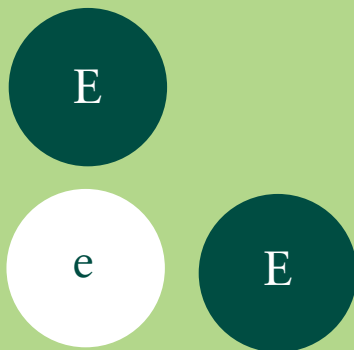


a guide to current environmental issues in our county



Sonoma County Environmental Resource Guide

contents

Introduction

10 Things You Can Stop Doing To Save The Planet

current issues

Groundwater Levels

Gravel Mining

Water, Water, Water

Toxics

Loss of Habitat

Invasive Species

Fire

The Park System

Transportation

Air Quality and Climate Protection

Development

Our Local Economy

conserve

Wild Ideas

Paper

Water

Energy

resources

An alphabetical listing of organizations and agencies, in categories such as Agriculture, Conservation, or Recreation, dedicated to enhancing the health and sustainability of our county.

THIS GUIDE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL purposes only. Listings should not be regarded as a recommendation or endorsement. This guide is not meant to be exclusive or exclusionary in any way and does not vouch for the capacities, trustworthiness, or performance of any fact, individual, business or institution listed in this guide. Errors could exist, although detailed inquiries did take place prior to the publication of this document. This guide was generously printed by Barlow Printing Inc. The layout was designed in collaboration with Suzanne Haddon.

hello...

I am a senior high school student at Summerfield Waldorf School , in Santa Rosa, California. As part of our graduation requirements, we were assigned a senior thesis, a year long project culminating with public presentations at the end of the year. After much pondering as to what I should dedicate my entire year to, I decided to write this environmental resource guide.

My intention in creating this was to educate myself and you, my community, on current environmental issues occurring right here in Sonoma County and bring to you the resources necessary to build a healthy and sustainable future. It is my hope that you will take from this guide the understanding that something must be done with the way we are living here. The earth we live on, which has sustained us and all of our actions since the beginning of time has been sorely mistreated. We need to reshape the way we coexist with the world, and balance our ethical, economic and ecological behavior to create a thriving and complete world.

In writing this guide, I faced many challenges, and have learned an amazing amount of knowledge and information. I have never examined a subject so deeply as I have done here.

Many thanks go to Barlow Printing Inc. for printing this guide free of charge. If you feel so inclined, donations will be accepted to cover additional costs incurred (address on back cover).

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much,
Katherina Haug

Many thanks go to every single individual, organization and business who helped me in writing and compiling this guide. Willow, Stephanie and Rachel, from Coastwalk inspired me and showed me how I wanted to lead my life. Rob and Beth, my mentors helped me so much, allowing me to stay with them in their wonderful home for four days once, enduring my sarcastic humor, crazy habits and veggie-fruit diets. I owe a lot to you both. Thank you.

10 Things You Can Stop Doing To Save The Planet

- **STOP USING A NEW TO-GO CUP FOR YOUR COFFEE EVERY SINGLE DAY.**
- **STOP WASTING WATER WHILE BRUSHING YOUR TEETH, DOING THE DISHES, WASHING YOUR HANDS OR WATERING YOUR GARDEN.**
- **DO NOT DRIVE YOUR CAR ANYWHERE WITHIN 1 MILE OF YOUR HOME. IF YOU CAN, DRIVE HALFWAY TO YOUR DESTINATION, AND THEN BIKE THE OTHER HALF.**
- **DO NOT THROW AWAY ZIP-LOCK AND GROCERY PLASTIC BAGS. WASH THEM, HANG THEM UP TO DRY, AND RE-USE THEM.**
- **DO NOT THROW PAPER INTO THE RECYCLING. FIRST RE-USE IT FOR NOTE PAPER. THEN, ONCE YOU HAVE USED IT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, RECYCLE IT.**
- **STOP ACCELERATING QUICKLY AFTER WAITING AT A STOP SIGN OR RED LIGHT. INSTEAD, INCREASE YOUR GAS MILEAGE BY ACCELERATING GRADUALLY. WHY HURRY TO GET TO THE NEXT RED LIGHT?**
- **STOP BUYING BOTTLED WATER. REUSE YOUR WATER BOTTLES.**
- **STOP SUPPORTING CONGLOMERATE CORPORATIONS. THE KRAFT-NABISCO COMPANY OWNS 61 DIFFERENT BRANDS ALONE, AND PRODUCES SUCH PRODUCTS AS TOBLERONE, TAZO TEA, BOCA BURGERS AND BALANCE BARS. SUCCESSFUL CORPORATIONS UNDERMINE DIVERSITY AND MONOPOLIZE THE ECONOMY.**
- **STOP THROWING CIGARETTE BUTTS OUT THE CAR WINDOW.**
- **STOP BEING SCARED, AND GO DO SOMETHING.**

TRY TO THINK OF THINGS YOU DO THAT ARE EXCESSIVE OR WASTEFUL. COULD YOU MINIMIZE OR CHANGE YOUR ACTIONS? IN DOING SO, YOU REDUCE YOUR IMPACT ON THE EARTH, AND ADDITIONALLY, SAVE MONEY.

issues

WE LIVE IN AN INCREDIBLY RICH AND BEAUTIFUL AREA, SURROUNDED BY OAK TREES, REDWOODS, ROLLING HILLS AND AN AMAZING SYSTEM OF CREEKS, STREAMS AND RIVERS. WE NEED TO SUPPORT THIS ENVIRONMENT, AND REBUILD OUR LAND INTO A THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY.

ISSUE: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- 42% OF PEOPLE IN SONOMA COUNTY EITHER RELY ON GROUNDWATER ENTIRELY FOR THEIR WATER SUPPLIES, OR FOR BACK UP SUPPLIES.
- GROUNDWATER LEVELS HAVE DROPPED BY 150 FEET IN SOME AREAS.
- WE ARE PUMPING 2.5 TIMES MORE WATER IN SOME AREAS THAN CAN BE RECHARGED.

Due to population growth, widespread development, and an unwillingness in the past to responsibly manage our water resources, we have removed more water than naturally replenishes underground aquifers, a process known as "recharge."

