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Sustainability Communicator is a quarterly publication about population, consumption, and conservation issues. Its purpose is to promote dialogue and action among League members and others interested in building a sustainable future.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATOR

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climate change

U.S. Mayors Roll Up Sleeves on Global Warming

On February 16, 2005, 141 countries signed the Kyoto Protocol aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions that are broadly recognized as being a major factor in global warming. The United States government was noticeably absent from the list of signatories. Two weeks later, 10 U.S. cities led by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, joined to invite other cities from across the country to take actions to significantly reduce global warming pollution. In June, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed unanimously the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. As of February 27, 2006, 208 mayors representing 42 million Americans have accepted the challenge and formally signed the agreement.

America's cities are where the rubber hits the road in terms of the factors influencing climate change. Urban sprawl, lost forests and open space, power plant emissions and the ever-increasing number of vehicles on the road have real-world costs for cities. Costs such as more respiratory illness, mounting costs of road repair and construction, and lost productivity due to traffic jams and

increased worker sick days. In the absence of substantive action by the Administration or Congress, cities are showing that they have the power to improve not only their own situation but move the country forward as well.

The issue clearly goes beyond party affiliation. Patrick McCrory, the mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, and head of the Republican mayors' association, was quoted at the 2005 Mayors Conference expressing that mayors should be taken seriously because of their economic clout.

"We are the ones building roads, designing mass transit, buying the police cars and dump trucks and earthmovers. We're the ones lighting up the earth when you look at those maps from space. Together we have huge purchasing power, and if we invest wisely, that can have huge implications for the environment."

Then there is the other side of the economic coin. Cities can stimulate their own economies through investments that lower carbon emis-

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Population and Climate Connection

One of the clearest relationships between population and an environmental problem has to do with carbon dioxide emissions. Between 1800 and 1970, both total global CO₂ emissions and the amount of carbon dioxide per person increased at a steady pace. But after 1970, per capita emissions have nearly stabilized (between 1.1 and 1.2 metric tons) due to greater efficiency in how we use energy. But since the population kept growing, the total emissions continued to rise, growing by nearly 60 percent. Population growth is now the major driver of carbon dioxide emissions.

When demographers look ahead to 2050, they make high, medium, and low projections for world population based on what happens to fertility rates. If carbon dioxide emissions per capita remain where they have been since 1970, the low projection (7.4 billion people) could result in 30-percent fewer emissions compared to the high projection (10.6 billion people). Looked at in this way: What we do, or do not do, to help growth rates continue their current decline has a potential for large-scale climate impact.

climate change

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sions. On a December 2005 broadcast on WAMU public radio of the Kojo Nanmdi Show, Sustainability Education Program Director Jim Baird posed the following question to Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor:

Baird: I am wondering about the economic plus side for the cities in instituting some of these programs. I've always thought that it was something of an opportunity cost when we don't look at opportunities for new businesses [and] for cost savings. Everybody thinks of conservation as doing without. I wonder whether in Santa Monica or any of the other cities are finding that there is a bonanza, a good side for the economy?

O'Connor: I think that there is, for countries too, when you see who is moving ahead faster on targeting emissions, they are developing businesses, they are going to be ahead of us. But we are not standing still in Santa Monica. We've already had innovation in both services and products. [For example there is a growing field of consultants who go in to help businesses, restaurant owners, and others to do things in an environmentally sensitive way that save money. We also have folks that are creating new products, cre-

Under the Mayors Climate Agreement, participating cities commit to take following three actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;
- Urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol — 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012; and
- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

More information on the agreement can be found at the Mayor of Seattle's website <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/> or by calling (206) 684-4000.

If your city is interested in signing on to the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, you can to complete the participation form and return it via email to kim.drury@seattle.gov. You can also fax your form to (206) 684-3013.

Participation Form:

http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate/PDF/USCM_SignatureOnly_02.27.06.pdf

ating new building materials out of recycled materials that are modular, that interlock; just a whole range of new products that are coming out and evolving and creating new markets. But we do need the Federal government to partner with us. We need the Federal government

to take it seriously and to help create those markets nationwide.”

Whether the federal government gets into full gear on climate change, the movement by U.S. cities may have an important impact from the bottom up.

population and environment

From Guatemala to the Philippines—

Population-Health-Environment Programs Show The Power of Synergy

In 2001, 10 members of the Izaak Walton League of America visited a project in Guatemala that integrates forest conservation, health and family planning and sustainable development. About 30 such programs worldwide are experimenting to see if better outcomes for communities and the environment happen when these different elements are combined, rather than pursuing each one separately. According to a report by The David and Lucille Packard Foundation (an SEP donor) that looked at 12 projects in six countries, some remarkable achievements are being made.

Population and Environment (PE) projects bring major advantages to family planning efforts:

- Greater participation by men and adolescent boys who are drawn in by the conservation activities.
- Perceptions of women by communities and by the women themselves improve when they have access to and control of money and credit as part of project activities.
- PE projects add value to environment/conservation efforts.

- Women become involved in resource management activities and organizations.
- Adolescent boys and girls participate more.
- Communities are more responsive and trusting of programs when their priority community needs (often involving health and reproductive health care) are met.
- PE programs that include micro-credit encourage stronger community involvement in resource management activities.

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Local currencies are more than small change

By Suzanne Zanelli

While most of us worry about how to spend our hard-earned dollars, residents of Ithaca, New York, are dreaming up ways to spend their hard-earned hours. No, Ithacans don't actually get more vacation time than the rest of us; they are reaping the rewards of a local currency system called "Ithaca Hours."

