

Green Mission News

November 2011 Green Mission News

External Article Links:

- November 15: celebrate America Recycles Day

<http://americarecyclesday.org/>

- Unwasted: The Future of Business on Earth (55 minutes)

<http://sagebug.com/zerowaste/>

- Study: Many college students not learning to think critically

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/01/18/106949/study-many-college-students-not.html#ixzz1bLbWSe9N>

- Organic Agriculture for Health and Prosperity

Continued investment in organic research will facilitate continued growth of organic agriculture. 2012 FARM BILL

https://ofrf.org/policy/federal_legislation/.../flyer-OREI.pdf

- Collecting sunlight is key to the survival of a tree. Leaves are the solar panels of trees, collecting sunlight for photosynthesis

<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/2011/aidan.html>

- Rethinking Vending Machines for A Healthier Generation

<http://eatdrinkbetter.com/category/school-nutrition/>

- A Global Citizens Report on the State of GMOs; Synthesis Report

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/GMO-EMPEROR-FINAL-10-11.pdf>

- Towards a global life-cycle economy?

http://www.euractiv.com/sustainability/global-life-cycle-economy/article-187768?_print=

- Brad Pitt and William McDonough at Postcode Lottery (5 minute video)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_kcndUI5GI&feature=uploademail

- Green Challenge 2011 Award Ceremony (1 hr 15 mins)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qyv0M7p9jHk&feature=related>



- Imagine a World without Honey Bees- Haagen-Dazs Help the Honeybees

<http://www.helpthehoneybees.com/>

- The Bee Crisis; How We're Helping; How You Can Help; The Buzz; Bee TV; Bee Store. Site Map; Contact Us Press Kit Privacy Policy Terms of use; FAQs

www.helpthehoneybees.com/

[Save The Honeybee Foundation](#)

- Save the Honeybee Foundation is a non-profit for honey education and awareness, and to provide pristine organic forage for bees (Grateful Beauty Honeybee ...

www.honeybeesanctuary.org/

[dundee-brewing-bees-md.jpg](#)

- Dundee Brewing has a Save The Honey Bee campaign going on also. Though just begun, it's off to a good start and beekeepers appreciate their efforts.

www.thedailygreen.com/cm/.../dundee-brewing-bees-md.jpg

[Beekeeping Help Save The Honey Bees](#)

[Colony Collapse Disorder: Save the Honey Bee - YouTube](#)

<http://www.squidoo.com/savethehoneybee>

- The Birds and the Bees and the GMOs

Translation: Laura Carlsen, CIP Americas Program

Honey produced by thousands of Mexican beekeepers is at serious risk of contamination from genetically modified soybeans. Producers have called for a new model of social production

<http://www.cipamericas.org/archives/5589>

- Learn all about how you can **save the honey bee** and help save our world. Help stop Colony **collapse**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWHobm0443Y

- After the broadcast I followed that link and it basically said that to help save the honey bee more people should become beekeepers. We totally agree!

www.honeybeesonline.com/blesson27.html

- US Wilderness Jobs (The Trillion Dollar Job Engine)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-meadows/us-wilderness-jobs_b_1019628.html

<http://wilderness.org/content/rural-jobs-and-americas-public-lands>

- Avoiding GMOs in the Restaurant

<http://www.earthtimes.org/green-blogs/green-living/avoiding-gmos-restaurant-25-Oct-11/>

- Beginning Farmer Act sets path for future of U.S. agriculture

<http://westernfarmpress.com/government/beginning-farmer-act-sets-path-future-us-agriculture>

- Michael Braungart presents Cradle-to-Cradle:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/23036060/110607%20general%20san%20fransisco%20presentation%2C%20sf%2C%20mb.pdf>

-General Mills Facing Class Action Lawsuit Over "Fruit Snacks" Full of Sugars, Partially Hydrogenated Oil, & Dyes

<http://www.cspinet.org/new/201110141.html>

Full Length Articles Below:

- It's Raining Round-Up!

- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Recommendations

- Maine organic farmer named one of 25 visionaries changing the world

- P&G presents wish list at KTW symposium

- Responsible Packaging Awards Honor Organic, Natural Innovation

- Young People Declare Green Economy Crucial to Earth's Future

- 2011 Arctic Ozone Loss 'Unprecedented'

- South Pacific Islands Face Water Crisis After Six Months of Low Rainfall

- The Next Generation of Eco-Labels: Finally Influencing the Purchasing Decision

- Sustainability is the issue for the youth of today

###

It's raining Roundup!

<http://responsibletechnology.org/>

Glyphosate, the chemical ingredient of Roundup herbicide, and its breakdown product aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA) are frequently found in rainfall and rivers in the Mississippi Basin, where most GM crops tolerant to glyphosate are grown, according to findings by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS reports that glyphosate use rose by more than eightfold, to 88,000 tons, in the 15 years to 2007, further eroding the myth that GM crops reduce chemical use.

