



The Urban Ecology NEWSLETTER

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UEA Update & news from the Convenor

STOP PRESS
New website up soon!

Everyone knows that there has been a tremendous flurry of activity around the development of the Christie Walk DVD which is now available. (see p 2)

Incorporated into the DVD is a CD containing the information from the book "Moving towards Urban Sustainability". Many thanks to all who worked on this but particularly Simon Fisher, Norm and Margaret Rohde and Joan Carlin. Plans are for a launch in April.

We therefore have a deadline to get our new website operational as we start selling the DVDs. Simon Loffler from New Internationalist has been engaged to provide the technical support and a sub-committee will finalise the detail. The information pertaining directly to Christie Walk was provided by residents.

Apart from the usual tours there will be mayoral visits, Mayor Kirsten Alexander from Charles Sturt Council will be visiting, some of her constituents, the friends of the St Clair open space have already visited, so it will be interesting to see if any of the controversial developments that will be occurring in that council area take on any of the principles of sustainability. A land owner from Mt Barker will also visit to get some insights into possibilities other than the usual developer's unsustainable eyesores.

Steffen Lehmann, Professor of Sustainable Design, and Director of a Research Centre at the University of South Australia in the School of Art, Architecture and Design, will be visiting. Steffen was appointed to a full professorship (Research Professor) and Directorship of the new Research Centre for Sustainable Design and Behaviour in April 2010. This Research Centre is co-funded by the Government of South Australia, Zero Waste

SA, and part of the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences: www.unisa.edu.au and also the Appointed UNESCO Chair holder in Sustainable Urban Development for Asia and the Pacific, by UNESCO Paris.

UEA is looking to engage an office worker, the board has been stretched to capacity with so much of the work being voluntary. We will look at contracting a competent person with the requisite skills for 10 hours/ operational week. We will keep you posted on that.

At the AGM Dr Matt Fisher rejoined the board and has expressed an interest in developing and exploring the intersection between UEA's primary interests and skills in ecological cities and sustainability, and concerns of human health and welfare from within the area of public health. Matt now works as a researcher in public health at Flinders University, and reports that there is a large and growing interest from that direction in the physical and mental health effects of urban environments, and of climate change. Ideas about designing urban environments for sustainability and for public health also have many overlaps. See Matt's article on p7. This is a relatively new area for UEA and has some very exciting opportunities.

Dr Ingo Weber from *Doctors for the Environment* spoke along those lines at our end of year function and he too has expressed interest in developing relationships in this area.

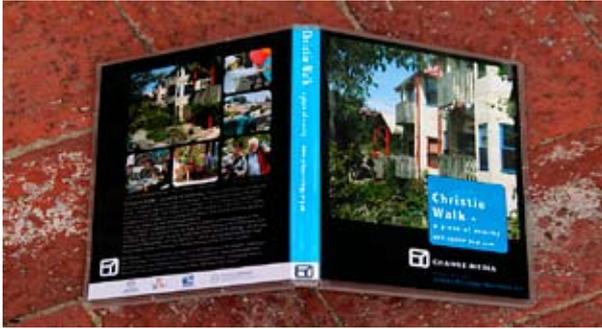
Sue Gilbey and Andrew Tidswell went to a forum / master class entitled Just Sustainability with the focus being social justice. It was run from UNI SA by Prof Julian Agyeman from Tuft University Boston and was fascinating in as much its content, its presentation but even more so the discussion points it elicited. Everyone present including many PhD students agreed to exchange emails and continue the discussion and Julian is looking forward to visiting Christie Walk. (see p 5)

Finally I am going to be away most of March. I am going first to India where I am meeting with various peace and sustainability groups, then off to Bangladesh where I am speaking at a conference and meeting with the group Change Makers also featured in this newsletter then back to Delhi where I will be staying with the Dalai Lama's sister, (how cool is that!) and finally off to Kolkata to meet with an associate of Paul Downton, Santosh Ghosh, who is a professor at the University of Calcutta and there I will present a PowerPoint of UEA. There may well be possibilities of internships coming from this.

Cheers
Sue Gilbey

UEA Update

Innovative DVD/CD learning resource brings environmental and sustainability issues into clear focus.



UEA is well known in SA schools for its educational tours of Christie Walk. Now we are pleased to announce the availability of a high-quality **virtual tour** resource pack that supports learning about sustainability.

The purpose of the resource is to provide inspiration and practical examples of a more sustainable way of living with messages for a wide range of people – primary, secondary and tertiary students, architects, builders, environmentalists and others with an interest in community and the interaction of natural- and built- environments.

Comprising a powerful, engaging DVD and a companion CD (e-book), this new duo-pack is an ideal springboard for meaningful learning about environment, impacts of climate change and what it means to live more sustainably.

