

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM OF MARIN'S "TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE MARIN" 2007 WORKSHOP SERIES

INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY

Session #1: Saturday, February 3, 2007, 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Coordinator: Nona Dennis (0)
Location: Dominican University, Caleruega Hall/The Creekside Room, Magnolia Avenue, San Rafael
Directions to Dominican: <http://www.dominican.edu/about/campus/directionstocampus.html>
Campus Map: (<http://www.dominican.edu/about/campus/campus-tour/campusmap.pdf>)

Members and their guests are welcome to attend classes, as visitors, but conditions apply. Permission from the Director is mandatory prior to attendance. Please inquire three days minimum prior to class date: Workshop@MarinEFM.org or leave voice message for "Workshop" at 415-479-7814

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the core principles and goals of sustainability and how achieving those goals fits into "the web of life."
2. Examine various sustainability models: their common themes and differences; their applicability in different contexts; and their methods and metrics for measuring sustainability. These could include the Ecological Footprint, the Natural Step, Natural Capital, the Three E's, Community Indicators, among others.
3. Learn how global effects are linked to local action in the pursuit of sustainability: what do we really mean when we say "Think Globally, Act Locally"?
4. Explore how the principles of sustainability can be transformed into habits and choices, available to us now, as individuals, local communities, schools, and businesses.

SPEAKERS:

Joe Mueller	Professor of Biology, College of Marin
Carol Misseldine	Sustainability Consultant; Senior Staff, Sustainability Program, Office of the Mayor-Oakland
Justin Kitzes	Manager, National Accounts Program, Global Footprint Network
Nona Dennis	Environmental Consultant and Educator (retired)
Mathis Wackernagel	(on Video) Producer and Narrator -- "Our Ecological Footprint: Accounting for a Small Planet"; Founder, Global Footprint Network

SCHEDULE:

8:30-8:55	Check in; please be seated by 8:55
9-9:15	Introduction to the Environmental Forum of Marin (Solvig Palm-Nichol, President) and the Workshop Series (Donna Miller) Introduction to objectives and themes of today's session (Nona Dennis)
9:15	Overview of origins, current conditions, and urgent threats of <i>nonsustainability</i> ; The Natural Step as a working model (Carol Misseldine)
10-10:10	Introductions among Participants
10:10-10:55	Sustainability and the "Web of Life" – ecological bases for sustainability (Joe Mueller)
10:55	Break
11:05	Diverse views of the "elephant": Overview and comparison of sustainability definitions, models, and metrics – differences and similarities (Nona Dennis)
11:45	Lunch break
12:30	"Our Ecological Footprint" – Video with Mathis Wackernagel
1:00	Sustainability begins at home: measuring footprints, e.g. Marin County's (Justin Kitzes)
1:45–2:00	Wrap-up and adjourn

RECOMMENDED READING/WEB RESOURCES:

Edwards, Andrés. 2005. The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift. New Society Publishers
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (<http://www.iclei.org>)
Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (www.iclei.org/us/ccp)
Redefining Progress (<http://www.rprogress.org>)
World Wildlife Fund. Living Planet Report (<http://www.panda.org/livingplanet>)
Global Footprint Network (<http://www.footprintnetwork.org>)
The Natural Step (<http://www.naturalstep.org>)
Marin County Sustainability Team (<http://www.marinsustainability.org>)
Sustainable Sonoma County (<http://www.sustainablesonoma.org>)
Sustainable Mill Valley (<http://www.sustainablemillvalley.org>),
Sustainable Fairfax (<http://www.sustainablefairfax.org>)
Sustainable Marin: <http://www.sustainablemarin.org/>
Sustainable Novato: <http://www.sustainablenovato.org/>
Sustainable San Rafael: <http://www.sustainablesanrafael.org/>

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Nona B. Dennis

Nona Dennis is a retired environmental consultant and educator whose varied career in environmental impact assessment, wetlands ecology, habitat restoration, environmental management systems, and non-profit service spans 35 years. She was an environmental consultant with Madrone Associates in Marin County and Environmental Science Assoc. (ESA), San Francisco, from 1973 until retiring in 1998. Nona also served as adjunct faculty in the University of San Francisco graduate program in Environmental Management, teaching environmental philosophy and ethics and environmental management systems. She has published articles relating environmental impact assessment to sustainability principles. A 45-year resident of Mill Valley, Nona served on the city's planning commission and on Marin County sustainability and environmental advisory committees. She has been a frequent participant in the Environmental Forum's training programs, and currently serves on the Board of Marin Conservation League. She holds degrees in Music and Biology, and an M.S. in Environmental Management.

Carol Misseldine

Carol Misseldine has been professionally active in promoting environmental protection initiatives and sustainable business practices for over 20 years. She currently works for the City of Oakland in Mayor Jerry Brown's office as Senior Staff for his Sustainability Programs. In addition to her work for the City of Oakland, Carol works as an independent consultant, assisting her corporate and governmental clients in understanding and applying fundamental principles of sustainability. Carol is one of the country's leading trainers of The Natural Step (TNS) framework for sustainability, having been trained by founder Karl-Henrik Robèrt in Sweden in 1995. From 1996 – 1998, she directed The Natural Step's Great Lakes Office from Lansing, Michigan. From 1992 to 1996, Carol served as executive director of the Michigan Environmental Council, an environmental coalition comprised of 50 of Michigan's leading environmental organizations including the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action. Most recently, from August 2003 through November 2nd, 2004, she served as campaign manager for Charles McGlashan's successful run for Marin County Supervisor. Carol Misseldine was awarded her Master's Degree in Natural Resources in 1991 by Michigan State University.

Joe Mueller

Joe Mueller has been teaching biology at the College of Marin for 17 years. Of the 15 different courses he has taught at COM his subjects of particular interest include ecology, marine biology, ornithology and environmental science. Taking a holistic approach to science, Joe emphasizes the need to understand the reasons we have become so disconnected from the very planetary ecosystems we depend on. An animal lover by nature Joe tends an animal orphan farm where he loves spending time with an assortment of critters ranging from llamas to lizards.

Justin Kitzes

Justin Kitzes manages the National Accounts Program at Global Footprint Network, an international NGO that supports a sustainable economy by advancing the methods and applications of the Ecological Footprint. Justin maintains the calculation systems behind the Ecological Footprint, develops Footprint accounting methodology, leads trainings and workshops, and contributes to academic papers and

reports. His projects often involve collaborations with partners throughout the world, and he has presented the principles behind the Ecological Footprint internationally. Prior to joining Global Footprint Network, Justin's areas of research included ocean science, sustainable agricultural practices and policies, and monetary valuation of health and the environment. Justin holds an M.S. in Earth Systems from Stanford University, California, USA.