Additionally, because of continued encroachment on state-identified recharge areas, the amount of open land is decreasing, preventing water from completing its natural replenishing cycle.

ISSUE: GRAVEL MINING

- 400,000 ACRE FEET OF WATER STORAGE CAPACITY HAS BEEN LOST DUE TO GRAVEL MINING, SINCE WWII.
- THE BED OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER HAS DROPPED 22 FEET IN THE LAST CENTURY.
- IN THE LAST 60 YEARS, TAXPAYERS HAVE PAID MILLIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR DUE TO THE GRAVEL MINING BUSINESS.

Our county is rich with a variety of resources, gravel among them. This stone comes from thousand-year-old aquifers whose disturbance cause negative impacts on our water quality, the flow of the river, and the entire ecosystem which coexists with the river. The purity of our water here in Sonoma County relies entirely on the existence of the aquifers.

Due to the harm gravel mining has done to our river, fish species are at an all time low. Salmon in particular are extinct in most areas today.

Water Water Water...

WE CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT IT.

ISSUE: WATER RIGHTS

- **THERE ARE NO REGULATIONS AS TO HOW MUCH WATER A WELL OWNER CAN PUMP FROM HIS/HER LAND.**
- **THE CITIES OF LARKFIELD AND WIKIUP ARE WORKING TO LOCALIZE THE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR WATER RIGHTS.**

Pumping from a well creates a negative "cone of depression, in the underlying water table. Intersecting cones of depression from nearby wells can lower the entire water level around the well sites. If pumping is excessive, neighbors can be forced to lower wells in order to reach the receding water level. Many parts of Sonoma County are already in a vicious cycle of competition over water.

Additionally, although our area is experiencing a time of water shortage, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is still shipping Russian River water out of county, into Marin. There are no plans to cease this export.

ISSUE: EEL RIVER DIVERSION

- **WE DIVERT WATER AT A RATE OF 340 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND OUT OF THE EEL RIVER INTO THE RUSSIAN RIVER FOR SONOMA AND PARTS OF MARIN COUNTY.**
- **PG&E USES THE POTTER VALLEY DAM AND DIVERSION TO PRODUCE ELECTRICITY. LAST YEAR, THEY ALLEGEDLY DIVERTED MORE WATER THAN WAS AUTHORIZED IN THEIR PERMIT.**
- **15% OF THE DIVERSION WAS DISCONTINUED IN 2005.**

The Eel river was once the most prolific Salmonid river in the US, aside from Alaska, teeming with life and a gushing annual flow of water. In 1947 however, a dam was built, drastically changing the entire watershed and impacting the plants, animals and people who depended on the river and the treasures it held.

Randy Poole, the current SCWA General Manager, explicitly stated that water diverted from the Eel River was NOT needed to serve any of SCWA's water contractor cities' or districts' water supply needs. Why then, aside from energy production, does this diversion exist?

ISSUE: THE PETALUMA RIVER

WATER DISCHARGE CONT...

- **THE PETALUMA RIVER IS A TIDAL ESTUARY. IT FLOWS INTO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY, MOVING IN AND OUT WITH THE TIDES.**

- **BOATS SINK INTO THE DRY CHANNELS AND RIVERBED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR, CAUSING MONETARY DAMAGE FROM BOTH GASOLINE CLEAN-UP, AND ABANDONED EQUIPMENT REMOVAL COSTS.**

- **ABANDONMENT OF OLD BOATS IN THE PENINSULA AND CHANNELS OCCURS FREQUENTLY. REMOVING THESE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE POLICE AND SHERIFF DEPT.**

The Petaluma River snakes through the city and into the agricultural fields of the northern regions. Due to the close proximity of the river to the industrial and agricultural areas in Petaluma, illegal dumping and non-point source pollution takes place, harming not only marine life, but also human life.

ISSUE: WATER DISCHARGE

- **THE LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA IS LISTED AS "IMPAIRED" UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT DUE TO NUTRIENT OVERLOAD AND THE FRAGILITY OF THE ECOSYSTEM.**

- **THE INCREMENTAL RECYCLED WATER PROJECT (IRWP) IS PROPOSING TO DISCHARGE LARGE VOLUMES OF TREATED WASTEWATER INTO THE RUSSIAN RIVER. THREE OF THE FOUR DUMPSITES ARE ABOVE THE DRINKING WATER COLLECTORS OPERATED BY THE SCWA.**

- **DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF TRACE PHARMACEUTICALS AND OTHER CHEMICALS IN TREATED WASTE WATER, THIS DISCHARGE MAY AFFECT RUSSIAN RIVER WATER QUALITY.**

- **IRWP OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THAT THE VOLUME OF DISCHARGE WOULD BE TOO LOW TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.**

Because of the Laguna's 303D status, the treatment plant (run by the city of Santa Rosa, and contributed to by Sebastopol and Rohnert Park) is searching for an alternate discharge site, stating that they have assessed all feasible options, going so far as to dump directly into the ocean. This issue could be dispensed with completely by changing the filtration process to a reverse osmosis system, removing the toxins still present in the water water entirely, but the cost of such a system is very high, and as such is currently not an option.

ISSUE: WETLANDS

- **90% OF THE TIDAL MARSH LANDS THAT ONCE EXISTED AROUND THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY ARE GONE.**
- **WATER EVAPORATES 3 TIMES FASTER FROM WETLANDS THAN FROM PONDS OR LAKES.**
- **MARSHES SERVE NOT ONLY AS WATER CLEANSING AREAS, BUT ALSO PROVIDE FEEDING GROUNDS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER SPECIES NATIVE TO OUR COUNTY.**

Water collects and filters through the spongy levels of wetlands and marshes, providing nutrition and a premium habitat to all animals that call this ecosystem home. Wetlands also serve as flood control buffers, in that their water carrying capacity exceeds any other reservoir. Increased evaporation ensures water continues its cycle back into the atmosphere, to be rained down upon the earth.

Paving wetland areas increases flooding, eradicates precious habitat, and utterly destroys the filtration system wetlands provide for the earth.