The USGS found glyphosate in more than 60% of air and rain samples taken in Mississippi, Iowa and Indiana, with AMPA found in more than 50% of samples. Researchers from the USGS estimate that about 1% of glyphosate sprayed ended up in surface waters in the four areas where monitoring was conducted in streams and rivers. The highest median level of glyphosate detected was 5.7ug/litre. In Europe, this level would not be allowed to enter the public water supply.

[\[Read the Article\]](#)

Published studies on the findings:

- Glyphosate in the atmosphere.

[Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 30: 548-555](#)

- Glyphosate in surface waters of agricultural basin.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21681915?dopt=Citation>

###

Recommendations to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

Enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable communities and building the restoration economy

Published: Oct 20, 2011

Publication Summary

Restoration of Americas Gulf Coast, damaged not just by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike and the BP oil spill, but also by decades of degradation from human impacts and natural disasters, is essential for protection of the regions communities and cultures. Protection of these resources is critical at the national level as well, playing vital roles in our nations waterways, commerce, and economy.

As the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (Task Force), created by an executive order of President Barack Obama, develops its comprehensive restoration strategy, Oxfam and its partners Bayou Grace Community Services, Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing (BISCO), Coastal Women for Change, STEPS Coalition,

Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Coalition (TRAC), and Zion Travelers Cooperative Centergrassroots groups representing coastal communities in the lower Mississippi River Delta offer the following recommendations to ensure that the region's most vulnerable residents are active participants in revitalizing our coastal resources and beneficiaries of the new restoration economy.

These recommendations represent a call to action for a bold, innovative, and integrated solution involving federal, state, and local governments and industry and community stakeholders.

See: <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/gcertf-recommendationsfinal.pdf>

#

Maine organic farmer named one of 25 visionaries changing the world by Utne Reader

Long-time potato farmer selected for efforts to protect family farmers

by Sustainable Food News

October 19, 2011

Jim Gerritsen, a Maine organic potato farmer with a decades-long record of community involvement and activism, has been named by the editors of Utne Reader to the magazine's 2011 list of 25 People Who Are Changing the World.

Gerritsen was selected for his ongoing work leading efforts by independent family farmers to protect themselves from the threat of Monsanto litigation related to the corporation's patents on genetically modified seeds, an effort he sees as critical to the preservation of organic farming itself and organic foods as a choice for consumers and their families.

Each year, Utne Reader selects 25 people who possess an inspiring combination of imagination, determination and energy, said Utne Reader's editor-in-chief David Schimke in a statement. These are people who don't just think out loud, but who walk their talk on a daily basis.

In addition to Gerritsen, others on the 2011 list include David Simon, creator of HBO's *The Wire* and *Treme*; Azzam Alwash, Nature Iraq founder and marshland rehabilitator; Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), a congressman working to foster dialogue between Muslim and Christian interests; Gary Paul Nabhan, an author called the father of the local food movement; Debbie Sease, national campaign director of the Sierra Club; and Humira Saqeb, founder of a women's magazine in Afghanistan.

The Utne Reader's People Who Are Changing the World profile of Jim Gerritsen is available [here](#).

Gerritsen, who grows organic seed potatoes on his family's Wood Prairie Farm in northern Maine, is president of the Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association, the national membership trade organization of the organic seed community, lead plaintiff in the OSGATA et al v. Monsanto lawsuit.

OSGATA is joined in the lawsuit by 82 other family farmers, seed businesses and agricultural organizations. The plaintiff organizations have over 270,000 members, including several thousand certified organic family farmers.

The lawsuit asserts that Monsanto's patents on transgenic (gene-spliced) seed fail to meet the social utility requirement of patent law and are therefore invalid.

The suit also seeks court protection for innocent family farmers from Monsanto patent infringement lawsuits in the perverse situation where their farms are contaminated by Monsanto genes through unwanted genetic trespass, such as when wind-borne transgenic pollen is blown from one farm to another.

Our lawyers asked Monsanto to provide a legal covenant not to sue our group of family farmers, and Monsanto refused. We thus are forced to seek justice and protection in court, said Gerritsen. The lawsuit is currently in pre-trial procedural motions.

For 35 years, Gerritsen and his family have owned and operated the organic Wood Prairie Farm in Bridgewater, Maine. Located in Aroostook County, which is the top potato producing county in the country, Wood Prairie Farm is a small Certified Organic family farm producing various types of seed and specialty potatoes, including the award-winning Prairie Blush variety discovered by the Gerritsens, plus vegetable and grain seed.

The farm's modest scale allows Gerritsen and his family to focus on growing the highest quality seed potatoes for an ever-increasing number of committed catalog customers in all fifty states.

