



**LEADERSHIP  
INSTITUTE**  
*for ECOLOGY and the ECONOMY*

# VANGUARD

INSPIRING LEADERS *for* SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 3rd Tuesday of each month

NOON-1:00PM  
555 5TH STREET, SUITE 300A,  
SANTA ROSA

### Fellows Networking Lunch

A monthly forum for  
Fellows and friends  
of the Institute to explore  
various topics related to  
sustainable public policy.  
MORE INFO: 707-578-9133

### Friday, April 18

Deadline to apply for  
Leadership Training for a  
Sustainable Future Class  
of 2009

INFO & APPLICATION PACKET:  
[www.ecoleader.org](http://www.ecoleader.org)

### Friday, May 2

SONOMA MOUNTAIN VILLAGE  
Sustainable Enterprise  
Conference 2008: Tools for  
the Transition. Presented  
by SSU, Green MBA and  
the Leadership Institute.  
MORE INFO: [www.sustainable  
enterpriseconference.com](http://www.sustainable<br/>enterpriseconference.com)

### Saturday, May 10

Human Race 2008: One  
Community, One Dream.  
Have fun and support a  
sustainable community.  
Join our Human Race  
team and walk or run to  
raise funds for the  
Institute's programs.

MORE INFO:  
[www.humanrace.kintera.org/lifee](http://www.humanrace.kintera.org/lifee)



Sonoma Academy students Abby Laporte and Clare Mackie fed pumpkin rinds to the chickens at Greenstring Farm during a recent field trip to learn about food systems and sustainability.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING OFFERED TO YOUTH

**Sonoma Academy program introduces core concepts to sophomores**

**A**lmost 50 Sonoma County students—the entire sophomore class at Sonoma Academy—are involved in a youth leadership training program, co-sponsored by the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. Each week, students are introduced to the core concepts of the Institute's Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future, which is offered each year for adults. The program stresses the benefits of balance between environmental health, economic vitality, and social equity.

Sonoma Academy and the Leadership Institute are partners in the program, which is already producing exciting results. According to Michael Peller, an instructor at Sonoma Academy, the class is a good fit with the school's curriculum. "In their freshman year, all students take

a course on environmental science combined with math. The students look at ecosystems from the macro and micro level. Freshman humanities looks at place-based studies, focusing on islands, mountains, deserts and rivers, so they understand seeing people and society in terms of environment."

By including the Leadership Training in the curriculum the following year, students are able to continue building on their knowledge. "One of the fundamental precepts of the program is that everything is connected and everything must be in balance," says Suzi O'Rear, the Program Director for the Leadership Institute. A former science teacher herself, O'Rear attends each weekly class and works with the Academy staff in developing and presenting the curriculum.

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## SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTE

Many of us assume that sustainable public policy is best addressed by state and federal governments. But there is much to be done close to home in our local governments and nonprofits.

This is what the Institute is all about. We educate and train community leaders: Institute Fellows are now serving on city councils and planning commissions throughout the county. These leaders are knowledgeable and passionate about sustainability, and make sure decisions about waste-water recycling, healthy air and water, and affordable housing are made with sustainability in mind.

### To continue our work we need your help. Please consider becoming a donor to the Institute.

We can help you set up an automatic donation from your bank account, a matching donation from your employer, or an annual gift that will support our programs. Call Tanya Narath at 707-578-9133 with any questions you may have about donating. You may also donate online at [www.ecoleader.org](http://www.ecoleader.org).

### Thank you for supporting our important work.

# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CLASS OF 2009 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future is an educational program that trains community leaders who want to create public policy that integrates ecology, economy and social equity into sustainable community. The seminar-style course, held once a month from August through May, inspires current and future leaders through field trips, presentations by local and regional experts, panel discussions, hands-on exercises, and a group leadership project.

Participants will deepen their understanding of key public policy issues and opportunities of Sonoma County and the North Bay, as well as gain a new vision for a more just and sustainable future. They will connect with other concerned leaders, receive a resource

binder of related readings, and develop the tools, resources and networks needed to become more effective policymakers and community leaders.

Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future is a proactive, applied educational experience, engaging participants through a class leadership project, homework and reading assignments, and an optional mentorship program that connects current students with Institute Fellows in relevant fields.

Jim Leddy, a member of the class of 2004, says, "It's an opportunity to learn more about all the incredibly diverse issues facing Sonoma County and its future."

More information about the program and an application packet are available on our website at [www.ecoleader.org/training](http://www.ecoleader.org/training).

## YOUTH TRAINING *cont. from page 1*

Peller sees this program as essential to the students' development as citizens. "I think that these students, some of them, will be the change we have waited for. It changes the way they approach their other classes, looking to see how everything really is attached to our place, our home. They recognize that their actions do matter—on the small and the big level."

Lexie Nadeau agrees. A student in the program, Nadeau says, "I think that whatever I learn throughout this process will help me have a better understanding of our environment, and will hopefully make me want to help make a change in this world."

Clare Mackie is also a student in the program. When asked what has surprised her about the program, she pointed to climate change. "Global warming isn't going to happen in like 50 or 100 years, it's happening now, and we are just sitting back letting it happen

like it's nothing, even though if we were capable of seeing the effects of global warming more easily the country would be in a state of emergency right now. We should be acting like

our world is physically burning up, because it is."

