

LEWAS

LAKE ERIE WESTERN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Special Earth Day Edition
April 2011



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Upcoming Events:

Green Energy Summit	April 15
Libbey Eco-Fair	April 15
Lewas @ The Zoo	April 16
Earth Day Work & Global Youth Service	April 16
University of Toledo/ Earthfest	April 20
Urban Green & Sustain. Forum @ the Schomburg, NY	April 21
Recycle Day	April 30
Environmental Lobby Day	May 4
Froggy Award - Educators	May 12

Revisiting the Birth of Earth Day

Most of us know Earth Day as an international celebration of environmental awareness, activism, and appreciation. What started as a relatively modest, U.S. centered event has since expanded to more than 175 countries worldwide. Online networking websites such as earthday.org give credence to the sheer scope and size of this modern day call for action. So, how did this contemporary eco-holiday come to be? What prompted it? Who organized the first Earth Day?

Several events and proclamations acted as precursors to the first Earth Day. For example, in 1968, Morton Hilbert and the U.S. Public Health Service organized a predecessor event titled the "Human Ecology Symposium." This large conference was designed to connect students and scientists concerned about the deteriorating environment and its impact on public health. Later, the symposium would provide an educational

framework for Earth Day organizers. In 1969, activist John McConnell introduced the idea of a global holiday called Earth Day at the UNESCO Conference on the Environment. That same year, after witnessing an oil spill off the coast near Santa Barbara, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D, Wisconsin) declared:

"I am convinced that all we need to do to bring an overwhelming insistence of the new generation that we stem the tide of environmental disaster is to present the facts clearly and dramatically. To marshal such an effort, I am proposing a national teach-in on the crisis of the environment to be held next spring on every university campus across the Nation. The crisis is so imminent, in my opinion, that every university should set aside 1 day in the school year-the same day across the Nation-for the teach-in."

With this statement, and in solidarity with numerous organizations and universities across the U.S., Senator Nelson announced the first Earth Day to be held on April 22nd, 1970. On this day, approximately 20 million Americans participated in teach-ins, rallies, and protests. Demonstrations addressed a host of environmental concerns, including raw sewage, toxic waste, pesticides, air pollution, and habitat loss. The activism behind this and other early Earth Day events encouraged not only the adoption of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act, but also a sense of individual environmental responsibility and stewardship.

Since its inaugural year, Earth Day has grown into a massive global event. Milestone years are often punctuated by an enhanced effort to raise awareness on contemporary issues. In 2007, it was estimated that approximately one billion people observed Earth Day - more than fifty times its original patronage. Celebrations take all manner of forms, from large environmental fairs to stream cleanups to recycling events. Most importantly, Earth Day remains an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on current day environment issues that impact all peoples.



Your Local Earth Day Calendar

Just like last year, LEWAS is listing all Toledo area Earth Day events on a exclusive calendar located at www.lewas.org. Events can be sorted by type, date, location, and more. If you know of any local Earth Day events that are not yet on our calendar, please email the details to jgrabarkiewicz@co.lucas.oh.us.

Earth Day Toledo Calendar 2011

- 4/15/2011 9:30 AM **Green Energy Summit**
The summit will feature local businesses that manufacture or specialize in "green energy", bio friendly, or energy efficient products. Doors will open for elected officials and businesses at 9:30-11:30. Lunch will be served from 11:30-12:30....
- 4/16/2011 9:00 AM **Earth Day Work Day and 7th annual Global Youth Service Day**
A variety of projects are available, including natural area restoration, tree plantings and park clean-up. A celebration will be held afterwards for all participating youth at the Toledo Zoo. Several park locations are available. Dress for the weather....
- 4/16/2011 10:00 AM **Party for the Planet**
Crafts, activities, recycling, displays, and fun!
- 4/20/2011 11:00 AM **University of Toledo Earthfest**
An event sponsored by a student run organization (Society for Environmental Education S.E.E.) at the University of Toledo. Speakers, live music, displays, events, food, and more!
- 4/30/2011 10:00 AM **Recycle Day**
Recycle Day at the Village of Whitehouse

LEWAS Froggy Awards Public Invited to Honor Educators May 12 -

LEWAS members and interested citizens are invited to attend a reception honoring local teachers who have excelled in teaching environmental sciences, ecology, or sustainability.

**The Froggy Awards for Environmental Educators
Thursday, May 12, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
@ the Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metropark**

Teachers and their families, students, and people concerned with sustainable practices will be in an attendance. Light refreshments and a short program. No rsvp is required, all are welcome.