Gerritsen believes organic farming produces a superior result and is better for the land. Northern Maine has been growing potatoes for 200 years, and some of the best potatoes anywhere in the world come from here, says Gerritsen. And I like to think our hard work and commitment to our soil and organic farming at Wood Prairie Farm produces some of the best potatoes in Aroostook County.

Gerritsen is a tireless advocate for organic farming and family farms, regularly speaking at conferences and events, including the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Common Ground Country Fair and Farmer-to-Farmer Conference, The Organic Seed Growers Conference, the Slow Food Terra Madre Conference in Italy, and other conferences across the United States and Canada.

#

P&G presents wish list at KTW symposium

By David Vink

Posted 3 October 2011 11:37 am GMT

<http://www.europeanplasticsnews.com/subscriber/headlines2.html?cat=1&id=131764>

At Huskys KTW mouldmaking subsidiary's 2011 symposium in Waidhofen an der Thaya, Austria, earlier this year, Procter & Gamble (P&G) spokesperson Jean-Louis Coiquaud presented the company's wish list in the world of moulds.

Coiquaud, a senior purchasing manager for injection moulding and direct mould sourcing at P&G, spoke of a shifting world and said there are demands to be met in terms of innovation, sustainability and speed to market.

Moulds should be reliable, require low maintenance time and cost and be flexible, as well as having the capacity for fast scaling up and down in line with growth patterns, he said. Users should be able to follow trends without investing in a new set of tools, and tools should be simple and run anywhere on small and non-dedicated injection moulding machines.

This should provide the right balance between competitiveness and risk. As P&G requires fast time-to-market for its products, 8-10 weeks mould delivery time is a critical factor here, as unfortunately, injection moulds are often the constraining lead time item in a new project said Coiquaud. And materials should be sustainable, he added.

Product innovation means mouldings take on more functions and although two- and three-component moulding allows for more functions, this also leads to challenges in handling increased product beautification.

And there should be cost innovation too, Coiquaud suggested, both in terms of reduced material use and as a sweet spot arising from performance, capital investment and maintenance of the moulding process.

In terms of sustainability, material savings can be achieved by doing more with less by using fillers and engineered design. Coiquaud ended by saying that both bio based materials from renewable resources and recyclable plastics contribute to enhanced sustainability.

###

Responsible Packaging Awards Honor Organic, Natural Innovation

Sep 21, 2011

The Responsible Packaging Awards will be presented on Sept. 24 during the Baltimore Convention Center, during Natural Products Expo East in Baltimore. Co-sponsored by the Responsible Packaging Project, a nonprofit collaboration of the Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association, Independent Natural Foods Retailers Association, National Cooperative Grocers Association, New Hope Natural Media, Organic Trade Association, United Natural Foods Inc. and Whole Foods Markets Green Mission, the biannual awards recognize organic and natural industry achievements and innovations in environmentally responsible packaging, including materials reduction, the use of 100 percent post-consumer recycled (PCR), non-GMO, compostable and third-party certified packaging, and packaging that's returnable for reuse and easily recycled or reused by the end user.

The project continues to raise the bar on the definition, design, and implementation of responsible packaging, noted Nate Schlachter, executive director of the Portland, Ore.-based Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association. This is a constantly evolving process as better materials and systems are created to address our need for more ecologically and socially responsible packaging.

Project partners rated each nominated packaging item, using criteria in three areas: commitment to transparency, extended producer responsibility, and ecological systems design principles, with a strong focus on achieving zero waste.

The seven brands receiving awards are:

- **Choice Organic Tea:** Compostable, staple-less tea bags and tags, with 100 percent recycled paperboard with 65 percent post-consumer content cardboard box
- **Cocoa Metro:** Regional, reusable, refillable, and returnable-to-the-store glass beverage container
- **Genji Sushi:** 100 percent tree-free compostable sushi tray
- **Lundberg Family Farms:** 100 percent recycled paperboard with 65 percent PCR content packaging
- **Whole Foods Market 365 Everyday Value brand:** 100 percent PCR plastic container bottle

The Responsible Packaging Project additionally encourages continuous improvement through ongoing education. As well as hosting the Responsible Packaging Awards, the project facilitates the biannual Responsible Packaging Forum, an educational program at the Natural Products Expo East. The forum will take place before the Sept. 24 awards ceremony at the Baltimore Convention Center. Speakers will include Michael Besancon, senior global VP at Whole Foods; Tom Wright, CEO-Sustainable Business Practices and co-founder of the Responsible Packaging Project; Michael Brown, founder of Packaging 2.0; John Lively, director of environment and material Science at Preserve; and Schlachter.