ISSUE: SAVE BAY HILL

- **A LARGE PIECE OF PROPERTY, THE CALVI RANCH, IS 550 ACRES OF NATIVE COASTAL PRARIE LAND ALONG THE SCENIC HIGHWAY IN BODEGA BAY.**
- **THE LAND IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DUTRA GROUP OF SAN RAFAEL, FOR A LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATION.**
- **THE PROPERTY IS VISIBLE FROM THE BEACH AND IS IN THE COASTAL ZONE. MINING IS NOT ALLOWED THERE.**

The area would generate as much as 13,000,000 tons of Blue Shale and Sandstone, yet along with that, extensive silt and chemical runoff would enter Bodega Bay Harbor and the Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

To obtain a mining permit, the Dutra Group would have to get the proposal approved by both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission.

Even without approval, the Dutra Group might purchase the land anyway, and then wait to apply for a permit at a later time when different, perhaps more inclined, supervisors are in charge.

ISSUE: THE OCEAN

- **THERE ARE 2 REGIONS ON THE OCEAN SURFACE COVERED WITH PLASTIC. BOTH ARE ABOUT THE SIZE OF NEW MEXICO.**
- **THERE IS NOW UP TO 6 TIMES MORE PLASTIC THAN THERE IS PLANKTON IN THE OCEAN.**
- **DUE TO PHYSICAL SIMILARITY, MARINE ANIMALS ARE NOW EATING PLASTIC PIECES IN ADDITION TO PLANKTON.**
- **NITRATE AND PHOSPHATE OVERLOAD HAS INDUCED HYPOXIC OCEAN DEAD ZONES: AREAS OF PRIMITIVE ALGAE WHICH SMOTHER CORAL, SEA GRASS AND KELP BEDS. SOME ALGAE, SUCH AS "RED TIDE ALGAE", ARE TOXIC TO BOTH FISH AND PEOPLE.**

The ocean is a fragile environment, entirely dependent on the purity and cyclic balance of water. Here in California, we are proud of our beaches and ocean resources, yet this amazing marine network upon which our fishing, tourist and recreation industries rely, is being negatively affected by our actions.

ISSUE: THE CALIFORNIA COAST

- **THERE IS A CONTINUING STRUGGLE ALONG THE COAST BETWEEN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND PUBLIC ACCESS.**
- **STORM DRAINS CARRY WATER DIRECTLY TO OUR LOCAL CREEKS AND RIVERS. THIS WATER IS NOT TREATED OR TESTED BEFORE IT IS DUMPED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

The amount of trash that is thrown on the ground, from cigarette butts and plastic wrappers to a Starbuck's cup, is immense. Unless someone picks up the trash and puts it in a trash or recycling bin, it will flow with gutter water, into a storm drain, into a creek, and then directly into the ocean.

Developments along pristine coastlines, with views across blustery cliffs and down the rocky shore are valued immensely for their desirable locations, yet behind this ideal lies a contentious struggle. Who owns the beach, how does the public get access to it, and at what cost is the land owner willing to fight for the privacy of his/her land?

Toxics

Q: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MIX SKETCHY CHEMICALS WITH AN OUTDATED TREATMENT PROCESS? A: UNFORSEEN EFFECTS.

ISSUE: WATER TOXICITY

- **DUE TO PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, FERTILIZERS, AND OTHER FORMS OF CHEMICALS, TOXICITY TESTS IN THE RUSSIAN RIVER SHOWED A 15% SURVIVAL RATE FOR AQUATIC ORGANISMS.**

- **PHARMACEUTICALS AND MANY OTHER CHEMICALS ARE NOT REMOVED BY WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND HAVE BEEN FOUND TO DISRUPT REPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS IN BOTH HUMANS AND ANIMALS.**

- **LAKE SONOMA IS CONTAMINATED WITH TRACE AMOUNTS OF MERCURY AND MTBE.**

The amount of chemicals entering our water supply is mounting to considerable significance. In the past 50 years, one pesticide and pharmaceutical after another has been recalled from the market as more and more side effects are discovered. We need a more intense regulatory process before such chemicals such as DDT, Diazinon and Ephedrine are allowed on the market.

ISSUE: MERCURY

- **FISH FROM LAKE SONOMA SHOW MERCURY CONCENTRATIONS THAT POSE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

- **ALL SAMPLES FOUND BY RUSSIAN RIVERKEEPER CONTAINED AMOUNTS HIGHER THAN THE EPA STANDARD OF 0.3 PPM**

Mercury is a naturally occurring heavy metal in Sonoma County. Normally, it is confined within the earth, but due to copious mining and soil erosion, it is released, and drains into rivers, creeks and streams.

Through industrial construction and mismanagement of resources, the element has made it into our environment, completely changing, for example, the way we handle our seafood industry. Gold mining, electronic parts, and the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal, contribute to the high levels of mercury found in the environment.

ISSUE: TOXIC SITES

- **THERE ARE 27 ACTIVE SUPERFUND SITES IN SONOMA COUNTY.**
- **THERE ARE 2 SUPERFUND SITES ON THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST.**
- **NUMEROUS WELLS IN THE COUNTY ARE CONTAMINATED BY LEAKING CHEMICALS FROM GAS STATION TANKS AND DRY CLEANING BUSINESSES.**

A Superfund site is any land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the EPA as a candidate for cleanup due to a human or environmental risk.

In the last century, we have begun to realize the full impact of our comfortable, yet careless living habits. The times when we used to throw our laundry detergent out the window into a creek, or burned plastic and styrofoam, is in the past for most of us. Now, we must deal with the effects of those actions, and ensure we do not create more harm through our present actions.

ISSUE: WASTE

- **DUE TO CHEMICAL LEAKS INTO SURROUNDING GROUNDWATER, AND THE FACT THAT IT IS NOW FILLED TO CAPACITY, OUR REGIONAL COUNTY LANDFILL IS CLOSED.**
- **THE REDWOOD LANDFILL OFF HWY. 101 IN NOVATO IS BEGINNING PLANS TO EXPAND ITS CAPACITY TO 2 TIMES THE CURRENT LEVEL, AND TO CONTINUE OPERATION FOR ANOTHER 30 YEARS AT AN INCREASED DAILY RATE.**
- **THE LANDFILL IS SITUATED NEAR A LARGE WETLAND AREA, BETWEEN TWO FAULT LINES.**

Because our Sonoma County landfill is closed, we are currently shipping waste by train out of the county into Novato and Solano counties for disposal. Proposals to ship into Nevada using the freight train are being considered as a possible alternative.