Though alternative currencies are now sprouting in communities all over the nation, Ithaca Hours was the pioneer of the post WWII era. The Hours system is the brainchild of local activist Paul Glover, who wanted to direct community spending towards local businesses. "We printed our own money because we watched Federal dollars come to town, shake a few hands, then leave to buy rainforest lumber and fight wars," Glover explains on the Hours website. "Ithaca's Hours, by contrast, stay in our region to help us hire each other."

One of the main goals of a local currency system is to promote economic development that stays within the community. Since the currency is only legal tender in a given geographic area (typically a town, city or county), businesses that receive Hours must spend them on local goods and services (for example, hiring a local plumber or buying food from a local farmer). This helps build a network of local businesses that support each other. While non-local businesses typically are welcome to accept Hours, those businesses must spend them within the set boundaries, thus supporting the local economy.

According to Bernard Lietaer, a Belgian economist at the Center for Sustainable Resources at the University of California at Berkeley, and author of the 1991 book *The Future of Money: Creating New Wealth, Work and a Wiser World*, our prevailing currency model creates a demand for dollars rather than for essential goods and services. The result, he says, is to encourage greed and fear, rather than to promote social well-

being. In an interview with *Yes! Magazine*, Lietaer revealed his strong misgivings about our current monetary system. "Money is like an iron ring we've put through our noses," he said. "We've forgotten that we designed it, and it's now leading us around. I think it's time to figure out where we want to go—in my opinion toward sustainability and community—and then design a money system that gets us there."

Past economic crises have spurred other communities to experiment with local currencies. During the early years of the Great Depression, for example, several thousand of them were launched in the U.S. However, President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to prohibit these "emergency currencies" in favor of centralized responses to the economic crisis. Today, local currencies are no longer viewed as a threat and are completely legal as long as they do not resemble U.S. currency, according to Glover. Also termed complementary currencies, local monies stimulate initiative and cooperation, allowing communities to bounce back faster from sudden economic setback or rises in unemployment, according to economists cited on local currency websites. But beyond these practical benefits, local currencies provide a great way to build social capital.

In Ithaca, the value of each One-hour note is set at \$10, which is the approximate rate of pay for one hour of labor. A Two-hour note and four smaller denominations, called Half-hours, Quarter-hours, Eighth-hours, and Tenth-Hours, are available as well. Administrators of the currency have several ways to get Hours into circulation. Businesses and individuals receive either 1 or 2 Hours (\$10 or \$20) if they agree to accept Hours as payment for their services, and be listed in the Hours directory. After eight months in the directory, they can receive an additional hour. Donors can decide to make Hours donations local charities, paying for them in United States

money. The Hours administrators can make grants or loans of Hours to community businesses and organizations. Pains are taken to increase the amount of Hours slowly and deliberately so as not to overwhelm the system. Once issued, anyone is free to spend or earn Hours, regardless of whether or not they are listed in the directory. Today, Hours are accepted at over 300 businesses, and can be used to purchase everything from childcare and car repair to groceries and movie tickets.

But Ithaca's currency provides more than just purchasing power. Each Hour earned and spent requires a certain degree of familiarity with the community, and an appreciation of the skills that each community member has to offer. As a reporter from the Hudson Valley Green Times remarked, "to transact Hours is to engage in person-to-person relationships, and to build community in the process."

With a current circulation worth over \$105,000 and an underlying ethic that celebrates community cohesion, Ithaca Hours is inspiring similar systems across the nation, and as far away as Beijing, China. In these communities, local currencies have the potential to shift economic power back to communities by providing employment opportunities and promoting local businesses. They also help give value to local ecosystems by encouraging reliance on regional resources. No, Ithaca Hours will never have the worldwide influence of the dollar or the euro. But what local currencies do show us is that social well-being can, and should, go hand-in-hand with a strong economy.

To learn more about Ithaca Hours, please visit their Web site at:

<http://www.lightlink.com/hours/ithaca-hours>. Or, call 607-272-3738.

For a more comprehensive overview of local currencies visit <http://www.transaction.net/money/>

E-Communicator

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From Guatemala to the Philippines—

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- PE projects are often both cost-efficient and effective.

A large number of NGOs have shown that they can successfully implement integrated programs, expand their target audiences, reduce operating expenses, and foster community goodwill and trust.

League participates in another Study Tour of Innovative Conservation programs

PE projects from more than six countries will exchange lessons learned and look at implications for national policy at a major conference taking place in the Philippines in March. A U.S. delegation from conservation groups that support population and environment programs will attend. The Izaak Walton League will be taking noted outdoor journalist Tom Horton (an award winning conservation writer and former colum-

nist for the Baltimore Sun) and Minnesota Ike, Dr. Amy Gilbert.

According to Gilbert, "I'm applying to do a master's degree in public health with an emphasis on preventing unintended pregnancy. I want to study about poverty, race and environmental impact internationally and domestically. I want to see how family planning plays out in a Catholic country, and how it integrates with environmental education. At the conference, I want to learn practical information to bring home to the US, including how to start integrated programs here."

Watch the IWLA website www.iwla.org or call 800-45305463 for information on the Philippines trip and follow-up activities.

For Copies of the Packard report or the SEP Guatemala Study report, contact the Izaak Walton league at sustain@iwla.org or by calling 301-548-0150.

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is dedicated to common sense conservation that protects America's hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage relying on solution-oriented conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation for the benefit of our citizens. The League has more than 40,000 members and supporters in 21 state divisions and more than 300 local chapters in 32 states.

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