The next round of awards will occur at Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, Calif., for which a call for nominations will be distributed in January 2012. More information on

the Responsible Packaging Project and the draft guidelines is available at www.responsible-packaging.org.

###

Young People Declare Green Economy Crucial to Earth's Future

Published on Sunday, October 2, 2011 by [Environmental News Service \(ENS\)](#)

BANDUNG, Indonesia - Young people from 100 countries and all regions of the world today declared their commitment to fast track a future Green Economy to heal and support the planet.



Artwork by Tisha Co Reyes of the Philippines took first place in UNEP's 2011 International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment (Image courtesy UNEP)

More than 1,200 delegates, ages 10-24, are attending the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment in Bandung, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, with other UN agencies, NGOs and private sector partners.

The word Tunza means "to treat with care or affection" in Kiswahili. The Tunza Youth Strategy, adopted in 2003 by UNEP's Governing Council, is a long-term strategy to engage young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP.

"As children, we can plant trees, clean rivers and beaches, but we cannot stop industries from polluting our rivers, we cannot force them to adopt a green economy. We want policies and laws that will make industries sustainable," said Indonesian 14-year-old Adeline Tiffanie Suwana.

The event was capped by the Bandung Declaration, released today, that finalizes the requests of children and youth to governments attending the Rio+20 conference in Brazil next June.

"The trends and science tell us that we cannot wait another generation (until a Rio+40) before we act ... the Green Economy is our only future," the Bandung Declaration

states.

Many of the delegates to the Tunza conference expressed concern about jobs - jobs that are fulfilling, worthwhile, decent and contribute to an acceleration of sustainable development.

UNEP says nearly 40 percent of the world's unemployed, over 80 million people, are between the ages of 15 and 24.

The Bandung Declaration states, "In the next 10 years, as the world's population passes seven billion, we need to provide jobs for more than one billion young people - employment that will both enable them to live productive and worthwhile lives and to contribute to the transition to a just Green Economy."

Young people call the Green Economy "the only integrated framework that is truly sustainable ... placing human well-being, social equity and environmental protection on equal footing."

Daniel Isfer Zardo, a 24-year-old from Curitiba, Brazil, said access to green jobs should be at the heart of the sustainability debate.

"We have to look at our communities, our society, our environment, and realize that we cannot reduce poverty or protect the environment without green job opportunities, especially for young people. This is something that policy makers must consider, if we want the Green Economy to take off," Zardo said.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, who attended this week's meetings and debates, said, "Throughout the past week, the voices of 1,200 young people have spoken with passion and eloquence here in Bandung. Their positive vision, extraordinary energy and creative solutions must be part of the dialogue on the Road to Rio +20 conference next year. Representing half of the world's population, it is vital that their efforts and inputs are not overlooked."

"Too many of our youth feel a sense of powerlessness and frustration with the 'way things are,'" Steiner said. "Leaders should listen more carefully and attentively to them and ensure that their willingness to become involved is supported."

"Not only do young people have ideals, solutions and energy but they are often free from some of the finger pointing, political gamesmanship and vested interests of the past that can hijack a fresh future," he said.

"The youth gathered in Bandung is the best antidote to a world which continues to rationalize mass unemployment, poverty and environmental destruction in the name of economic progress - and part of the best hope for a transformational Rio+20," Steiner declared.

The Bandung Declaration states that the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, during which several landmark environmental documents on climate change and biodiversity were agreed, was "transformative."

But the warning signs that were debated there have become the realities of today, the Declaration notes. It urges governments to move swiftly and decisively towards developing national green economy transition plans.

In the Bandung Declaration the young Tunza Conference delegates say that over the next nine months to Rio+20 they will:

- Lobby their governments to make Rio+20 Earth Summit a top priority.
- Adopt more sustainable lifestyles and reduce their ecological footprints.
- Educate their communities and raise awareness about sustainable production and consumption.
- Support the work of young scientists and entrepreneurs that is geared towards Green Economy solutions.
- Contribute to the global, regional and national discussions on sustainable development.

In conjunction with the opening of the Tunza Conference on September 27, the first City Forest in Bandung was inaugurated. Children released birds into the forest as part of the inauguration ceremony.

A love of walking through forests in her home country of the Philippines inspired the winning entry of 13-year-old Trisha Co Reyes in UNEP's 2011 International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. Reyes' painting was selected over art submitted by 600,000 other young people.

Reyes' painting shows a young girl pulling back a grey curtain covered in images of dying trees in a polluted landscape, to reveal a colorful forest filled with abundant wildlife. She said the painting is an appeal for people to appreciate the value of forests and to encourage them to plant trees.

"My painting shows two sides; a good and sustainable forest and the causes of forest destruction," said Reyes.

"Forests are essential for life on Earth, but the destruction of the forest has become a worldwide problem," she said. "We must treasure the Earth's greatest biological treasure, so that we will always have forests in our lives."