Instead of expanding the Redwood Landfill, the landfill issue should be approached by creating initiatives to limit the amount of trash our county produces. Attacking the root of the problem seems to be a much safer route than continuing to expand our landfills.

ISSUE: LOSS OF HABITAT

- 70% OF OUR SONGBIRDS ARE NOW GONE.
- DUE TO A MAN-MADE FUNGUS KNOWN AS "CHYSTRID," WHICH HAS SPREAD TO EVERY CONTINENT, 2,000 SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS IN THE WORLD ARE IN DANGER OF IMMEDIATE EXTINCTION.
- OF THE 40,000-60,000 COHO SALMON IN OUR COUNTY 80 YEARS AGO, ONLY ABOUT 300 EXIST TODAY.

Due to encroachment of our land, sprawling development, and pollution, we are squeezing the wildlife into an ever decreasing living space. Every road built and every telephone line strung, harms wildlife habitat and cuts animals off from natural routes.

As we look towards the future it is critical we understand the dependence of all species on one another (humans included) and abandon our previous form of living, to approach the world at a more aware and conscious level.

ISSUE: INVASIVE SPECIES

- FOREIGN PLANTS AND ANIMALS, NEW TO THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HAVE NO PREDATORS, AND THUS ARE ABLE TO QUICKLY INCREASE IN POPULATION.
- MOST NON-NATIVE ANIMALS ENTER THE ENVIRONMENT FROM CARELESS DUMPING, OR ESCAPE FROM HOUSEHOLD CAPTIVITY.
- THESE INVASIVE LIFE FORMS OUT-COMPETE NATIVE SPECIES FOR RESOURCES.

Invasive species such as the aquatic weed, *Ludwigia* thrive in the environment they find here. The native plants and animals become threatened in their existence due to the unexpected shift in the balance of resources upon which the entire ecosystem is dependent on.

The quality of our land and resources depend on the services our native plants and animals give to us. Without them there to pollinate the specific plants we grow, remove certain bacteria, and much more, the environment wherein we live would be quite different. Note for example, the sudden world-wide disappearance of honey bees. How will plants be pollinated without them?

- **OAK TREES AND OTHER HARDWOODS ARE BEING OUSTED BY DOUGLAS FIRS AND OTHER FASTER-GROWING CONIFERS IN COMPETITION FOR SUNLIGHT AND WATER IN OUR FORESTED AREAS.**

- **DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL WEAKNESS, TREES ARE SUBJECT TO FOREIGN DISEASES, SUCH AS SUDDEN OAK DEATH.**

Fire has been used as a part of natural selection for thousands of years. The Native Americans and many other cultures employed the strength of this element to maintain the health and vitality of the forests and grasslands of North America. Here in Sonoma County, the hardwoods such as our numerous oak species and madrone trees, have an incredible resistance to fire. This evolutionary step has enabled them to survive through wildfires, which eradicate non-native trees and grasses threatening the trees' existence.

Nowadays wildfires are conventionally seen as very negative occurrences. However, by limiting fires in our forests, we create a build-up of plant material, increasing the severity of a fire once it does happen.

- **IN 2001, GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER IMPOSED A MORATORIUM ON THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, FORBIDDING IT TO ACQUIRE NEW LANDS, DUE TO APPARENT LACK OF MONEY.**

- **SINCE 2001 WE HAVE PASSED MORE THAN \$10 BILLION IN BONDS FOR STATE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES.**

Due to the moratorium, non-profit organizations must bear the burden of making newly acquired open spaces available, providing temporary public access through guided hikes or permits.

These organizations receive barely 1/10 of the funding necessary to maintain a property, and as such, volunteers are depended upon to manage the lands. This, along with poor funding, usually results in unevenly distributed planning strategies, wherein the construction of buildings, such as visitor centers and bathrooms receive more money than the actual trails do. The reason these lands are acquired is for people to experience nature, yet without proper trails, this is essentially impossible.

ISSUE: TRANSPORTATION

- CALTRANS' POLICY STATES THAT THEY ARE TO EQUALLY CONSIDER THE NEEDS OF ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.
- 3RD STREET UNDERNEATH THE HWY. 101 EXPANSION WILL HAVE BIKE LANES, BUT WILL ONLY HAVE A SIDEWALK ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET.
- PEDESTRIANS COULD BE FORCED TO CROSS A TOTAL OF 17 LANES OF TRAFFIC TO GET FROM DOWNTOWN TO THE SQUARE.

Caltrans' motto is "We're here to get you there." (BUT... only if you have a car.)

Local tax dollars are taken to create more roadways, and widen highways, which does not in any way decrease congestion problems. Instead of focusing solely on existing roadway designs, we should implement more smart growth transportation strategies to decrease the actual number of cars using roads. This would minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, road maintenance and congestion, all the while supporting a more sustainable and beautiful county.

ISSUE: AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION

- AIR QUALITY IS TESTED FOR THE COUNTY USING ONLY ONE STATION IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN SANTA ROSA.
- GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS HAVE INCREASED 28% IN SONOMA COUNTY BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000. THIS IS DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.
- IN 2005, OUR COUNTY SET THE BOLDEST GOAL OF REDUCTION IN THE NATION, AT 25% BELOW 1990 GHG EMISSION LEVELS.

As our county expands, and living costs continue to rise, vehicle miles driven have increased by 42.5%. Due to the price of development, apartments and condos are being built farther and farther away from downtown hubs, forcing people to drive longer distances to and from work, school, stores, etc...

Sonoma County has however, taken great steps into the new era of alternative energy and emissions reduction through the municipal use of solar panels, hybrid cars, and reduction of waste generated here. It is now up to us, the citizens to ultimately take the challenge, and clean up our act, and our emissions.

