

Evanston's Future!

Electronic Newsletter of

*Evanston's Energy Future
Evanston's Transportation Future
Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle
Evanston's Affordable Housing Future
Citizens Lighthouse Community Land Trust
Evanston Food Policy Council*

April 2006

Network for Evanston's Future groups welcome new members, at any time and at any level of interest or participation.

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April 6, 7 – 9 pm

Evanston Food Policy Council

Location: Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge, Evanston

Contact: Debbie Hillman at DLHillman@sbcglobal.net or 847-328-7175

April 7th to 11th

Bioethics2006: The Voice of Reason

Multiple presentations and discussions held throughout the Chicago area

For details and contact info: bioethics2006.org/events.php

April 9, 3 – 5 pm

Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle meeting

Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston

Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org, 773-278-4800

**Planning April 23rd Earth Month workshop & restoration work day recruitment.*

April 12, 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Evanston's Energy Future

Location: Café Mud, 1936 Maple Avenue, Evanston

Contact: Joel Freeman at JSF@grummanbutkus.com or 847-869-0955

April 15, 4:00-5:30 pm

and

April 20, 10:00-11:30 am

Documentary Viewing & Discussion: "The Next Industrial Revolution"

Location: Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston

For details: www.laddarboretum.org/programs.htm; Call to register/reserve seating: 847 448.8256; admission is FREE.

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Calendar (cont'd)

April 23, 2 – 5 pm

What Would It Take? - Take II

Sustainability Workshop/Forum

Location: Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, 1224 Dempster, Evanston

Contact: Steve Perkins at steve@cnt.org or 773-278-4800

For details, visit: faithinplace.org/events.php?ID=6

**\$20 suggested donation*

May 15, 7 pm

Special meeting of the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council (EEAC)

Location: St. Nicholas Church, 806 Ridge Avenue, Evanston

Contact: Lois Carlson at lrcarlson@voyager.net or (847) 475-1150

May 21, 1 – 4 pm

(opening religious ceremony at 1:15 pm)

Hands-on Habitat Restoration

Location: Harms Woods Forest Preserve

Contact: Steve Perkins at steve@cnt.org or 773-278-4800

Coordinated by: Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle

July 7th to 9th

Legalizing the Rights of Earth and Community

A conference program for “Challenging the Corporate State and Claiming Our Rights and the Rights of Nature”

Location: Gettysburg College, PA

For details, visit; www.nacce.org/

Visit www.evanstonfuture.org and click on [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming meetings and activities.

Evanston's Affordable Housing Future

(Submitted by Sue Carlson)

The wait continues! For Inclusionary Housing, for the revised Demolition Tax, for Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) status for CLCLT, for approval of Darrow Corners (27 affordable units proposed by Housing Opportunity Development Corp. (HODC) with the support of Evanston Community Development Corp. (ECDC))

What has passed is Evanston's Strategic Plan with its housing goal: Create policies and programs that result in a well maintained, diverse housing stock throughout the City of Evanston. Two of its objectives are: To develop and implement a comprehensive inclusionary and affordable housing policy and to create workforce ownership and rental housing opportunities.

These are the details about what's still awaiting final determination:

- At some subsequent Planning & Development Committee meeting there will be introduced two different ordinances, one proposed by the Housing Commission, one by the staff. Among several differing aspects to these proposals, the HC proposal extends affordability periods for those units set aside as affordable beyond the 15 yrs. proposed by the staff.
- The first Demolition Tax ordinance was repealed due to some legal concerns. The replacement ordinance was on the agenda on March 27, but was not acted upon. Current plan is to have it again on the agenda for April 10. It is likely to pass.
- Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust needs their CHDO status, granted by the City, in order to apply for HUD funding. This has been pending for 4 months.
- The Darrows Corner development was turned down by the Plan Commission for what was contended to be too great a concentration of poor people. HODC is currently before the Planning and Development Committee trying to persuade them that this project is worth their approval. It needs

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the votes of 6 aldermen for it to go forward. (see dates below) For those who would like to know more about the proposal, go to www.metroplanning.org/cmadoocs/darrowcornerssummary.pdf

The passage of all these matters would be totally in support of the strategic plan's goals.

Dates:

- April 4: Special meeting of the Planning and Development Committee to take up the Darrows Corner proposal and, possibly the Demolition Tax.
- April 10: P & D meeting, MAYBE introduction of the competing Inclusionary Housing ordinances.
- Council meeting: MAYBE, passage of the Demolition Tax, MAYBE decision on Darrows Corner.