The **DVD: Christie Walk ... a piece of ecocity**, is divided into two segments:

1. An introductory 10 minute overview which outlines the multiple community and environmental benefits of eco-cities. It includes interviews with Paul Downton and Cherie Hoyle. To view this segment visit: www.urbanecology.org.au
2. Christie Walk – a closer look segment (35mins) is a virtual tour of Christie Walk, integrating the environmental themes of: energy, water, recycling, biodiversity, food, transport, (energy-efficient) building design and the role of community.

The DVD provides a practical and heart-warming look at what living more sustainably really 'looks like' and 'feels like'.

The comprehensive CDROM: *Moving Towards Urban Sustainability*, provides a wide range of ideas and activities, photoboards, movie transcripts, a radio interview and relevant weblinks. (Many of the activity sheets are in reproducible format and are suitable for schools or family or community group use).

Background to the DVD

Like many new initiatives at UEA the idea of a DVD 'jumped out' from a group discussion about the tours. There has always been an issue about schools that cannot afford, financially or time-wise, to come into the city. By developing a movie we could make a virtual experience available to anyone and anywhere (so, it has a national market ... in schools and beyond!)

The UEA Board asked Simon Fisher, who is a resident of Christie Walk and a tour guide, to manage the project and he took it from there, beginning with a search for a suitable DVD production company. Simon and a few Board members selected **Change Media** because their philosophy aligned well with UEA's commitment to social justice and equity and they had a track record in producing high-quality audio-visual resources. **Change Media's** emphasis on a collaborative, inclusive, 'workshop-based' process ... with lots of community involvement, also appealed.

A small team volunteered to be the project facilitators and they then effectively welded the Christie Walk residents and several near neighbours into a team of key players and a supporting cast. Over four days of filming, the movie gradually evolved to become a beautifully crafted resource.

UEA and **Change Media** wish to acknowledge the generous support of the following:

Key Partners - Arts SA and Adelaide Mt. Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

Supporting Partners - Adelaide City Council, SA Water, Zero Waste SA, Global Education Centre (SA) and CSR Hebel.

This highly successful production would not have been possible without the magnificent contribution of time (more than 730 volunteer hours) and talents of Christie Walkers and their friends.

***Special Price \$25 for UEA members (non-members \$49). Plus postage & handling \$8.**

To order a resource pack ph: 08 8212 6760

e: urbanec@urbanecology.org.au

Recent tours of Christie Walk

There have been a number of Christie Walk tours in addition to the regular monthly tours.

These include:

- Singapore University
- Calgary (Canada) University post graduate students
- Carnegie Mellon University (also post grad students)

- Scotch College - regular tour every year
- Blackwood Uniting Church group
- Australian Geography Teachers Conference - 36 teachers from around Australia
- Group of Parliamentarians from WA Legislative Assembly

Small Town Big Impact (Solar) Change

One year ago I put a fair bit of money where my mouth is and installed both solar hot water and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on my roof. I had done a fair bit of general PV homework and had researched becoming an electricity 'exporter', where I regularly generate more electricity than I use.

Some 'nuts & bolts' for those that like to see the numbers. After all rebates were in, I had paid some \$22,500 for both the solar hot water and PV.

Was it worth it? It was all worth it when I received my first 'new' electricity bill. My eyes went to those places we all go to when reading any bill; the date to pay and the amount to be paid, (usually followed by adjectives such as "ouch" and/or a desire to read the riot act to beloved family members!).

I looked, I looked again. Where's the date to pay?!

The date to pay section was blank, because I was in credit with my electricity retailer. The PV panels had made more electricity than I had used over the quarter and I was now eligible for a cheque. What?! A retailer paying me?? It was a weird feeling, but I rapidly grew to like it!

It was worth it with the realisation that any electricity being generated by the panels (that I wasn't using) didn't go all the way back to Torrens Island power station. Instead it went to the very first 'need'. If my neighbours in my street turned on the kettle, did their washing, worked on the computer; my panels were providing the electricity.

This was a revelation to me. When I told others, they had their own "Aha" moment. We don't think of electricity coming from anywhere but over lines from a long way away. We don't think of it being generated 'in-house' so to speak.

In my first 12 months I generated 7,655 kilowatt/hours for an average of 21 kW/hours per day over the whole year. I exported a whopping 92% of this, some 19.4 kW/hours per

day. Every kW/hour exported attracts a Feed in Tariff (FIT) of \$0.52. I had become an energy exporter from my own solar power station! And to really help me feel good, this translated to a payback period for both solar hot water and PV of 6 years.

Now, this is all great for me, but beyond my own household there is the wider community experience & this I find really exciting.

I live a long way away from Christie Walk; in Truro, which is on the lip of the Barossa Valley, where rainfall starts to run into the Murray River. It turns out that Truro is becoming a kind of solar town; there are 16 households in Truro with PV systems. This equates to 13% of households and a generation capacity of some 45 kilowatts!