Earth Day Work Day and 7th Annual Global Youth Service Day

**April 16, 9 a.m. to noon
Various Metroparks**

A variety of projects are available, including natural area restoration, tree plantings and park clean-up. A celebration will be held afterwards for all participating youth at the Toledo Zoo. Several park locations are available. Dress for the weather. Please consider bringing your own reusable drinking bottle. Groups, families and individuals welcome. For

more information call Alice Jacobs at 419-407-9846 or alice.jacobs@metroparkstoledo.com

Next LEWAS meeting.....

May 12, 2011 immediately following the Froggy Awards @ the Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metropark.



LIBBEY'S 1ST EARTH DAY ECO-FAIR



APRIL 15, 2011

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ROOMS 807/809 EDISON BLDG.

Fun!

**"Just 1 Thing"
Pledge Tree**

**Calculate your
carbon footprint**



**Kid's Earth Day
Poster Contest**

VISITOR BOOTHS:

**FIRST ENERGY/TOLEDO EDISON
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO**

Educational!

OSU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

KEEP TOLEDO/LUCAS COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

THE TOLEDO HOSPITAL TOBACCO TREATMENT CENTER

SCRAP4ART

LIBBEY CORP. ENGINEERING

Cookies/Snacks!

Prizes!

See My.Libbey Sustainability folder for more information



Consider Native Plants for Spring Planting

Tips from the Stormwater Coalition – A committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

The environment of northwest Ohio is made special by native plants that thrive in our unique climate and soils. Landscaping yards, parks, and other open spaces with native plants can improve habitat and reduce flooding.

Species native to northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan typically have longer root systems that are well adapted to this region's climate and hydrology. The root systems of these plants help break apart clay soils widely found here, which helps reduce surface runoff. Native plants are used in our region for rain gardens and bioretention areas (landscaped areas that parking lots and roads drain to) to help return nutrients and organic material to the soil. These strategies prevent flooding, and remove pollution. Native plants can be used to attract beneficial insects, including butterflies and ladybugs that will eat destructive insects. They also attract pollinators including bees, birds, bats, and beetles.

There are several places to purchase native plants this spring:

[Toledo Botanical Garden](#) sells Oak Openings native plants from mid-April through September.

All County Soil and Water Conservation Districts offer some plant sales in the spring. [Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District](#) is having its annual sale through April 29. This year their offerings include a seed packet of backyard prairie mix, with flowers and grasses chosen for dry or moist areas. They also offer quart-size plants for rain gardens, and a wide variety of fruit trees and deciduous and evergreen trees.

[Wood Soil and Water Conservation District](#) annual sale is through March 31, and includes tree, shrub, and wildflower packages.

For more information on native plants and rain gardens:

- Ohio State University Extension Bulletins:
 - Native plants, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b865/>
 - Noxious weeds, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b866/>
- Naturally Native Nursery, <http://www.naturallynative.net>
- For maps of the current and native ranges of plant species: U.S. Department of Agriculture, <http://plants.usda.gov/>





Environmental Lobby Day

When Wed, May 4, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Where downtown Columbus (map)

Have you ever wanted to meet one-on-one with lawmakers to share ideas about how to make Ohio a cleaner, greener place to live and work? Environmental Lobby Day is your chance to voice your concerns to lawmakers, network with other citizen leaders, and learn more about creating a stronger and greener Ohio. Day includes breakfast, lunch with lawmakers, and a cocktail reception at the end of the day.

National Renewable Energy Lab

An article in the New York Times (2/14/2011) describes the amazing energy use the new National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado. The lab is real workplace, a 222,000-square-foot office building with cubicles and printers and bathrooms for 800 engineers, managers, and other staff. It is designed to be the largest net-zero energy office building in the states. What is most interesting about the building's systems, is that none of them are drastically new. It's all off-the-shelf technology. Highlights are:

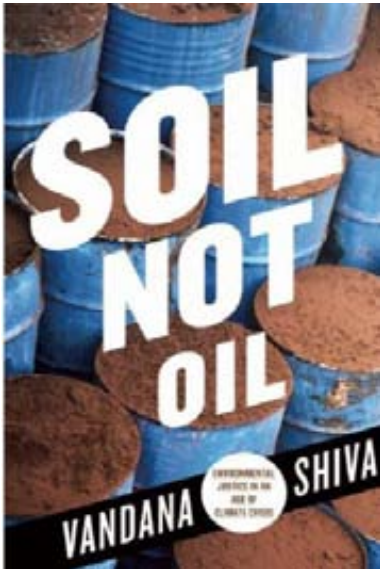
- Automatic window shading
- Window louvers that angle sunshine into the workspace
- Photovoltaic roof array that provides significant energy to the building
- A concrete maze in the basement that is a heat sink – absorbing heat during the day and releasing it slowly when the sun goes down
- Heat generated by the computers in the data center is not wasted but warms the rest of the building.