ISSUE: DEVELOPMENT

- **URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES ARE NOW IN PLACE IN ALL BUT ONE CITY IN SONOMA COUNTY, LIMITING GROWTH TO CENTRAL AREAS AROUND URBAN REGIONS.**
- **SMART GROWTH INITIATIVES TAKEN ON BY THE CITY OF WINDSOR, COTATI, CLOVERDALE AND PETALUMA HAVE IMPLEMENTED INFILL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: THE CITY BUILDS IN AND UP, NOT OUT.**

Entering into this next stage of our social growth and awareness, we need to approach the development of our cities with more conscious planning. Our land and natural resources can no longer support the haphazard “leap-frog” development trends along Hwy. 101 we’ve been following until now.

We have lived as a society based solely on growth and expansion, ignoring the biological laws of natural carrying capacity. We now face a large global shift and must make a change. This is our only option to stabilize our viability and continue our prosperity here in Sonoma County. By developing up (2-3 story buildings), and revitalizing the land we have already industrialized, we continue towards our goal of sustained growth and existence.

ISSUE: OUR LOCAL ECONOMY


- **THE USE OF COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORTS (CIR’S), ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN PETALUMA AND COTATI, TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BEFORE CONSTRUCTION IS ALLOWED TO BEGIN.**
- **THE NEWLY APPROVED WAL-MART IN SANTA ROSA WILL INCREASE THE CITY’S SALES TAX REVENUE CONSIDERABLY.**
- **WAL-MART WILL ALSO LOWER LONG TERM EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND WAGES, IMPACT LOCAL BUSINESS, AND INCREASE POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION.**

According to a recent study by the University of California at Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, California alone spends \$10 billion annually to subsidize Wal-Mart and similar low-wage employers. When we outsource our local economy on such “big box stores,” we lose the vitality and connection small businesses have with neighbors and the community. Prices may be superficially cheaper, but in a global sense, these corporations are impacting the world terribly, employing sweatshops, dumping toxic chemicals into the environment and lowering the overall well-being of the world.

Wild ideas


WHAT SMALL, STRANGE, SLIGHTLY UNCONVENTIONAL CHANGES CAN WE MAKE TO COLLECTIVELY IMPACT THE SUSTAINABLE EXISTENCE OF OUR SPECIES?

 STORES SHOULD CHARGE 25¢ PER GROCERY BAG AT THE CHECK-OUT STAND IF YOU DON'T BRING YOUR OWN BAGS.

 WE SHOULD PAY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF A PRODUCT WE BUY, OR ACTION WE PERFORM. WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES, "HOW DID, AND WILL THIS PRODUCT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GLOBAL WELL-BEING OF THE WORLD?"

 THERE SHOULD BE A DISPOSAL FEE FOR WASTE WHICH IS NOT RECYCLEABLE OR COMPOSTABLE, WHILE RECYCLEABLE MATERIALS SHOULD BE PICKED UP FOR FREE.

 ALL NEW DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD BE BUILT WITH SOLAR PANELS OR WIND TURBINES, MAKING THEM COMPLETELY ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

 ALL STREETS SHOULD NOW BE BUILT OR REPAIRED WITH PERMEABLE PAVEMENT. WE WOULD NOT HAVE DRASTIC FLOODS AS WE DO CURRENTLY, AND OUR WATER RECHARGE ISSUE WOULD BE ELIMINATED.

 WE SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION TO BAN USELESS PACKAGING.

 ALL CARS SHOULD GET 60 OR MORE MPG. THE TECHNOLOGY TO IMPLEMENT THIS EXISTS.

 THERE SHOULD BE A LOCAL HOTLINE TO REPORT LITTERING FROM CAR WINDOWS.

foot-high wall of paper, from New York to California.

• Americans discard 4 million tons of office paper every year. That's enough to build a 12

USE BOTH SIDES OF A SHEET OF PAPER.

BUY 100% POST-CONSUMER, NON-CHLORINE BLEACHED RECYCLED PAPER.

RECYCLE ALL CLEAN PAPER PRODUCTS.

IF YOU RECEIVE UNWANTED MAIL, ASK THE DIRECT MARKETING ASSOCIATION TO TAKE YOU OFF ITS MEMBERS' LISTS:

DMA Mail Preference Service
Box 3861, New York, NY 10163

READ NEWSPAPERS ON-LINE INSTEAD OF BUYING THEM.

USE CLOTH DUST RAGS, DISHCLOTHS, AND NAPKINS RATHER THAN PAPER TOWELS.

WHEN IN A PUBLIC RESTROOM, USE ONLY ONE PAPER TOWEL TO DRY YOUR HANDS.

CONSERVATION AND RECYCLING NOT ONLY SAVES TREES, IT ALSO CUTS DOWN ON THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO GENERATE PAPER, AND THE POLLUTION CREATED BY THE PROCESS.

• Recycling half the world's paper would free 20 million acres of forest land.

conserve **paper**

conserve Water

SHUT WATER OFF WHEN IT IS RUNNING UNNECESSARILY.

TAKE SHORT SHOWERS, AND TURN OFF THE WATER WHEN YOU DON'T NEED IT.

WHILE YOU WAIT FOR HOT WATER TO COME DOWN THE PIPES, CATCH THE FLOW IN A WATERING CAN TO USE ON HOUSE PLANTS OR YOUR GARDEN. THIS SAVES 200-300 GALLONS OF WATER PER MONTH.

RUN THE DISHWASHER ONLY WHEN IT IS FULL.

AVOID FLUSHING THE TOILET UNNECESSARILY. DISPOSE OF TISSUES, INSECTS AND OTHER SUCH WASTE IN THE TRASH RATHER THAN THE TOILET.

WHEN WASHING DISHES, VEGETABLES AND FRUIT, FILL THE SINK WITH WATER, AND CLEAN USING ONLY THAT AMOUNT. THIS SAVES 150-250 GALLONS OF WATER PER MONTH.

The SCWA delivers 80 million gallons of water a day. This would fill 1.28 billion cups of coffee.

IF YOU CAN, WALK, RIDE A BIKE, OR TAKE THE BUS TO YOUR DESTINATION.

TURN OFF UNNECESSARY LIGHTS.

BUY FOOD IN BULK. THIS SAVES ON EXTRA PACKAGING.

REUSE JARS AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS AS TUPEWARE OR WATER BOTTLES.

