

WELL NEWSLETTER – August 3, 2006

Please consider running for election to WELL's newly forming Coordinating Committee. See the bottom of the newsletter for more information.

Calendar of WELL Events

August 3 (and 10) – Class: Build a Model – don't miss this if you're interested in building or models!

6-9pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.

Join inventor, renewable energy expert and model builder Phil Jergenson for this two part class. Participants will explore materials, scale, construction and techniques for model building. Land models (contour models) and building models will both be covered. The class will include construction of a model of the REDI site, which includes three buildings. Hands-on. Pre-registration required. Donation requested. Call: Phil for details and registration: 459.1256.

August 6 – Willits Wellness Network Monthly Meeting

Noon – 2pm, 130 Tuttle Lane or 475 E. Valley

An opportunity for health care providers to connect, for all those interested in promoting the localization of community, public, social, mental, environmental and natural health, the sourcing of natural remedies and medical supplies, health education, etc. Call Diane: 456.9514, for more information.

August 7 – Special Plenary Meeting

6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.

The first part of this meeting will include hand-outs with statements from each of the candidates running for election to WELL's first Coordinating Committee as well as a discussion of the process for this election (to be held September 11). See the Governance Document for more details.

The second part of the evening will be an inspiring presentation by the six community members who recently attended the BALLE (Business Alliance for Local, Living Economies) conference in Vermont. These people are on fire and full of ideas for our town. Don't miss it.

August 9 – Workshop: Energy Audits

6-8pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.

Please note: the date of this class is different than noted on the poster. This is the correct date.

Learn to perform an Energy Audit on your own home. Study an audit and see the building it refers to. Pre-registration required, donation requested. Contact George: 459.1256

August 10 (and 3) – Class: Build a Model

6-9pm, REDI House – 121 W. Commercial St.

Join inventor, renewable energy expert and model builder Phil Jergenson for this two part class. Participants will explore materials, scale, construction and techniques for model building. Land models (contour models) and building models will both be covered. The class will include construction of a model of the REDI site, which includes three buildings. Hands-on. Pre-registration required. Donation requested. Call: Phil for details and registration: 459.1256.

**August 21 – Speaker Event: Chuck Henderson presents CONICS
6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.**

Leveraging sustainability with geometry – making the case for constant curvature: Local inventor and designer Chuck Henderson will discuss his experimentation with multi-conic shells – plywood roof structures which require no rafters because the plywood shell is in constant curvature.

For those working with cob, papercrete, straw bale and other alternative wall designs, Conics may well prove a viable solution to the problem of creating safe, lightweight and beautiful roof structures.

The evening will include slides and video clips and time for Questions and Answers.

August 17 – Film: “Ecological Design”

7 pm, Little Lake Health Center – 45 Hazel Street, Willits – [please note the venue](#)

This is a classic film with footage of Buckminster Fuller, and other early architects of sustainable housing, including a fantastic segment showing *closed system* housing in a geodesic dome.

The opening sequences of *Ecological Design: Inventing the Future* contrast the ecologically-conscious value system - and living shelters - of nature-based peoples with the materialistic basis of industrial society and its resultant urban sprawl. Fuller's ideas and inventions spawned a design revolution whose impact continues to grow along with popular awareness of the need for sustainable living systems.
SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$5.

September 4 – Labor Day Picnic

Noontime, Willits City Park

Bring a picnic and your family to this informal, summertime gathering.

September 10 - Willits Wellness Network Monthly Meeting

Noon – 2pm, 130 Tuttle Lane or 475 E. Valley

An opportunity for health care providers to connect, for all those interested in promoting the localization of community, public, social, mental, environmental and natural health, the sourcing of natural remedies and medical supplies, health education, etc. Call Diane: 456.9514, for more information.

September 11 – Coordinating Committee elections

6:30pm, Willits Community Center

Come VOTE, or be voted for, WELL's first Coordinating Committee! See the Governance Document for more details.

September 25: Speaker Event: Garden & Farm Presentations

6:30pm, Willits Community Center – 121 E. Commercial St.

Other Events

Communicate with your local representatives

Congressman Mike Thompson is holding a Barbeque on Friday, August 18. This is an excellent chance for WELL supporters to show up and talk with him about what is happening in Willits and how he can help. For more details please see the following link: <http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/ThompsonBarbeque.pdf> or call 707.226.8989.

Cities for Climate Protection Campaign comes home.

“The Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP) Campaign enlists cities to adopt policies and implement measures to achieve quantifiable reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban livability and sustainability. More than 650 local governments participate in the CCP, integrating climate change mitigation into their decision-making processes.” (From the ICLEI website – see the link below.)