The staff is currently on their best behavior and management is alert to people who might be tempted to start smuggling in coffee warmers or fans. To keep energy use top of mind, monitors offer real-time feedback on usage and computers send helpful reminders when it is the optimal time to open a window.

Read the whole story here http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/15/science/15building.html?_r=2&ref=homepage&src=me&pagewanted=all



National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Innovation for Our Energy Future



Sacred Cow/Car Redux!

Review of Soil Not Oil

Environmental Justice in a Time of Climate Crisis

By Vandana Shiva

©Vandana Shiva, 2008; South End Press; Brooklyn, NY

--Review by Kenneth W. Fallows

“The superhighway and the automobile are the ultimate cultural symbols of non-sustainability and ecological exclusion.” --(Shiva, p. 59)

“...the ultimate expression of the petrol religion, in which the car is sacred to the people, their livelihoods, and the land and the air can all be destroyed.” --(Shiva, p. 54.)

“We are increasingly realizing there is a convergence between the objectives of conserving biodiversity, reducing climate-change impact, and alleviating Poverty.” --(Shiva, p. 110)

One of India’s leading physicists, world-renowned environmental thinker and activist, and Director of Navdanya (a global effort to gather and preserve essential seed stocks) and the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy, Vandana Shiva is no novice to speaking out on environmental policy and justice and sustainability. She has authored numerous knowledgeable books including Earth Democracy, Manifesto on the Future of Food and Seed, Water Wars, and Staying Alive. With *Soil Not Oil* Shiva confronts, dissects, and proposes a new global environmental justice sustainability. Although at first impression she comes across a bit on the radical side of global mankind’s fateful thirst for energy via fossil fuels, not far into *Soil and Oil* the reader must take note of Shiva’s extensive citation of significant scientific and research support for the case she builds. She analyzes the point of view of the Indian society that is just beginning a love affair with the oil-powered vehicle culture that has been in full marriage for decades in the “developed” countries of North America and Western Europe since the Second World War. She approaches the notion of necessary sustainability for the developing cultures of Asia and the Indian subcontinent as a literate warning of what will result from, rather than the dilemma of how to deal with, the voracious dependence on increasing use of energy from non-renewable fossil sources.

As an interesting repost to the popular theme of the “Triple Bottom Line,” Shiva takes the inverse threat of that bottom line as “the triple crisis” to which all mankind must “...simultaneously overcome dehumanization, economic inequality, and ecological catastrophe.” (Shiva, p.3) Her greatest concern is with the ability for earth to feed its masses without expanding the roles of those living in poverty at the expense of the industrial (read corporate) greed for large profit margins and the wasteful overconsumption of the wealthiest minorities. The broad strokes of her exposé build on “Mitigation and adaptation [that] must happen across all aspects of our lives.” (Shiva, p. 3,)

She addresses the plight of the worker:

The very definition of productivity in the industrial paradigm is labor productivity, i.e., the fewer human beings involved in production, the more “productive” a process is, even if it uses more energy and more resources and produces less per unit of energy and resource inputs. (Shiva, p. 2.)

She then proceeds to elaborate the problems posed by

...a triple convergence of crises, each of which threatens our survival.



Climate: Global warming threatens our very survival as a species.

Energy: Peak oil spells the end of the cheap oil that has fueled the industrialization of production and the globalization of consumerism.

Food: A food crisis is emerging as a result of the convergence of climate change, peak oil, and the impact of globalization on the rights of the poor to food and livelihood. (Shiva, p. 2.)

Her approach is to begin with the basic premise that “Land is inelastic. Fertile land is a very precious and very scarce resource. It needs to be protected and conserved as an asset of the farmers and as a national heritage to be passed on to future generations.” (Shiva, p. 39.) and quickly turns it to state that “If we can no longer afford to transport food over thousands of miles, then localization of food production is the only alternative.” (Shiva, p. 39) She posits going from the biodiverse sustainability of the camel economy to the donkey economy, then moves to the horse economy of the early Americas:

Draft animals provide a unique form of renewable energy—converting the sun’s energy through plant life into products and services. [...] In the third world, 2 billion people depend on animal energy, and 50 percent of the world’s food supply depends on animal energy. (Shiva, p. 75.)

Now, she does not propose that we all go back to commuting in oxcarts! She is starkly pointing out the extremes of sustainability that we should all recognize in our efforts to lead more enduring lifestyles.