Reyes won US\$2,000 in prize money and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment in Bandung, where she was formally presented with her award.

The Bandung Declaration will be communicated to the Rio+20 Conference by the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations Environment Programme by the

deadline for submissions of November 1, 2011.

Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 4-6, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

For the UNEP Green Economy Report, see: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy>

The UNEP Green Jobs report is at:

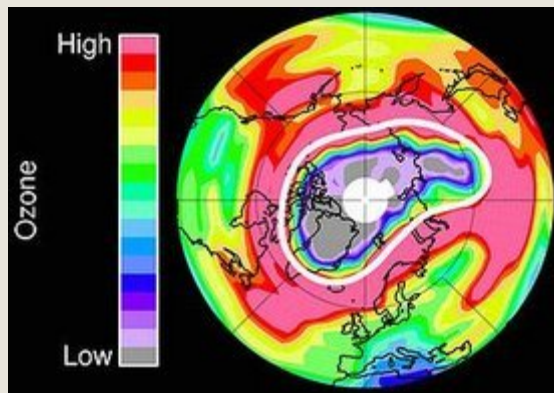
http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/greenjobs-report.asp

#

2011 Arctic Ozone Loss 'Unprecedented'

Published on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 by [Environmental News Service \(ENS\)](#)

WASHINGTON, DC - Earth's protective ozone layer above the Arctic was pierced by a hole of unprecedented size last winter and spring caused by a long cold period in the stratosphere, finds new research led by scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA.



Ozone in Earth's stratosphere at an altitude of approximately 12 miles (20 kilometers) in mid-March 2011, near the peak of the 2011 Arctic ozone loss. (Image courtesy NASA) The hole covered 772,204 square miles (two million square kilometers) - about the size of Mexico - and allowed high levels of harmful ultraviolet radiation to strike northern Canada, Europe and Russia this spring, the researchers say.

The stratospheric ozone layer, extending from about 10 to 20 miles (15 to 35 kilometers) above the surface, protects life on Earth from the Sun's ultraviolet rays. To investigate the 2011 Arctic ozone loss, 29 scientists from 19 institutions in nine countries analyzed measurements, including daily global observations of trace gases and clouds from NASA's Aura and CALIPSO spacecraft, ozone measured by

instrumented balloons, meteorological data and atmospheric models.

The scientists - from the United States, Germany, The Netherlands, Canada, Russia, Finland, Denmark, Japan and Spain - found that at some altitudes, the Arctic cold period lasted more than 30 days longer in 2011 than in any previously studied Arctic winter, leading to the unprecedented ozone loss.

"Day-to-day temperatures in the 2010-11 Arctic winter did not reach lower values than in previous cold Arctic winters," said lead author Gloria Manney of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro.

"The difference from previous winters is that temperatures were low enough to produce ozone-destroying forms of chlorine for a much longer time," Manney said.

"This implies that if winter Arctic stratospheric temperatures drop just slightly in the future, for example as a result of climate change, then severe Arctic ozone loss may occur more frequently," she said.

The study, published online Sunday in the journal "Nature," finds the amount of ozone destroyed in the Arctic in 2011 comparable to that seen in some years in the Antarctic, where an ozone hole has formed each spring since the mid-1980s.

The Arctic ozone loss "exceeded 80 percent over 18-20 kilometres altitude," the scientists said.

"Our results show that Arctic ozone holes are possible even with temperatures much milder than those in the Antarctic. We cannot at present predict when such severe Arctic ozone depletion may be matched or exceeded," they said.

Environment Canada scientist David Tarasick, whose research group played a key role in the report, is not being allowed to discuss the discovery with the media.

Environment Canada told reporter Margaret Munro of Postmedia News that an interview with Tarasick "cannot be granted."

"Tarasick is one of several Environment Canada ozone scientists who have received letters warning of possible 'discontinuance of job function' as part of the downsizing underway in the department," Munro reported Sunday.

Environment Canada and Health Canada now tightly control media access to researchers and orchestrate interviews that are approved, Munro reported in 2010. University of Toronto physicist Kaley Walker is not bound by such restrictions.

"In the 2010-11 Arctic winter, we did not have temperatures that were lower than in the previous cold Arctic winters," said Walker. "What was different about this year was that the temperatures were low enough to generate ozone-depleting forms of chlorine for a much longer period of time."

"Arctic ozone loss events such as those observed this year could become more frequent if winter Arctic stratospheric temperatures decrease in future as the Earth's climate changes," Walker said.

Stratospheric ozone has decreased three percent globally between 1980 and 2000 and thins by 50 percent over Antarctica in winter and spring.

The Antarctic ozone hole forms when extremely cold conditions trigger reactions that convert atmospheric chlorine from human-produced chemicals into forms that destroy ozone.