O'Rear says classroom presentations feature many of the same speakers and professionals who appear at other Leadership Institute events, with a mixture of field trips. At a recent trip to Greenstring Farm, O'Rear pointed out that "real world, on-site learning is very powerful. It makes all the difference to be at a real farm."

Mackie enjoyed the Greenstring field trip, saying, "It makes me think that I should know more about where my food comes from, and how safe it is to eat. My family and I have already started buying local foods and supporting local markets, and foods that have the organic label on them. I have also started reducing the amount of water bottles I use in my house."

Peller says this training will have a big impact. "We are finally teaching the important thing. In schools, often you teach what was taught to you. Change is slow. We are not ahead of the times in what we are doing. We should have been doing this a while ago."

Nadeau adds, "I think the most important thing I'm learning is that human beings are the only ones who can make a difference, and make our world a better place."

## SERVING OUR YOUTH

Leadership Institute Fellows serve on local school boards:

Larry Haenel, Santa Rosa City Schools

Jim Leddy, Santa Rosa City Schools

Tanya Narath, Routes for Youth Charter School

Kellie Noe, West Sonoma County Union High School District

Dennis Rosatti, Harmony Union School District

## FELLOW PROFILE: EXPANDING YOUR PERSPECTIVE

In this newsletter, we meet **Kellie Noe**, a Fellow of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.

Fellows of the Leadership Institute—those who have taken the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future—number well over 200, and are making a difference by advocating for sustainable communities that balance environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social equity. Many Fellows have chosen to serve their communities by seeking elective office. Fellows now sit on city councils and school boards throughout the county.

Kellie Noe is a Fellow of the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future, Class of 2005. She was elected to the West Sonoma County Union High School District Board of Trustees in 2006, and she now serves as the board's Vice-President.

Kellie's career has also focused on education. After receiving her BA in Psychology and Sociology from Kent State University in Ohio, she worked in adult support services for two years before relocating to Sonoma County with her husband, Dennis Rosatti.

Once established in Sonoma County, Kellie worked with the Climate Protection Campaign as a youth coordinator, and her Master's thesis at Sonoma State University resulted in the development of the current youth program at the Climate Protection Campaign. She is currently employed at New Ways to Work, which focuses on building connections that support youth as they transition to adulthood.

Kellie says her experience with the Leadership Training helps in her work and her life. "We often tend to become educated in one aspect of the community. For example, I know a lot about youth issues. The class encouraged me to think more broadly, out of the box."

Kellie was the top vote-getter in the school board election, and she attributes part of her success to the support of the Fellows network. "I announced my candidacy at our graduation event," says Noe, "and I got a lot of support from my class. People volunteered and I got financial support. The networking helps you gain valuable skills. It was definitely helpful."



“You learn to look at the broader issue of sustainability, instead of taking it issue by issue.”

Was taking the Leadership Training helpful when it came time to run for office? Kellie has always been interested in politics. "It's something I've often talked about, especially with my experience in education. I felt this would be a good place to lend my experience. Taking the Leadership Training made it a reality for me."

Kellie recommends the Leadership Training to anyone interested in public policy. "It's such a great opportunity," she says. "You may already know about these issues, but the way it's presented helps you be a more effective leader. You learn to look at the broader issue of sustainability, instead of taking it issue by issue."

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### WHY "VANGUARD?"

Its origin is Late Middle English, and was a shortening of the Old French "avant-garde"—literally, "going before the army." Nowadays, Vanguard refers to those who are in the forefront of new ideas, who lead new intellectual or political movements. We named our newsletter Vanguard to acknowledge that being out in front of change can be exhilarating and rewarding.

### NEWSLETTER

Ray Holley, Fellow, Class of 2007  
EDITOR

Kim Dow, DowHouse  
GRAPHIC DESIGN



## WORD POWER

### DISCOVER

From Middle English “make known” ... “to find something unexpectedly.” As we educate ourselves about sustainability, we will certainly discover ways to foster economic vitality, a healthy environment, and social equity, but in the process, what important things will we discover about ourselves?



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# SUSTAINABILITY MINUTE

Take a minute and learn how to create a sustainable future

Keeping track of the latest developments in sustainable public policy can be a challenge. To help you in your quest for lifelong learning, the Leadership Institute has a comprehensive collection of excellent books on topics related to sustainability. The next time you're near downtown Santa Rosa, stop by our office to check out our lending library.

Here are three recently published books we highly recommend:

*2008 State of the World: Innovations for a Sustainable Economy*, published by the Worldwatch Institute. Packed with updated information on key sustainability indicators and innovative practices emerging around the world, this is a must-read addition to our library.

*Climate Solutions: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why*. This new book by Peter Barnes, author of *Who Owns The Sky?* and *Capitalism 3.0*, is a great

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citizen's guide to the complex world of climate policy. If you're looking for a clear and concise guide to climate policies and what they will and won't do, this is the guide for you.

*Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*. In this updated version of his *Plan B* book, author Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute provides an overview of key ecological, social and economic trends. He outlines a comprehensive plan to reverse the most damaging trends and move towards a restorative economy. The entire book may be downloaded for free at [www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm](http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm).



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