Shiva comes down hard on the automobile culture, however, especially in her chapter “Food for Cars or People Biofuels a False Solution to Climate change and a Threat to Food Security.” (Shiva, p. 77.) This title basically says all but her solution, which holds that “The use of decentralized energy from biomass is a vital part of the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies.” (Shiva, p. 77.) She makes no bones about her moral perspective that “Industrial biofuels are not the fuels of the poor; they are the foods of the poor [emphasis added] transformed into heat, electricity, and fuel for the rich.” (Shiva, p. 78.) The current trend of deforestation to set up vast monoculture agriculture to raise the soy, corn, and palm oil crops is her main target: “The FAO estimates that 1.6 billion tons, or 25 to 30 percent of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere each year, comes from deforestation.” (Shiva, FAO Newsroom, p. 79.) And: “The increased use of corn and soybean oil for biofuel production has raised world food prices by about 10 percent [as of 2008], according to an IMF report.” (Shiva; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook April 2007; p. 85.)

In the final analysis, Soil Not Oil is saying that “Energy can only be considered sustainable if it does not compete with the food supply, does not divert organic matter from the maintenance of the essential ecosystem, is decentralized and based on decisions by local communities and is based on biodiversity, not monocultures.” (Shiva, p. 93.) “We should be reducing food-miles by eating biodiverse, local and fresh foods, rather than increasing carbon pollution through the spread of corporate industrial farming, nonlocal food supplies, and processed and packaged food.” (Shiva, p. 104) In simple terms, Shiva concludes, “The goals have to be the preservation of the earth, her diverse species, and future generations.” (Shiva, p. 143.) Based on the “...change taking place, which is governed by the law of entropy, or the second law of thermodynamics...,” (Shiva, p. 141.) Shiva poses the alternative: “The laws of thermodynamics state that energy will naturally flow from a state of higher organization to a state of lower organization.” (Shiva, p. 137.)

India’s government has an ambitious plan for eradicating hunger in the country. Unfortunately, it may be going about it the wrong way.

The National Food Security Bill that New Delhi intends to implement this year will make food a legal right for every citizen, including the millions of poor and underprivileged.

No doubt the motive is right: India has one-fourth of the world’s hungry poor, according to United Nations statistics. But merely declaring a legal right won’t ensure that anything will change. (Harsh Joshi, Wall Street Journal, 03/22/2011.)

“The choice we make will decide whether or not we survive as a species.” (Shiva, p. 142.)



“Winning with Green” at the 2010 IW Best Plans Conference

LEWAS President Gale Tedhams was a speaker at the 2010 IW Best Plans Conference. Her presentation described how corporations, especially manufacturers, have become committed to sustainability as a good and profitable business practice.

Considering the cost of fuels, climate changes caused by consumption of these fuels, a growth in population of people who will use energy, and possibility of decreasing amounts of fuel available, businesses need to find ways to reduce fuel use in order to remain viable.

She also noted that interest in energy efficiency is widespread among the consumers who decide what products to buy.

Her presentation is a good look at how business makes the decision to pursue sustainable practices, and what that means on a practical level, from economics, to the environment, and the social impacts. See part of her presentation here.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2011/02/08/what-is-sustainability-discussion-by-gale-tedhams/>

2011 Seed Swap & All Species Ball

On February 26, 2011, the Seventh Annual Toledo GROWs Seed Swap kicked off the 2011 gardening season. The Seed Swap featured a new larger venue (the Erie Street Market) and more participants than ever (more than 1500 participants). The Seed Swap has become the largest event of its kind in the region. Participants came from Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Detroit and Cleveland to exchange seeds, attend workshops, and talk to gardening experts (such as the Ohio State University Master Gardeners).

What is the Seed Swap? The Seed Swap is a potluck for gardeners where seeds, houseplants, bulbs and other gardening supplies are exchanged. Attendees bring their items to a sorting table (which are sent to thematic tables) and receive tokens to spend. A gardener can bring dill seeds and get heirloom tomatoes, cucumber seeds and enough other seeds to do an entire home garden. When over a thousand people participate the selection is truly awesome. Groups like Wild Ones distributed native plant seeds, while other groups like the Rain Garden Initiative talked to participants about rain barrels and rain gardens. All told over thirty groups participated in the swap.

The Seed Swap also featured lots of children’s activities, including art projects with the Toledo Museum of Art and rabbits, chickens, and tilapia fish.

The Seed Swap was followed by the All Species Ball, a fundraiser for a Toledo GROWs’ program that brings small live-stock to youth in the city. Attendees came as their favorite animal and danced to animal themed music all night.