The same ozone-loss processes happen each winter in the Arctic. But the warmer stratospheric conditions there limit the area affected and the time frame during which the chemical reactions occur, resulting in far less ozone loss in most years in the Arctic than in the Antarctic.

The 2011 Arctic ozone loss occurred over an area considerably smaller than that of the Antarctic ozone holes.

The scientists explain that this happened because the Arctic polar vortex, a persistent large-scale cyclone within which the ozone loss takes place, was about 40 percent smaller than a typical Antarctic vortex.

While smaller and shorter-lived than its Antarctic counterpart, the Arctic polar vortex is more mobile, often moving over densely populated northern regions. Decreases in overhead ozone lead to increases in surface ultraviolet radiation, which are known to have adverse effects on humans and other life forms.

Although the total amount of Arctic ozone measured was more than twice that typically seen in an Antarctic spring, the amount destroyed was comparable to that in some previous Antarctic ozone holes.

This is because ozone levels at the beginning of Arctic winter are typically much greater than those at the beginning of Antarctic winter, the scientists say. Manney said that without the 1989 Montreal Protocol, an international treaty limiting production of ozone-depleting substances, chlorine levels already would be so high that an Arctic ozone hole would form every spring.

Even with the limitations on emission of ozone-depleting chemicals, the long atmospheric lifetimes of substances already in the atmosphere mean that Antarctic ozone holes, and the possibility of future severe Arctic ozone loss, will continue for decades.

The scientists say further studies are needed to determine what factors caused the cold period to last so long.

"Our ability to quantify polar ozone loss and associated processes will be reduced in the future when NASA's Aura and CALIPSO spacecraft, whose trace gas and cloud measurements were central to this study, reach the end of their operational lifetimes," Manney said. "It is imperative that this capability be maintained if we are to reliably predict future ozone loss in a changing climate."

"Each of the balloon and satellite measurements included in this study were absolutely necessary to understand the ozone depletion we observed this past winter," said Walker at the University of Toronto. "To be able to predict future Arctic ozone loss reliably in a changing climate, it is crucial that we maintain our atmospheric measurement capabilities."

Other institutions participating in the study included: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Potsdam, Germany; NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia; Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, De Bilt, The Netherlands; Delft University of Technology, 2600 GA Delft, The Netherlands; Science Systems and Applications, Inc., Greenbelt, Maryland, and Hampton, Virginia; Science and Technology Corporation, Lanham, Maryland; Environment Canada, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Central Aerological Observatory, Russia; NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, Boulder, Colorado; Arctic Research Center, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland; Danish Climate Center, Danish Meteorological Institute, Denmark; Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands; Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia; National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan; National Institute for Aerospace Technology, Spain; and University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

#

South Pacific Islands Face Water Crisis After Six Months of Low Rainfall

Rising sea levels and a shortage of rain leave Tuvalu and Tokelau relying on bottled water.

Published on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 by [Associated Press](#)

Crops are wilting, schools have shut their toilets and government officials are bathing in lagoons because of a severe shortage of fresh [water](#) in a swath of the south Pacific.

Tuvalu in the south Pacific one of the island groups suffering a shortage of fresh water after a particularly strong La Niña system. (Photograph: Matthieu Paley/Corbis)

[The island groups of Tuvalu and Tokelau have declared emergencies](#), relying on bottled water and seeking more desalination machines. Parts of [Samoa](#) are starting to ration water.

Supplies are precariously low after a severe lack of rain in a region where underground reserves have been fouled by salt water from rising seas that scientists have linked to [climate change](#).

The logistics of supplying everyone with enough water to survive and the potential health problems that might arise is worrying officials as is how the islands will cope in the long term.

"We are praying that things will change," the Samoan-based official Jovilisi Suveinakama said.

Six months of low rainfall have dried out the islands. Climate scientists say it is part of a cyclical Pacific weather pattern known as La Niña and they predict the coming months will bring no relief.

Rising sea levels are exacerbating the problem, as salt water seeps into underground supplies of fresh water that are drawn to the surface through wells.

On the three main atolls that make up Tokelau, the 1,400 residents ran out of fresh water last week and are relying on a seven-day supply of bottled water that was sent on Saturday from Samoa, Suveinakama said.

He added that some schools no longer had drinking water available, and pupils often needed to return home if they wanted to use a toilet.

"In terms of domestic chores, like washing clothes, everything's been put on hold," Suveinakama said. "We are cautious of the situation given the possible health issues." He said that Tokelau, a territory of New Zealand, had tapped emergency funds to buy desalination machines, which turn salt water into fresh water. He hopes those will be shipped to the islands soon.

