluters," by Benjamin Ross, followed by a 30-minute film on the history of the chemical industry with a discussion led by Roberta Hall. Contact Elizabeth Waldorf (dewaldorf@comcast.net) for more information. Sponsored by the UUFC Environmental Action Council of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.
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