The Willits City Council will decide whether or not to sign this resolution on **Wednesday, August 23**.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Resource Committee will address the same topic next **Monday, August 14**.

WELL officially endorses this initiative at both levels. You can read a lot about this at the following website: <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=800>

If you would like to call your Supervisor or send a letter of support, here is some contact information:

Board of Supervisors Office

501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090

Ukiah, CA 95482

bos@co.mendocino.ca.us

(707) 463-4221

(707) 463-4245 Fax

To express yourself to **city council members**, please use the following contact information:

Tami Jorgensen, Mayor tjorgensen@willitsonline.com

Ron Orenstein, Vice Mayor rborenstein@saber.net

Karen Oslund, Council Member koslund@instawave.com

Holly Madrigal, Council Member one_visionary@yahoo.com
Denny McEntire, Council Member dennym@harwoodp.com

111 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-4601

Some points to make in your statement could include the following:

- Climate change severely threatens the economy and health of California.
- To prevent the worst effects of climate change requires that total consumption of fossil fuels be systematically reduced, year after year.
- The public needs leadership and coordination to create an energy efficient, renewable-based economy.
- Making these changes will give us greater economic diversity and stability, and a cleaner and quieter environment.
- Mendocino County has the knowledge base to work across public and private sectors to make this happen.

If you want to learn more about climate change see the latest articles at:
www.energybulletin.net

Other News

Sumo will be greatly missed

I am passing on this invitation from Sumo's daughter. WELL extends deep sympathy to Sumo's friends and family, we are grateful for all he offered to WELL as we were in our formative stages, and for all he gave to so many fledgling community groups.

I am so sad to write and inform you that my wonderful Poppa, Sumo, passed away last Friday the 21st. On Sunday August 20th we will hold a Memorial Service at the Saturday Afternoon Club (where his 60th birthday party was held) starting at 1pm with a pot luck and continuing on until who knows when. You are very welcome to attend and share with us your memories of him.

If you have the urge to write something special or have special photos that you'd like to send in advance I will be putting together a scrap book about him.

I hope to see you in about a month!

For my Daddy Sumo,
Freeda Alida Burnstad

Freeda Alida Burnstad, Program Director
Cloud Forest Institute
PO Box 1435

Food Security

There is an excellent article recently posted on the Energy Bulletin website that talks about Peak Oil and community food security. Of course, Willits is mentioned. It is worth a read.

<http://www.energybulletin.net/18521.html>

Peak Moment: Community Responses For a Changing Energy Future are weekly 28-minute programs featuring host Janaia Donaldson's (recent RLNC participant) conversations and on-site tours with guests. It highlights practical solutions and responses towards a lower-energy, more connected, sustainable life. *How can we thrive, build stronger communities, and help one another in this time of transition?* Many of these segments feature our own community members. You can watch them at the following link if you have a high-speed connection: <http://www.globalpublicmedia.com/specials/712>

Website news

Suzie continue to make the WELL website more user friendly. Check it out at

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org>

The most recent addition is a brief overview of WELL and where our organization is at. This document is fairly short and worth a read:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/WELLStatusReport.pdf>

Get Involved

WELL is a volunteer based organization. Our staff time pales in comparison with the dedicated efforts of all of you. Now that we are bringing our governance work to a close, we need volunteers to fill many of the roles we have created. If we are able to find steady and committed people to help, what we can accomplish in the next year is impressive. Take a look at the Governance Document to see which Team you might like to join. Reading the Strategic Plan will give you an idea of what each Team will be working on in the next year.

An important contribution you can make to WELL is to commit to a 6 month term on the newly forming **Coordinating Committee**. If you are interested in this and would like more information, you can read the draft Governance Document: or you can call the office for information. The deadline for candidate statement submissions has been extended until **Sunday, August 6 at 10pm**. Anyone familiar with WELL and passionate about our organization is encouraged to apply. In order to move towards more gender balance on our committee – we are especially encouraging **women** to run for election.

If you are interested in serving on the Coordinating Committee, please email me (or drop off) your candidate statement. You can use the simple form found on our website:

<http://www.willitseconomiclocalization.org/CandidateStatementForm.pdf>, or you can just print

your name, full contact information and a few sentences (brief!) about why you'd like to serve.

Office Note:

If you would like to be taken off this mailing list, please let me know and I will gladly oblige.

spring@redinet.org

Spring Senerchia, Office Manager

Willits Economic Localization - WELL

Renewable Energy Development Institute - REDI

75 N. Main St. PMB 234

Willits, CA 95490

707.459.1256