In [Tuvalu](#), a country made up of low-lying atolls that is home to less than 11,000 people, the Red Cross team leader Dean Manderson described the situation as "quite dire". He said on Tuesday that on the island of Nukulaelae there were only 16 gallons (73 litres) of fresh water left for the 350 residents, and the Red Cross was sending over two small desalination machines.

He said much of the well water on Tuvalu was unusable because it had become contaminated with salt water.

The New Zealand government this week flew a defence force C-130 plane to Tuvalu stocked with Red Cross supplies of bottled water and desalination machines. Officials including the high commissioner, Gareth Smith, also flew over to assess the situation. Smith said the coconut trees on Tuvalu were looking sickly and the edible breadfruit, which grow in trees, were much smaller than usual. He said other local fruits and

vegetables, including a type of giant taro, were not growing well or were in short supply. He said people in the capital of Funafuti were permitted a ration of two buckets of water a day and government ministers had been bathing in the lagoon to preserve water. Funafuti residents have been relying on a large desalination machine for much of their daily water supply, said Manderson. The Red Cross has been helping to improve the function of the machine and fixing others that have broken down, he added.

The New Zealand climate scientist James Renwick said the rainfall problems could be traced back 12 months, when the region began experiencing one of the strongest La Niña systems on record.

La Niña's triggered when larger-than-normal differences in water temperature across the Pacific Ocean cause the east-blowing trade winds to increase in strength, Renwick said. That, in turn, pushes rainfall to the west, leaving places such as Tuvalu and Tokelau dry.

Last year's La Niña system dwindled by June but this year it has begun picking up again just before the November rainy season, Renwick said, meaning that there is no relief in sight for island groups such as Tuvalu, Tokelau and Samoa.

"Low rainfall continues to be on the cards, at least through the end of the year," Renwick said.

Officials say they are concentrating on the short-term supply problems and have not yet had time to think about longer-term solutions for the islands. But they say the combination of rising water levels and low rainfall makes life on the islands look increasingly precarious.

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The Next Generation of Eco-Labels: Finally Influencing the Purchasing Decision

By *Presidio Marketing* October 7th, 2011

www.triplepundit.com/2011/10/next-generation-eco-labels-finally-influencing-purchasing-decision

by David Groves



If you're car shopping next month, you may come across [the most user-friendly and](#)

informative eco-label ever designed. For 2012 model year cars, carmakers will have the option to place the EPA's new *Fuel Economy and Environment* labels in car windows. Then starting next year, labels will be required on all 2013 model year vehicles.

As pictured, these labels have several pieces of information important to car buyers:

- A single, independently verified number that is the combined city/highway miles-per-gallon for that vehicle;
- The range of miles-per-gallon for all new vehicles in that class;
- The expected annual fuel costs;
- Ratings on a scale of 1 to 10 of both fuel economy and smog;
- A QR Code that can be scanned by a smart phone to give customizable information;

And most importantly:

- How much money the buyer will either pay or save in fuel costs over 5 years, compared to a hypothetical average new vehicle.
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While many eco-labels from USDA Organic to the Marine Stewardship Council have rigorous standards and third party auditing, the labels themselves are only emblems of the certification scheme, providing consumers little information and requiring that everyone conduct their own research. With so many labels out there, even the environmentally conscious shopper can become easily confused. When buying a ream of paper, for example, how many of us can remember that the Forest Stewardship Council demands that every log be tracked and every firm in the supply chain be independently audited while the Sustainable Forestry Initiative is a rubberstamp handed out by the forest products industry?

The EPA's new fuel economy label puts all relevant information right on the product. Even better, it makes the inherent greenness of the product secondary to what buying a greener product means to your wallet—a characteristic that is essential when marketing to a consumer base that has remained largely apathetic to sustainability. Car buyers can directly compare the long-term fuel cost expense or savings of each car they're looking at. The only information missing is *What this Vehicle Will Really Cost You Over Five Years* that subtracts five years worth of estimated fuel costs from the sticker price.

Of course, nothing's perfect. A potential problem with an EPA label is that it is vulnerable to Congress, and anytime the U.S. Congress can influence something, consumers should be concerned. In this case, lobbyists of the oil and car manufacturing industries will undoubtedly ask lawmakers to redefine average new vehicle to lower this hypothetical car's miles per gallon. This will have the effect of increasing the amount of money that consumers will save, even when buying a gas-guzzler.

Unfortunately, there are few alternative sources of certification providers. The options for eco-label sponsors are government agencies such as the EPA which administer standards that can be influenced by Congress, or corporations, whose attempts to

greenwash their products instigate the very need for government-sponsored labels. In other words, if consumers must choose between *Conflict-of-Interest-Stickers* as corporate sponsored eco-labels should be called and government sponsored labels, they should go with Uncle Sam every time.

