



**LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE**
for ECOLOGY and the ECONOMY

VANGUARD

INSPIRING LEADERS *for* SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



The Railroad Square area in Santa Rosa, now a dusty, unused train yard, will eventually become a lively, sustainably-developed neighborhood, thanks in part to a commitment to accountable development.

BUILDING IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

Institute Fellows involved in responsible growth advocacy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, August 13
Bay Area Grand Tour of
Rail and Ferry Services

MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER:
707-578-9133

Fall 2008

Smart Growth
Symposium IV:
Sustainable Transportation
More details coming soon.

An important goal of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy is to affect public policy in ways that support the principles of social equity, economic vitality and environmental sustainability.

Fellows of the Institute—graduates of the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future—are playing key roles in the future of growth and development in Sonoma County and beyond.

A growing force in Sonoma County politics, the Accountable Development Coalition (ADC) was founded in part by Institute Fellows. Three of the original six members of the ADC Executive Committee were Fellows.

The ADC was formed in 2005 as a way to bring together advocacy groups that were working on behalf of affordable housing, social equity and environmental awareness. “It was obvious there needed to be a unified progressive front to fight

sprawl-style development and ensure that development produces high quality jobs and affordable housing, without harming the environment,” says Jessica Diaz, the Coordinator for ADC and a member of the Leadership Training’s upcoming Class of 2009.

“We wanted to try and find a middle ground, not saying no to every project, but not being cheerleaders for development either. We wanted to ask developers what they’re providing for the community,” says Michael Allen, an Institute Fellow and the Chair of the ADC.

The ADC has a big umbrella. It includes community organizations, student rights groups, unions, housing advocates, grassroots leaders, and environmental and social justice organizations, all with a collective interest in speaking up for working class people. Private investors and city governments are pouring millions into the development of Sonoma County, and ADC members work to

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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.

BUILDING IT RIGHT *cont. from page 1*

make sure that equitable and sustainable development occurs that is accountable to all segments of the population.

Michael says his experience with the Leadership Training made a positive impact on his role at ADC.

“We’re constantly dealing with trade-offs, it’s not as simple as growth vs. no-growth. You have to learn to balance the equation between protecting the environment while providing housing and jobs.”

“The first victory that demonstrated the power of all these organizations coming together was in Railroad Square in Santa Rosa,” says Jessica. The ADC got involved in the plan to redevelop the Railroad Square area, and was able to get all three prospective developers of the area to agree to sign a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), which will influence the final project in positive ways. The ADC was also successful in lobbying to have the projects include green building, affordable housing, prevailing wages for construction workers and more.

Since Railroad Square, the ADC has continued to work with Santa Rosa to improve its commitment to sound

development practices. Working with the Leadership Institute, which is a founding organizational member, the ADC was able to obtain a grant to advocate and lobby for a larger plan for that area. Santa Rosa’s Downtown Area Specific Plan encompasses a half-mile radius from Railroad Square, and specifies sustainable development and workforce housing, among other progressive attributes.

Other Fellows are involved in efforts to make development less about profit and more about community benefits. Tiffany Renee, an Institute Fellow, has been a leader in the efforts to establish the use of Community Impact Reports in Petaluma, which has three large retail projects on the horizon.

“The CIRs will look at the quality of jobs produced, the health care benefits that will be available for workers, the need for child care, and the impacts on existing businesses,” says Tiffany. CIRs can be powerful tools for communities to measure the societal impacts of large developments, and avoid “over-retailing,” which occurs when cities—eager for sales tax dollars—approve too many retail developments that can’t be sustained by local shoppers.

Institute Fellows Kit Lofroos and Claire McCarthy are working with Tiffany on the Petaluma efforts.

To find out more about the **Accountable Development Coalition**, email Jessica Diaz diaz.adc@gmail.com. To find out more about **Community Impact Reports**, contact Tiffany Renee through her website www.votefortiff.com.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CLASS SCHEDULE

Class Retreat
August, 2008

Principles of Sustainability
September, 2008

Food Systems
October, 2008

Ecosystem Services I:
Water Sources and Uses
November, 2008

Ecosystem Services II:
Energy and Waste
Management
December, 2008

Health and Education
January, 2009

Business and Economy
February, 2009

Smart Development I
March, 2009

Smart Development II
April, 2009

Leadership for Sustainable
Communities
May, 2009



INSTITUTE GRADUATES—CLASS OF 2008

Members of the recently-graduated Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future, along with Leadership Institute staff and board members, posed for a photo at the final day of the 2007–2008 class.