Evanston's Transportation Future

(Submitted by: Peter Nicholson and Alex Sproul)

ETF Surveys Evanston Bus Route Info Signs

Evanston's Transportation Future recently completed a survey of route information signs along ten CTA and Pace bus routes serving Evanston. Using a standard of four signed stops per mile at a minimum, the survey identified 155 locations where buses already stop that are lacking correct, or in most cases any, information for riders. As lack of knowledge of the system is major deterrent to occasional riders, visible identification of stop locations and some information about the buses that stop there is helpful in building ridership. The signs also serve as a constant reminder to the neighborhood that bus service is available.

ETF has presented the survey results to the City, which may want to adjust the locations of certain stops to reduce traffic and parking problems before signs are erected at those places. After the City's review, we hope to carry forward a proposal to the CTA and Pace to add information signs at the 155 identified locations.

ETF Recommendations for Evanston Streetscape Designs

Members of ETF recommend the improvement to bus stops be included in streetscape designs. As Evanston rebuilds its major streets, opportunities should not be missed to improve situations for public transportation users while waiting for buses to take them to work, school, shopping or entertainment. Throughout Evanston, most bus stop locations have no amenities or transit information whatever. These conditions are a major deterrent to attracting new riders to a mostly underutilized system. Street reconstructions, especially those that include complete streetscapes, provide a chance to improve this situation.

As a first step toward the goal of better bus stops, ETF held a workshop for its members on Saturday, March 25 to develop conceptual designs for stop improvements that can be implemented as public works projects go forward. Related to the "complete streets" concept that ETF is advocating to systematically address non-automobile uses of street right-of-way generally, proposed bus stop designs need to address the requirements of riders within the constraints of available right-of-way width and other demands on sidewalk and parkway space. In addition to amenities such as paved boarding areas, places to sit, and shelter from rain and wind, improved information beyond that provided by standard CTA and Pace bus stop signs is an important component of the proposed designs. After refinement, the proposed improvements will be presented to the City for incorporation in designs for major street projects to be done in the next few years, such as the Ridge Avenue and North Sheridan Road projects.

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Evanston Transportation Trip Facts

From the RTA's Asset Management System website:

Home-to-Work Trips (2000 census data)

- Evanston has the lowest percentage of "drive-along" commuters at 56.8% than other suburbs except North Chicago.
- Evanston "walk-to-work" is 12.4%; Stickney is 13.5%; North Chicago 29.1%
- More than 3% of Evanston residents take the bus to work.
- 15.6% Evanston residents use Metra and CTA rail combined.
- 27.2% Winnetka residents use Metra for daily work commute.

Evanston's Energy Future

(Submitted by Len Sciarra)

On March 27, the Evanston City Council approved the 2003 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code.

National Energy Trends: Alternative Fuels and Fuel Efficiency

Ethanol - In 2002, the USDA published "Estimating the Net Energy Balance of Corn Ethanol: An Update". The report concludes corn ethanol is energy efficient. An increase in corn yields and greater efficiencies in ethanol production processes helped increase the 1995 ratio of 1.24 up to 1.34 in 2002 (for every Btu, there is a 24% 34% respectively) of energy gains.

Biodiesel - Another study "Life Cycle Inventory of Biodiesel and Petroleum Diesel for Use in an Urban Bus", co-sponsored by the US Dept. of Energy and the USDA, May 1998 shows that biodiesel is 280% greater in energy yield than petroleum diesel fuel.

Fuel	*Energy yield	Net Energy (loss) or gain
Gasoline	0.805	(19.5 %)
Diesel	0.843	(15.7%)
Ethanol	1.34	34%
Biodiesel	3.20	220%

*Life cycle yield in liquid fuel Btus for each BUT of fossil fuel energy consumed.

Due to the solar energy captured by the crop from which biodiesel fuel is made, this contributes to the positive energy ratio, whereas fossil fuels took millions of years to be produced.

Visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/ethanol/balance.html and www.energybulletin.net for details about the information provided above.

Favorite Alternative Fuels - Alternative fuels, as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct), include [ethanol](#), [natural gas](#), [propane](#), [hydrogen](#), [biodiesel*](#), [electricity](#), [methanol](#), and [p-series](#) fuels.

However, [ethanol](#) and [biodiesel](#) generate more interest. Why?

