

Evanston's Future!

A Monthly 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*

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

Evanston's Transportation Future: Pedestrian Committee Meeting

(submitted by Debbie Hillman)

The Pedestrian Committee was energized by Randy Neufeld's presentation of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's "Healthy Streets" Campaign. At our next meeting (August 4: see calendar for details), we will discuss the six initiatives in the Healthy Streets campaign with the aim of identifying one or two that might model a specific action/project in Evanston.

For example, based on the "Sunday Parkways" initiative, it was suggested to close a loop of streets, enabling families to bike or walk all around Evanston one Sunday – e.g., Sherman, Simpson, Dodge, South Boulevard.

Or, using the "Home Zone" model, would there be any block in Evanston that might want to re-design its parking so that motorized straightaway is impossible, calming the traffic and creating usable open space on the streets? Imagine children playing, people talking in the street – a big communal front yard.

Or, enlisting the City's support and help in using the "Complete Streets" initiative, we could work towards developing a "Design Manual" and/or "Checklist" that would prescribe construction standards for pedestrian accommodation.

Let's be creative. Meeting will be Thursday, August 4 (7:30 – 9:30 PM), at Matt Passen's place (2040 Brown, #103). Contact: Debbie Hillman 847/328-7175 DLHillman@sbcglobal.net

Evanston's Transportation Future: Current Activities

(submitted by Peter Nicholson)

The City of Evanston has appointed John M. Burke to the position of Director of Transportation. John came to ETF's regular monthly meeting in July when the "Healthy Streets" campaign was discussed and later met with several members of ETF's Rail and Bus committees to begin a conversation about public transit issues here. For several years it has been ETF's hope that the City would designate someone with official responsibility for non-automobile transportation issues, and it appears this hope has been realized with John's appointment.

At our meeting with John, we were able to acquaint him with (1) our involvement in the recent CTA and Pace bus service re-structurings, (2) our recommendations to Julie Hamos on restructuring the RTA taxing and funding formulas, (3) our continuing interest in paratransit programs, coordination of all public and private bus operations in town, improvement of CTA Purple Line and Metra rail services, and the possibility of a station in SW Evanston on the CTA Yellow Line. John and the City's Traffic Engineer, Rajeev Dahal, are also becoming acquainted with the activities of our Pedestrian Committee.

Alex Sproul announced the re-constitution of the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. This Committee will meet quarterly, the next meeting being August 30, 2005 at 8:00 AM in the Chamber Offices in the Rotary Int'l. building. One item on the agenda will be the provision of "wayfinding" signs to local businesses during the upcoming replacement of the CTA's Main St. viaduct, with applicability to future viaduct replacements. Alex will distribute a full agenda in advance of the meeting. All ETF members are invited to attend.

Food Advisory Committee Being Formed

Since Earth Month, the Circle has been reviewing the programs presented at the forums on food. Finally, several members commented that the Network could use a Food Advisory Committee to consider the community education and information needs regarding food health and safety issues. What sort of programs would move Evanston forward to an increasing state of awareness regarding our food supply?

A group has agreed to discuss the beginnings of such a Food Advisory Committee. The initial meeting will be on Thursday, August 11 at the Unitarian Church (1330 Ridge) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. M. Catherine Buntin and Debbie Hillman will co-chair this initial meeting. We hope to discuss the mission and focus of this new group and, based on the meeting's attendees, articulate the areas of most concern.

The main questions to begin answering are:

- What topics should we focus on?
- What strategies should we employ?
- What are the interests/skill sets of the persons who will give birth to this group?

-- What subcommittees might be formed?

Topics include: food labeling, irradiated food, genetically modified food, pesticides, organic farming, supporting local farms, institutional food (schools, hospitals), our farmers' market (monitoring cheating, creating a Friends of the Market organization), good food availability to all, community education, community gardens, economic development around food

Strategies include: adult education, school programs, relationships with grocers/farmers, sponsoring a film series (some preliminary discussion has already been had with ReelTime, a local group dedicated to presenting documentaries and independent films), lobbying for legislation.

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Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle

Andrea's Prophetic Climate Change Question

(submitted by Derek Supple)

The Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle is working to identify initiatives at a scale larger than the community level that the group might support in order to mitigate carbon emissions and address the tremendous risks of global climate change. Thus far the circle has dreamt big narrowed the field to statewide & regional initiatives including:

- Support Illinois' participation in a multi-state regional greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide emissions from power plants much like initiatives currently under development in the Northeast and Western United States.
- Advocate Mayor Daley's signing on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets for City-owned buildings and services.
- Advocate for the adoption of California's automobile emissions standards (known as the Pavley bill) by the State of Illinois to join seven other states and Canada in doing so.
- Support and strengthen Governor Blagojevich's Sustainable Energy Portfolio Standard for Illinois electric utilities, which was recently approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission.
- Encourage large Illinois corporations and institutions to join others such as Baxter Health Care Corporation, Motorola Inc., the City of Chicago, the University of Iowa in participating in the Chicago Climate Exchange, the first US voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and trading pilot program.

Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership

(submitted by Derek Supple)

The Alliance for the Great Lakes (formerly the Lake Michigan Federation) is planning to establish a Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership, under Illinois DNR's C2000 program. This official Partnership would be designed to give a diversity of interests a chance to work together to advance Partnership-designated goals for healthy habitats along Lake Michigan coastline. Agency officials, community groups, businesses, and private citizens would all be encouraged to

participate as members. The Partnership may also be used as a sounding board for the implementation of Illinois's Coastal Management Program.

U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

(submitted by Derek Supple)

Evanston's Energy Future has recently proposed to the Evanston Environment Board that it consider recommending that Mayor Lorraine Morton and the City of Evanston sign onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

On February 16, 2005 the Kyoto Protocol took effect in 141 countries that ratified it. Since then a coalition of US Mayors led by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels launched an initiative to get at least 141 US Cities to sign onto striving to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction targets (7% reduction below 1990 levels by 2012) in their own communities. By July 1 2005, 170 mayors from 39 states had already individually signed onto the initiative and the agreement was endorsed unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Cities in the region that have signed on to the initiative already include Highland Park, Schaumburg, Carol Stream, Madison, WI, Gary, IN, and Ann Arbor, MI, among others.

What will it take for Evanston to sign on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement? Evanston's Energy Future intends to find out!

Energy Conservation Tips

(submitted by Len Sciarra)

--- Consider planting deciduous (leafy) trees on the south and/or west side of your property. Shading your house or apartment can dramatically reduce air conditioning required. Start now, if you buy a tree as a sapling, they cost just dollars and will shade your house for decades to come. If adjacent to a parkway, contact Parks and Forestry for an approved list of trees. Get on a waiting list and they will plant your tree for FREE! (I need to check)!!!!

--- Also, remember to keep the area around your central air conditioner compressor free to allow for good air circulation. Two feet all around is ideal. Additionally, shading the compressor can lead to even more increased savings.

--- Has anyone thought of putting a wind turbine on the proposed 380 ft TV antenna?

Energy Definitions of the Month

(submitted by Len Sciarra)

SEER and EER -- Look for the yellow tags!

SEER: seasonal energy efficiency ratio A measurement of efficiency for cooling devices such as heat pumps and air conditioners. A unit's SEER is calculated by dividing the total number of BTUs of heat removed from the air by the total amount of energy required by the unit. The higher the ratio, the more efficient the unit.

EER: energy efficiency rating, energy efficiency ratio These terms both refer to a value that expresses the relative efficiency of devices that consume electricity, more specifically devices that produce heat. Most commonly applied to appliances and industrial equipment. EER is calculated by

dividing BTUs-per-hour produced by the number of watts used to produce that heat. The higher the EER, the greater the device's efficiency.

Website link of the month: <http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/aircon.htm>

Calendar

August 4: Pedestrian Committee Meeting of Ev. Transp. Future 7:30 PM (Matt Passen's house, 2040 Brown, #103). Contact: Debbie Hillman 847/328-7175 DLHillman@sbcglobal.net

August 7: Book discussion – *The Natural Step for Communities* (part 3). (call for location)
Contact: Steve Perkins 773/269-4005 or steve@cnt.org

August 11: Food Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 PM (Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge).
Contact: Debbie Hillman 847/328-7175 or M. Catherine Buntin 847/251-8057

Through August 14: Sustainable Furniture: Chicago Designers Respond. Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington). Contact: Chicago Furniture Designers Association <http://www.cfdainfo.org/>

August 14: Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle meeting 3:00 – 5:00 PM (Lake Street Church – Palmer Room, 607 Lake St., Evanston). Contact: Steve Perkins 773/269-4055 or steve@cnt.org

August 18: Evanston's Transportation Future Meeting. 7:30 – 9:00 PM (Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room 3650) Contact: Rick Martin rmartin101@comcast.net (see details above)

August 24: Evanston's Energy Future meeting, 7:30 – 9:30 (Call for location.) Contact: Joel Freeman 847/328-3555 ext. 216

Sept. 17: Farmers' Market Non-Profit Day.