The class comprised more than 30 members, from all walks of life, who devoted nine months to learning about sustainability in the areas of environmental sustainability, economic vitality and social justice.

FELLOW PROFILE: A WELL-ROUNDED VIEW

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

When Karen Douglas, a member of the powerful California Energy Commission appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger, wants information on land use, climate change or energy efficiency, she turns to her staff adviser, Panama Bartholomy, a Fellow of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.

Panama, 32, is a product of Humboldt County and received his degree in Restorative Development there. He was in Sacramento three years ago, working for the California Conservation Corps, when he searched the Internet for information about leadership training opportunities. "I stumbled across the Leadership Institute," he says, "and applied for the next class."

He was accepted, and graduated from the Leadership Training for a Sustainable Future, Class of 2005. "It was very valuable training, one of the few training opportunities that provide this depth of knowledge," says Panama. "It was really encouraging to meet current community leaders as well as future leaders."

Panama says he appreciates the Institute's willingness to listen to, and give a voice to, a plurality of viewpoints. "They didn't bring in all folks from the same stance. There were a variety of backgrounds, and not everyone agreed," he says. "Sometimes we get too com-



“ The Leadership Training instilled in me the importance of taking a more well-rounded view of issues... It helps me learn to engage with a different opinion and work towards a common solution.”

fortable and just spend time with the people we agree with. We need to focus on other points of view.”

Will the Leadership Training have an impact on how he does his job and lives his life? "It instilled in me the importance of taking a more well-rounded view of issues. When I'm working on a policy initiative it helps me focus on the triple bottom line (People, Planet, Profits)."

Panama adds, "It helps me learn to engage with a different opinion and work towards a common solution, and not always demonize the other side."

FELLOWS ON THE MOVE

Jenny Blaker, Fellow '03: The outreach coordinator for Cotati Creek Critters was honored as Cotati's Citizen of the Year by the Cotati Chamber of Commerce in February 2008

Daisy Pistey-Lyhne, Fellow '06: Recognized as 2008 Environmentalist of the Year by the Sonoma County Conservation Council

Suzi O'Rear, Fellow '08: The Director of the Leadership Institute's Sonoma

Academy Connections Program received Environmental Program of the Year award from Sonoma County Conservation Council

Maitreyi Siruguri, Fellow '07: The Director of the Cool Schools Program received Environmental Program of the Year award from Sonoma County Conservation Council

Jennifer Thille, Fellow '05: Appointed to Sebastopol City Council in May 2008

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Holley, Fellow, Class of 2007
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GRAPHIC DESIGN



WORD POWER

GROWTH

We value the growth of ideas, plants, and children, but we feel less certain about the growth of the built environment. We are encouraged by the growth of coalitions between environmental and labor groups. The best way to address an uneasy feeling about a word might be to reclaim it. What are the benefits of the right kind of growth in your community?



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SUSTAINABILITY MINUTE

Take a minute and learn how to create a sustainable future

“Where did you go on your vacation?” is a question many of us would like to answer with the name of an exotic beach town or foreign country. Traveling by air is a regular habit of American life. Unfortunately, the pollution caused by air travel is a serious problem in our atmosphere, and a significant cause of global warming.

So where can we get similar satisfactions and bragging rights closer to home? Try translating your international wish list into a West Coast destination—Southern California beaches, desert wildlife walks and redwood forest hikes are all beautiful and rewarding experiences. Try Solvang instead of Denmark, or the Ashland Shakespeare Festival instead of Stratford on Avon. If you have to go to New York on business, combine the trip with an East Coast vacation.

Be mindful of the ecological cost of flying and consider alternatives. The

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pollution from flying approximately equals that of driving the same distance in a car that gets 2 to 5 miles per gallon. Trains use a fraction of the fuel of planes and can be a lot more fun. And of course there is wonderful biking and walking right here in Sonoma County.

People traveled widely and lived amazingly rich lives long before flying. Most of the world’s people have never flown. It surely is not an essential ingredient to an enjoyable life.



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