BUY LOCALLY GROWN AND PRODUCED. THIS LIMITS THE CO₂ EMITTED THROUGH MANUFACTURE AND TRANSPORTATION, AND ENSURES THAT A FAIR TRADE WAS GIVEN FOR THE ITEM.

AIR-DRY YOUR CLOTHES ON A LAUNDRY LINE.

USE THE LINERS FROM CEREAL BOXES AS SANDWICH WRAPPERS.

BECOME A VEGETARIAN.

16

 **Energy** conserve

It takes 90% less energy to recycle aluminum cans than to make new ones.

By eating 2 fewer meat dishes a week, the savings in grain could feed 225 million people for a year.

What can you do?

Are you excited, are you sad, are you angered or intrigued?

Take action and explore the issues discussed in this guide to a deeper level, immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring landscape we have here by going on a hike or bike ride, volunteer for an organization working towards the same cause you believe in, or call or send a letter to the county Board of Supervisors or your city council, and demand a change. *Do something* that will impact the greater wealth of this world, and learn to understand the interconnectivity of life here on the Earth. Feel the sun on your skin, smell the crisp morning air, and dive into this amazing experience of life. Live it fully, and truly.

AGRICULTURE

- **CONTACT:** Community Alliance with Family Farmers.

The Alliance is building a movement of rural and urban people to foster family-scale agriculture that cares for the land, sustains local economies and promotes social justice. Their website has an online local food locator.

www.caff.org

- **CONTACT:** Laguna Farm.

Laguna farm is a Community Supported Agricultural farm that produces food for the local community of the highest nutritional quality with the high standards of sustainable production. These beyond organic standards include sustainable soil fertility, environmentally sound energy practices and ethical employment.

www.lagunafarm.com

- **CONTACT:** GE Free Sonoma County.

GE Free Sonoma is a grassroots organization made up of farmers, gardeners, health professionals, chefs, business owners, teachers, local government officials and environmentalists. They are united in working toward an ecologically and economically sustainable food and farming future that is free from the known and potential dangers of genetically engineered crops and other organisms.

gefreesonoma.org

CLIMATE PROTECTION

- **CONTACT:** Climate Protection Campaign

The Climate Protection Campaign works to create a positive future for our children and all life by inspiring action in response to the climate crisis. They promote and advance practical, science-based solutions for significant greenhouse gas reductions.

www.climateprotectioncamp-

- **CONTACT:** Solar Sebastopol.

Solar Sebastopol is a local first-of-its-kind program to encourage more solar energy on residential, business, and public properties in Sebastopol.

www.solarsebastopol.com

CONSERVATION

- **CONTACT:** Fairfield Osborne Preserve of Sonoma State University.

The Preserve is dedicated to protecting and restoring natural communities and to fostering ecological understanding through education and research. It is run by the School of Science and Technology at Sonoma State University.

www.sonoma.edu/Org/Preserve

- **CONTACT:** The Greenbelt Alliance.

The Greenbelt Alliance is the Bay Area's land conservation and urban planning nonprofit. They work with local leaders and the community to preserve and protect our greenbelts, and implement more sustainable development and conservation strategies.

www.greenbelt.org

- **CONTACT:** The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation works to preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the largest tributary of the Russian River and Sonoma County's richest wildlife area, and to inspire greater public appreciation and enjoyment of the Laguna's treasures.

www.lagunadesantarosa.org

CONSERVATION CONT...

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA).

SCCA aims to better the quality of life in Sonoma County for all generations through educating and directly engaging the public on local environmental issues and policies.

www.conservactionaction.org

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma Land Trust.

The Sonoma Land Trust works closely with private landowners, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and public agencies to preserve the open land of Sonoma County.

www.sonomalandtrust.org

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma County Mycological Association.

The Sonoma County Mycological Association (SOMA) is a local non-profit group dedicated to educating the public about the vast and diverse world of fungi.

www.somamushrooms.org

- **CONTACT:** Sotoyome Resource Conservation District.

This conservation district is committed to improving the sustainability of natural resources by developing projects that balance environmental and economic interests in the Russian River watershed.

www.sotoyomercd.org

- **CONTACT:** Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods.

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods promotes education, preservation and restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Russian River area state parks in partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, through interpretation and public stewardship.

www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

EDUCATION

- **CONTACT:** LandPaths.

LandPaths partners with a wide variety of community groups and public agencies in managing land in Sonoma County. Volunteers lead hikes, and assist agency ecologists in natural lands protection and enhancement.

www.landpaths.org

- **CONTACT:** The Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.

The Leadership Institute is dedicated to insuring a sustainable future for California's North Coast. Their nine-month course educates current and future leaders, as well as the local community on the need to integrate environmental, economic, and social equity issues in order to live sustainably and ensure a high quality of life for future generations.

www.ecoleader.org

- **CONTACT:** New College of California, North Bay Campus.

The New College of California is committed to the integration of education with personal transformation and social change to create a more just, sacred, and sustainable world. Their academic concentrations range from “Ecological Agriculture” to “Wholistic Nutrition,” for both a BA and MA.

www.northbay.newcollege.edu

- **CONTACT:** Occidental Arts and Ecology Center.

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center is a nonprofit education center and organic farm. Their programs combine research, demonstration, and education to develop collaborative, community-based strategies for positive social change and effective environmental stewardship.

www.oaec.org

- **CONTACT:** Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center.

Ocean Song is a learning center which inspires and educates people of all ages to live in harmony with nature. Retreats, weddings, workshops and other events bring many people to Ocean Song for restful and regenerative experiences.

www.oceansong.org

- **CONTACT:** Russian River Interactive Information System.

This website is an educational tool and an interactive communication forum for the public, scientists, agencies, and local watershed groups.

www.russianriverwatershed.net

- **CONTACT:** UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County.

This center works with specialists and local farm, home, and youth advisors throughout CA to bring the University’s research-based information to the public.

www.cesonoma.ucdavis.edu

FORESTRY

- **CONTACT:** Forests Unlimited.

Forest Unlimited monitors logging plans county-wide, addresses illegal and unsound logging, provides information regarding current forestry laws to the public, and sponsors forest restoration projects.

www.forestunlimited.org

- **CONTACT:** Russian River Residents Against Unsafe Logging (RRAUL).