Such an easy-to-understand and useful label needs to be replicated. Not all products would work, but there are plenty with the right criteria to allow for a similar labeling system to be successful. The system would have to be based on a metric that is easily measurable and readily comparable, like fuel consumption. It would need to be a product that carries a cost associated with its use, e.g. something that consumes energy. And different choices would need to have meaningful cost differences over a relatively short timeframe. For example, the EPA's new labels would be less consequential if gas was still under \$1 per gallon, since saving \$500 on fuel over five years isn't going to have much impact on the purchase of even a \$10,000 car.

It seems that this kind of label could be immediately expanded to electronics, particularly refrigerators, clothes dryers and other high-energy use appliances. There is already an entire industry conducting [Energy Star](#) evaluations; all they need to do is start putting their collected information directly onto the products, calculate the energy use of average new appliances, and report on the 5-year cost differences between the two. If an energy efficient washing machine costing an extra \$100 had a label that told you the machine will actually save you \$300 over 5 years, would that affect your purchasing decision?

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Sustainability is the issue for the youth of today

Tue Oct 18 2011

Ralph C. Martin

<http://www.guelphmercury.com/opinion/columns/article/610366--sustainability-is-the-issue-for-the-youth-of-today>

Although I lost my qualifications for youth status a few decades ago, I was fortunate to attend the IMPACT! Youth Conference for Sustainability (www.impactyouthsustainability.ca) at the University of Guelph. It was instructive to hear so many energetic conversations with a depth of understanding.

There was no doubt the 165 participants, aged from 19 to 25, could articulate visions for the future. Peter Senge, the author of *The Necessary Revolution*, would be proud to see they are following his advice to approach the future with a clear vision as well as a firm understanding of reality in the present.

Unlike me, the young conference-goers expect to be here in the latter part of the 21st century. This is when the destabilizing consequences of human disturbances are likely to become more acute.

These young inquirers do not accept all conventional wisdom. Their suggestions caught me off guard. I have no idea whether social media will help to shift consciousness as much as some expect. It might. I don't know if advanced hot air balloons will reduce energy needs and greenhouse gas emissions. Possibly. They know they need options to live well in 2050 and beyond.

I was struck by how many exchanges resulted in commitments to reduce debt, to reduce consumption, and to reduce waste. In addition, an awareness of the risk of burn-out or cynicism when struggling without a moral and/or spiritual orientation was discussed on the basis of evident experience.

At one point, in an Open Space session, a large circle of highly aware young people chose to share what they had learned about sustainability and spirituality, from wise elders, including Thomas Berry (www.thomasberry.org), Jonna Macy (www.joannamacy.net) and Paul Hawken (www.paulhawken.com). This was not a rah-rah pep rally to simply work harder and do more of the same. There were pauses and occasional tears. Talking was balanced with listening, thinking and empathy. The levity and exuberance of youth were appropriately on full display in this circle, yet in the context of responsible Canadians persevering for the long haul.

I asked several conference participants why so few of their friends vote. Many of them are discouraged with our political system and they suspect that politicians are under pressure to strengthen society as it has been. They worry that there won't be sufficient money or resources left to deal with problems they will face when boomers are gone. I'm still old fashioned enough to encourage them to vote. Imagine what might happen if all voters under 30, flexed their political muscles. On the other hand, substantive shifts may germinate, emerge and grow outside political channels and politicians may then follow to support successful new options.

When I was a younger baby boomer, we were on track to be YUPies Young Urban Professionals. For several years I've been encouraging my students to be YEETies Young Ecological Entrepreneurial Professionals (or practitioners). They will make it their business to know how ecological systems work and will design and implement enterprises, jobs and products congruent with the cycles of our planet.

YEETies understand that our human project, as Thomas Berry calls it, has impacted Earth in geological proportions. The Earth Project or Ecozoic of Berry is a more sustainable option. If we choose the Earth Project, YEETies will attempt to understand how evolved systems of feedback loops maintain resiliency and to avoid damage by allowing these systems to function. Their motto might be extracted from our grandparents. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

In this conference I learned that bright young citizens see the future in some ways unfamiliar to me. They expect to live in that future and are serious about explorations to sustain a living with clean air, adequate clean water, healthy soil, social equity, food security, energy security and peace.

As the conference closed, quotes from these wise youth rang true. I will build relationships; they are the new currency. I pledge to buy less and love more. If we have an unsustainable base, how will we get to a sustainable future? I want a future that is co-operative as in the name of the Co-operators who sponsored this conference. Excuses will stop.

What then is the role of boomers like me? Most of us have had a good run in this world. Our demographic bulge has been pampered at each of our life stages. Perhaps our role is to offer the most authentic wisdom and support we can. Then we can take a few steps back to create more space for youth who legitimately aspire to live their lives well, now and tomorrow.

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