

Evanston's Future!

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
Evanston Food Policy Council*

February 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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Calendar

February 2, 7 – 9 p.m.

Evanston Food Policy Council

Location: Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge

Contact: Debbie Hillman, 847-328-7175

Catherine Buntin, 847-251-8057

February 5, 3- 5 p.m.

Network for Evanston's Future

Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston

Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org

February 7, 7 p.m.

Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust

Location: Evanston Civic Center, Room 2404

Contact:: Ester Betty Sue, akjyskb@ameritech.net, 847-858-2071

February 12, 3 – 5 p.m.

Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle

Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston

Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org

Calendar (continued)

- February 15, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Film: Future of Food**
Location: Evanston Main Public Library, 1703 Orrington
Admission: Free
See Food Policy Council Update for details about the film.
Contact: Debbie Hillman, 847-328-7175, DLHillman@sbcglobal.net
- February 16, 7:30 – 9:30pm Evanston’s Energy Future**
Location: Home of Drina Nikola/Andy Irwin, 2008 Keeney Street, Evanston
Contact: Joel Freeman at 847-869-0955 or JSF@grummanbutkus.com
RSVP: Andy at 847 769.2416
- March 2, 7 – 9 p.m. Evanston Food Policy Council**
Location: Unitarian Church, 1330 Ridge
Contact: Debbie Hillman, 847-328-7175
Catherine Buntin, 847-251-8057
- March 12, 3- 5 p.m. Network for Evanston’s Future**
Location: Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf, Evanston
Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org
- April 2, (Time TBD) Earth Month Event: Local Action Toward Sustainability**
Location: Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge
Contact: Steve Perkins, steve@cnt.org
- April 23, 2 – 5 p.m. Earth Month Event: Earth Day Workshop for Congregations**
Location: Beth Emeth Free Synagogue, 1224 Dempster
Contact: Rev. Claire Butterfield (773) 235-4640

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

Network Member Updates

Evanston’s Energy Future

Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

Available to home owners and businesses, tax credits to improve energy efficiency went into effect as of January 1, 2006. Purchasing and installation of energy efficient appliances and products including fuel efficient vehicles are covered in the plan. For details visit <http://www.energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm>.

Another Green Municipality

Normal, Illinois recently passed an ordinance to require both public and private new construction to adhere to LEED certification standards. This brings the total to 54 cities and states in the country to adopt policies that promote a sustainable community. When will Evanston join the ranks of wise city planning? Check out www.usgbc.org/resources/ for LEED initiatives.

Help Evanston be a leader in conserving our natural resources – get involved!

Energy Code Reprise

Discussion of the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code has been rescheduled for the February 13 agenda of the Planning and Development Committee of the Evanston City Council. Len Sciarra (Co-Chairman of the Environment Board) and Rudy Wolfson (Chairman of the Energy Commission) will

present the case for Evanston to adopt this energy code to supersede the Illinois Energy Conservation Code for Commercial Buildings that will become effective for all of Illinois in April 2006. As with most building codes, more recent editions include amendments and updates to make the code more practical and effective. As recommended by city staff in the Community Development Department, Evanston has already adopted all of the other 2003 building codes developed by the International Code Council.

Evanston's Affordable Housing Future

(Submitted by: Sue Carlson)

Affordable housing has been in the news in our local papers over this past month. It also showed up as a significant component of Evanston's draft Strategic Plan. The need for sustaining and increasing affordable housing in our community seems finally to have arrived on the radar screen.

One significant affordable project is currently at the Plan Commission awaiting its decision on requested variances. That's the Housing Opportunity Development Corporation's (HODC's) 27-unit affordable rent-to-buy development at the corner of Church and Darrow. It will have family sized units for rent for 15 years, between \$500-900 per month, if approved. The Council will then make the final decision. HODC has a long and positive record of developing and managing affordable rental property in Evanston and it deserves support for this venture.

The Inclusionary Housing proposal is still not scheduled on the Planning and Development Committee's agenda for rehearing following the January 5 special meeting. However, the Housing Commission has taken a pro-active stance of asking Business and Professional People for the Public Interest to revise a previously proposed ordinance incorporating ideas and suggestions of the aldermen in preparation for the next time it appears on the docket. Members of Evanston's Affordable Housing Future monitor both Commission and P&D meetings for critical input time. Please be prepared to advocate with aldermen on behalf of this concern when requested. Thank you!

Citizen's Lighthouse Community Land Trust (CLCLT)

(Submitted by: Sue Carlson)

Like many other scheduled events in the city, the CLCLT's application for Community Housing Development Organization status has not advanced as swiftly as anticipated. It's still awaiting final approval of the Community Development Department of the City. Again, expedited services have been promised, but with no date certain for the agendas of the Housing Commission or the Planning and Development Committee of the City Council.

The CLCLT Board Members, however, are proceeding to invite their friends and acquaintances to become members of the CLT. Many of you readers will soon be receiving this invitation. Board Members hope you will accept their invitation. The very root of a Community Land Trust is the involvement, support and membership of community residents, businesses and organizations. This evidence of support is essential as the organization moves forward in requesting City, HUD and foundation funding to achieve its mission. Just a reminder, its mission is to keep affordable housing in this community in perpetuity for those lower and middle income Evanston employees or residents who want to live, or continue to live, in Evanston. Please introduce your congregations, service organizations and places of business to the CLCLT. Board members will be pleased to provide brochures and/or programs to any interested organization. Contact Betty Sue Ester for further details at akjyskb@ameritech.net or call 847-858-2071.

Evanston Food Policy Council

(Submitted by Debbie Hillman)

Urban Farming in Evanston

The Food Policy Council will plan to discuss an Evanston urban farm with a year-round greenhouse and job training. The Council anticipates the urban farm initiative be a model for sustainable economic development.

“Future of Food” Documentary

Co-sponsored by REELTIME and Evanston Food Policy Council, investigative reporter Deborah Koons Garcia takes a look at the technology of genetically modified foods from all points of view:

- from farmer to soil to consumer,
- from water quality,
- future sustainability,
- and corporate power

In their book, “Genetically Engineered Foods/Are They Safe? You Decide”, Laura Ticciati and Robin Ticciati, Ph.D., state:

“In science, safety cannot be assumed. It must be proved by the scientist. The reality is that genetic engineering is too new and potentially too hazardous for any of us – consumers, scientists, farmers, and government officials, corporate executives – to be in a hurry to take it out of the labs and put it onto our dinner tables. The bottom line is that no one knows if these foods are safe for us or our environment. Without our knowledge or consent, we have all become subjects in a highly controversial experiment.”

Our government does not require labeling of GM foods, yet our supermarket shelves are filled with products using GM corn and soybean-based additives. Nor has there been any independent, long-term testing. Yet, 90 percent of agricultural cropland in Illinois is currently planted in genetically modified corn and soybeans. The information in this documentary is therefore vital to all of us regarding our health and the health of our environment. The film is 88 minutes long, followed by a Q&A session.

Other Local News

The Evanston Environment Board is part of the new Lake Michigan Watershed Ecosystem Partnership. Ecosystem Partnerships are part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ C2000 program. The program offers a public forum for individuals, civic groups, businesses, and agencies to develop watershed projects and can qualify for funding. C2000 program has directed over \$200,000 to projects to the Chicago River north branch and almost \$900,000 to Upper Des Plaines River since 1996.

For more information visit <http://www.greatlakes.org/coastal-conservation/lmep.asp>.