RRAUL is a non-profit organization dedicated to the pursuit of responsible and sustainable logging practices in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

www.rrraul.org

- **CONTACT:** Save the Redwoods League.

Since its formation in 1918, Save the Redwoods League has worked to acquire and protect redwood ranges, ensuring these ancient forests survive and flourish forever.

www.savetheredwoods.org

- **CONTACT:** UC Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program.

This UC program works to develop alternative range management strategies to ensure multiple use of hardwoods, and maintain a diverse wildlife habitat.

danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **CONTACT:** CA Biodiversity Council.

This council works to improve coordination between various environmental organizations at federal, state, and local levels. Their website offers information on local bioregions, vegetation types and endangered species.

<http://www.ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/>

- **CONTACT:** CA Conservation Corps.

Offers young adults the chance to serve their state through work on environmental conservation projects.

www.ccc.ca.gov

- **CONTACT:** California Dept. of Conservation.

The Department of Conservation provides services and information that promote environmental health, economic vitality, informed land-use decisions and sound management of our state's natural resources..

www.consrv.ca.gov/

- **CONTACT:** Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE).

The GLOBE program is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based education and science program.

www.globe.gov

- **CONTACT:** International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional organizations that have made a commitment to work towards a sustainable development of our world.

www.iclei.org

- **CONTACT:** LITE Initiatives

Located in Sebastopol, LITE's mission is to motivate individuals, groups, businesses and even whole communities to live lightly and more efficiently.

www.usgs.gov

LOCAL NETWORKING COALITIONS

- **CONTACT:** Pesticide Action Network of North America.

This organization works to promote our right to know about pesticide hazards, stop exports of banned pesticides and provide us with healthy alternatives.

www.panna.org/

- **CONTACT:** The Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter.

Inspired by nature, the Sierra Club works to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma

- **CONTACT:** Sustainable Sonoma County.

Sustainable Sonoma County is a learning and action community that connects, inspires, and empowers people to align their thinking and action with their deep need for a life-affirming and sustainable world.

sustainablesonoma.org

- **CONTACT:** US Geologic Survey.

A multi-disciplinary science organization dedicated to the impartial study of the landscape, our natural resources and hazards.

www.usgs.gov

- **CONTACT:** Coalition for a Better Sonoma County.

This coalition brings organizations, groups and individuals together to work toward a common goal, ensuring our local government acts for the benefit of all people, not just for the benefit of big money interests.

www.bettersonoma.com

- **CONTACT:** Concerned Citizens for a Better Santa Rosa.

This group is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all of Santa Rosa's citizens. They promote an open and proactive government to act for the benefit of the whole community.

www.concernedcitizensforsantarosa.com

- **CONTACT:** The Environmental Center of Sonoma County.

The center's aim is to provide a network of resources to protect and enhance the state of our environment.

envirocentersoco.org

- **CONTACT:** New Economy Working Solutions (NEWS).

NEWS works to raise the living standards of low-income families in the North Bay, and promotes greater equity in the regional economy.

www.neweconomynorthbay.org

LOCAL COALITIONS CONT...

- **CONTACT:** Petaluma Tomorrow.

This group promotes open government, responsible development and sustainable watershed management, and supports candidates who best represent these ideals and are responsive to the community.

www.petaluma-tomorrow.org

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma County Living Wage Coalition.

The coalition works to address the problem of growing income inequality and poverty in our community.

www.livingwagesonoma.org

- **CONTACT:** The Town Hall Coalition.

Town Hall Coalition is a grassroots social movement of citizens from all walks of life who have come together to advocate for the protection of public health and safety, the environment, and the common good.

www.townhallcoalition.org

THE PACIFIC COAST

- **CONTACT:** California Coastal Commission.

The CA Coastal Commission works to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean. This agency formulates and enforces coastal regulations.

www.coastal.ca.gov

- **CONTACT:** California State Coastal Conservancy.

The CA Coastal Conservancy, established in 1976, is a state agency that purchases, protects, restores, and enhances coastal resources, and works to provide access to the entire shoreline. They work in partnership with local government and public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners.

www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov

- **CONTACT:** Coastwalk.

Coastwalk is a grassroots, non-profit organization that inspires, educates and advocates for both coastal protection and access. They create a community of stewards through their unique coastal hiking experiences and their work to complete and sustain the California Coastal Trail.

www.coastwalk.org

- **CONTACT:** Save Bay Hill.

This is a website detailing the events and circumstances of the issue. Last updated on Jan. 25, 2007.

www.savebayhill.org

RECREATION

- **CONTACT:** Bay Area Hiker Index of Nature Preserves.

A website offering an extensive and comprehensive list of Bay Area hiking trails from Santa Cruz to Sonoma.

www.bahiker.com/preserve.html

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma County Trails Council (SCTC).

The SCTC, the oldest shared use trails organization in the country works to promote the establishment and improvement of public trails in our local parks through volunteer trail maintenance workdays and public advocacy. The SCTC works in collaboration with various local agencies in the county to promote safe and proper use of trails by all visitors.

www.sonomacountytrails.org

URBAN PLANNING

- **CONTACT:** Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

ABAG is the official comprehensive planning agency for the San Francisco Bay region. Their mission is to strengthen cooperation and coordination among local governments by addressing social, environmental, and economic issues.

www.abag.ca.gov/

- **CONTACT:** Forestville Planning Association (FPA).

The FPA works to serve as a proactive planning committee, a conduit of information, and a voice of advocacy for the residents and businesses of the Forestville community.

www.forestvillefpa.org

- **CONTACT:** Sonoma County Transportation and Land Use Coalition.

This coalition educates the public on current land use and transportation issues and how to implement more sustainable technologies into future developments.

www.sonomatlc.org

WATER

- **CONTACT:** Community Clean Water Institute (CCWI).

CCWI protects water resources and public health, identifies pollution sources through research, education and community-managed water quality testing, and prevents water pollution throughout Northern California.

www.ccwi.org

- **CONTACT:** North Coast Water Network.

Listing of over 100 organizations dedicated to the preservation, well-being and enhancement of our local water ways in Northern California.

www.northcoastwaternetwork

- **CONTACT:** Northern California River Watch.

