

Compost and Climate Change: The Links Between Local and Global

First Thursday Conversation on the Environment
Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership
555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael
June 5, 2008

The First Thursday Conversation on the Environment for June 5, 2008, will feature Jon Elam, General Manager of Tamalpais Community Services District, a public local government unit that provides park and recreation, refuse, and sanitary sewer collection services to an area of 2500 homes in with a population of 7000 in Southern Marin. With an elected 5 member board, TCSD is the only publicly operated garbage collection program in Marin County, and is widely regarded as a leader in reduction, re-use, and recycling of residential waste streams. It has a broad-based collection system with many spin off services, such as free compost. They raise worms and have a program of curbside e-waste collection, among other services.



Jon attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali last year as a part of the delegation of the California Climate Action Registry, an approved UN NGO. His status allowed him to attend all sessions and he had access to all delegates. He will be leading conversation both on his experiences in Bali as well as in managing local services. He will discuss these issues in a collective sense by building from the local perspective to the international one and elucidating how they connect. Increasingly, we realize this is the multi-pronged approach in which citizens must be engaged to address the challenges humans have wrought on earth: we have to get our own house in order by acting locally, as well as help influence regional, national and global policies and practices. He brings a unique perspective to this linkage, on one hand running local

waste services while also being a part of a larger group of people involved with the California Climate Registry. He will bring a copy of the Bali plan so participants can see what an international agreement looks like and the types of issues that are discussed.

Jon has served smaller communities in California and Minnesota in a variety of governmental capacities, from public works to city manager. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and has been General Manager of TCSD since 2005. Jon also serves on the Marin County Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority Advisory Council, and served on the Statewide Work Group on Public Operated Treatment Works Committee for SB 32 (California Green House Gas Bill).



Jon Elam

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