- Ethanol can be produced from starch crops (corn, barley and wheat), trees and grasses.
- Ethanol is commonly used to increase octane and improve gas emissions.
- Biodiesel is produced in the US.
- Biodiesel can be manufactured from vegetable oils, animal fats or recycled restaurant greases.
- Biodiesel reduces pollutants such as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons.

For more information on alternative fuels, go to www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/altfuel/altfuels.html.

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Fuel Consumption

- In the US, 28% of energy used is a result of transportation activity with residential and commercial uses second to industrial uses.
- Transportation energy consumption is increasing by 1.8% per year, faster than other major categories of energy uses.

Fuel Efficiency

- Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards enacted in 1975 resulted in close to doubling of cars' average fuel economy.
- Fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles saved the US over 55 billion gallons of fuel annually and total US carbon dioxide emissions would be more than 10% higher than they are today.
- Increasing fuel economy of light duty vehicles is the single most effective energy-saving policy the federal government could adopt.
- Increasing CAFE standards by 5% each year until 2012 and by 3% annually thereafter could save 1.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2010; and 4.7 million barrels by 2020; and 67 billion barrels over next 40 years. This is 10-20x greater than the potential oil supply from the Artic National Wildlife Refuge.

For more information, please visit www.aceee.org/energy/cafe.htm.

Special Events

Review of April 2nd "Creating a Sustainable Evanston"

(Submitted by George Packard, Gina Lettiere and Joel Freeman)

A successful and exciting gathering took place on April 2nd in Evanston. Guest speaker Steve Cohen from Portland, Oregon's Office of Sustainable Development discussed sustainable actions Portland has enacted to a large group of concerned citizens. Following the inspirational presentation by Mr. Cohen, citizens from Evanston and surrounding communities broke out into several working groups to identify action/policy items for the City of Evanston to move forward on in order to create a culture of sustainability.

Several of Evanston's elected representatives in government and city staff attended the event to listen to neighbors and citizens and be a part of the visioning process:

Ald. Cheryl Wollin (1 st Ward)	Ald. Elizabeth Tisdahl (7 th Ward)	Julia Carroll, City Manager
Ald. Dolores Holmes (5 th Ward)	Julie Hamos, Illinois State Representative (D, 18 th District)	Linda Lutz, Manager, Ecology Center
Ald. Ed Moran (6 th Ward)	Debra Shore, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	David Cook, Assistant Director, Facilities Management

To read more about Portland's sustainable programs, please visit www.sustainableportland.org. The following list includes action items generated by the break-out groups during the forum.

Network for Evanston's Future – Earth Day Forum, April 2, 2006

Speakers: Steve Cohen from the Office of Sustainable Development, Portland, Oregon

Julia Carroll, City Manager, Evanston, Illinois

Eight Breakout Groups: Focusing on recommendations to guide further discussion by the Network for Evanston's Future on...

Building a Culture of Sustainability in Evanston

Affordable Housing	Climate Change	Energy	Food Policy	Green Building	Solid Waste Recycling	Trans- portation	Water
<p>Commitment from city council</p> <p>Committee to work with city council</p> <p>Provide safety net</p>	<p>Develop community support on warming problem</p> <p>Evanston sign Kyoto agreement</p> <p>Enact CAFE standards for Illinois and the Midwest</p>	<p>Communication and education of energy issues and opportunities</p> <p>Collaborate with NU – city for co-generation</p> <p>Push bike path and other non-auto transportation</p> <p>Aggregate community and city energy buying power</p>	<p>Grow organic food in Evanston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning • technical assistance • Assess public space • Urban farm <p>Inventory food resources to identify gleaming opportunities</p> <p>Ban pesticides</p> <p>Accurate food labeling</p> <p>City staff person for sustainable food policy</p> <p>Schools: healthy food policies/programs</p>	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social meeting • Community • Government <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market place event • Institutions/Staff <p>Leadership/write to aldermen</p> <p>Analyze current infrastructure spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm water • Incentives in building code • Change grass lawns to native plants • Renewables (active and passive) • Indoor air quality • Products and plants • Cost effective 	<p>Educator position to increase participation and reduce waste</p> <p>Charge for garbage, make recycling free</p> <p>Measure our current recycling for economics impact and markets</p>	<p>Improve walk-ability</p> <p>Implement the city bike plan</p> <p>Make public transit more appealing</p>	<p>Develop a water conservation plan</p> <p>Water Lifecycle analysis</p> <p>Ordinance on landscaping and audits</p> <p>Education</p>