River Watch protects local waterways through education, pollution prevention, enforcement, and preservation.

www.northerncaliforniariver-watch.org/

- **CONTACT:** The O.W.L. Foundation.

This foundation is devoted to educating the public and local government on both land and water issues. They are working to implement a healthy, comprehensive and realistic water budget and plan for Sonoma County.

www.owlfoundation.net

- **CONTACT:** The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA).

The Sonoma County Water Agency, controlled by the Board of Supervisors, provides water, flood protection and sanitation services for its 13 contractors, from Sonoma County to the Marin Municipal Water District.

www.scwa.ca.gov

- **CONTACT:** The Sonoma County Water Coalition.

This is a coalition of more than 30 local groups advocating for sound water management policies that will protect our wells, our streams and our wetlands.

www.scwatercoalition.org

- **CONTACT:** The Water Education Foundation.

The mission of the Water Education Foundation, an impartial non-profit organization, is to create a better understanding of water issues and help resolve water resource problems through educational programs.

www.water-ed.org

WATERSHED GROUPS

- **CONTACT:** Atascadero Creek and Green Valley Creek Watershed Council.

www.water-ed.org

- **CONTACT:** Blucher Creek Watershed Council.

www.bluchercreek.org/

- **CONTACT:** Friends of Copeland Creek.

www.students.sonoma.edu/clubs/focc/FOCCsub1.htm

- **CONTACT:** Cotati Creek Critters.

www.creeks.cotati.info

- **CONTACT:** Friends of the Eel River (FOER).

FOER works to restore the Eel River and all its tributaries to a natural state of life and abundance.

www.eelriver.org

- **CONTACT:** Friends of the Petaluma River.

This group promotes stewardship of the Petaluma River, restoring the natural habitat and providing educational programs for the public.

www.friendsofthepetalumariver.org

- **CONTACT:** Friends of the Mark West Watershed.

This watershed community is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Mark West Creek and its watershed.

www.markwestwatershed.org

- **CONTACT:** Russian River-keeper.

RRkeeper's mission is to preserve, restore and enhance the natural systems of the Russian River through citizen action, scientific research and expert advocacy.

www.russianriverkeeper.org

- **CONTACT:** Salmon Creek Watershed Council.

www.freestone.com/salmon-creek

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **CONTACT:** CA Integrated Waste Management Board.

The California IWMB manages the estimated 88 million tons of waste generated each year in our state by promoting reuse, reduce and recycle strategies, and protecting public health and safety, and the environment. Their website contains information on waste programs and initiatives, along with a disposal guide.

www.ciwmb.ca.gov

- **CONTACT:** Garbage Reincarnation Inc.

This organization manages a trash reuse and recycle system next to the Meecham Landfill.

www.garbage.org

- **CONTACT:** Computer Recycling Center.

This organization manages computer recycling drop-off locations in Sunnyvale, Santa Rosa, Petaluma and San Francisco. In 2006, the organization diverted more than 6 million pounds of computer equipment from landfills.

www.crc.org

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Report a smoking vehicle:

1-800 EXHAUST

Report air pollution:

1-800-334-ODOR

Report a poacher or polluter:

1-888-334-CALTIP

Report a hazardous spill:

707-568-5933

Local environmental info:

1-800-CLEAN-UP

Local ocean water quality:

707-565-6552

Recycling questions:

707-565-DESK

Articles of interest

I SUGGEST YOU LOOK INTO

Literature:

E/THE ENVIRONMENTAL magazine, produced bimonthly.

ISHMAEL, a truly life-changing book by Daniel Quinn.

MOTHER JONES, a progressive political magazine.

PLENTY MAGAZINE, a smart, conscious eco publication.

SAVING THE MARIN-SONOMA COAST, by Martin Griffin.

THE FATAL HARVEST READER, by Andrew Kimbell.

Websites:

WWW.10PERCENTCHALLENGE.COM

A voluntary program to reduce household GHG emissions by 10%.

WWW.CARBONFOOTPRINT.COM

Calculate the amount of Carbon Dioxide you emit through your daily actions, then learn how to reduce and offset it.

WWW.KQED.ORG/W/COASTALCLASH/HOME.HTML

Explore the California coastal clash.

WWW.COOPAMERICA.ORG

Working towards a socially just and environmental sustainable society.

WWW.ECOFOOT.ORG

Calculate your ecological footprint.

WWW.GRIST.ORG

Provides environmental news, advice, podcast, a blog, and more.

WWW.IBUYDIFFERENT.ORG

This website is part of the *Be, Live, Buy Different, and Make a Difference* campaign.

WWW.ONEEARTH.ORG

Using the power of communication to help the global environment.

WWW.TREEHUGGER.COM

Dedicated to everything that has a modern aesthetic yet is environmentally responsible.

WWW.WORLDCHANGING.COM

Another world is here. Take part in the change.

Adventures...

hidden places to explore

- **AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA** is situated directly above the Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. The park's 5,700 acres of rugged topography and amazing landscape offers a sense of solidarity; it almost feels one is out backpacking in Yosemite.
- **BODEGA HEAD**, part of the Sonoma Coast State Beach has a 3-mile loop on the coastal bluff, offering a beautiful view of the bay, the ocean and the coastline. Especially stunning at sunrise or sunset.
- **HOOD MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK** is 1,450 acres of wilderness, offering excellent hiking, bicycle and equestrian trails. On a clear day, one can see the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge from Gunsight Rock.
- **SALT POINT STATE PARK**, offers panoramic views, mysterious coves, open grasslands and forested hills along miles of the CA coastline, encompassing 6,000 acres of spectacular open land.
- **WILLOW CREEK**, a unit of the Sonoma Coast State Beach, contains a diverse landscape of grasslands, forests, ravines and creeks, snaking through its 3,373 acres. "Islands in the Sky" mountain offers wonderful views. From there one can look across the region and distinguish many other parks, such as Austin Creek.
- **SPAWN USA** offers docent-lead walks to view salmon spawning in the Lagunitas watershed. The experience of seeing these determined and powerful fish return to their natal creeks is well worth the cold of a winter morning.

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

-Harold Thurman Whitman

Sonoma County Environmental Resource Guide

If this guide has impacted you in any way, please consider sending a donation to cover production costs.

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