These households are seeing massive changes in their bills too. Some have a reduction, some a 'zero' bill and quite a few others are in the same boat as myself. This is all money that is coming back to be spent in these households and in the community.

These households are also powering most of 'daytime' Truro with their exports. I sense that this is happening all across the Barossa & wider Adelaide.

This type of change has momentum and an amazing potential for leverage. We need to be aware of the cumulative changes being made by purchasing solar PV systems, both to household incomes and to powering their local streets & community.

We also need to be aware that the rapidly increasing numbers of solar PV systems being purchased makes it easier and cheaper for the next households and so on. At present, the 'naysayers' still have some ammunition (in terms of cost and subsidies) but those days, I believe, are drawing to a close.

Glenn Christie

Is Adelaide Australia's leading green city?

Adelaide is turning out to be Australia's green leading city. Council has installed an electric vehicle charging station at the central market car park that is supplied by locally generated low-emission electricity. Adelaide Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood says the public charging station (in what is believed to be a world first) is powered by an innovative Australian-developed fuel cell.

This enables city shoppers to recharge their electric vehicles from low emission sources rather than carbon intensive power from the electricity grid.

The new station is free to users and can charge two vehicles at a time.

"This initiative reinforces the City of Adelaide's role as a leader in environmental sustainability and new technology," Stephen says.

"This project is a sign of things to come as we move towards a cleaner and greener future for our beautiful city."

The ChargePoint recharging station's BlueGen ceramic fuel cell will be able to generate at least 12,500 kilowatt hours of clean electricity each year. Excess power not required for vehicle recharging will be fed into the grid.

This is enough to power the average South Australian home and two electric cars travelling 15,000 kilometres each per year."

Excellent article in Canada's National Post exposing how car-dependence and violent crime make suburban and rural living much more dangerous for children than city life:

<http://tinyurl.com/4gxjqd2>

Reducing energy consumption, the example of Bangladesh

The chapter below was sent by Sue Gilbey and is edited from the ChangeMaker website (see below)

The practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use and harvest energy, water, and materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, through better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal — [is all part of] the complete building life cycle.

If society could reduce its use of energy, [it] would reduce the burning of fossil fuels, the threat of climate change and other damaging impacts of energy production and supply. Yet many of the things most closely associated with 'progress' – sustained increases in living standards, rising longevity, large gains in health and welfare, increased opportunities to travel – have been associated with increasing consumption of energy.

In Bangladesh, energy consumption rose through the 20th century, driven by the rising output of goods and services and growth in population, household numbers, personal travel and freight transport. But while primary energy consumption increased by 24% between 1965 and 1998 and final energy consumption by 16%, Bangladesh's real gross domestic product rose by 147% over the same period. A progressive reduction in energy intensity is a worldwide phenomenon, and largely a response to the continual pressure to cut costs by reducing the amount of material and energy used to produce services and goods.

Over and above improvements in the efficiencies with which energy is used by individuals, businesses and public bodies at the stage of final consumption, further very large reductions in the total use of energy, that is use of primary energy, could be achieved by cutting losses within the energy system, for example by greater use of combined heat and power plants.

[In this chapter] we consider whether it would be possible to enhance the trend of declining energy intensity to the point where energy use begins a gradual, sustained decline without unacceptable effects on the quality of life, including social equity and cohesion. A distinction must be drawn at the outset between 'energy conservation' and 'energy efficiency'.

A distinction must be drawn ... between 'energy conservation' and 'energy efficiency'.

The former implies reductions in the consumption of energy services. That could be achieved simply by 'making do' with less energy – by turning thermostats down and tolerating lower temperatures, for instance. The latter implies obtaining more useful heat, light or work from each unit of energy supplied, either as a result of technological improvements

or by reducing waste; in other words, obtaining the same services with less use of energy. We consider that attempts to protect the environment and prevent climate change based principally on exhorting people to make sacrifices in comfort, pleasure and convenience in order to consume less energy are unlikely to succeed.

There is a strong economic argument in favor of raising energy efficiency. Repeated analyses have shown that in every sector of the economy large quantities of energy are wasted and that apparently highly cost-effective investments for making energy savings are forgone. Improvements in energy efficiency also offer environmental benefits which extend beyond curbing greenhouse gas emissions and other fossil fuel-related pollutants. Nuclear power and renewable energy resources have environmental impacts which can be lessened if energy consumption is reduced. If, furthermore, new energy-saving technologies can be transferred to developing nations this may enable them to raise standards of living while avoiding some of the environmental damage previously associated with industrialization.

ChangeMaker | House 8, Road 13 (New), Suite F-3,
Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209, Bangladesh. Phone: +(880-2)
8159970, 9126784, Fax: +(880-2) 8110254

From Professor Ian Lowe: (ACF newsletter 12 Jan 2011)

'The Queensland floods are another reminder of what climate science has been telling us for 25 years. As well as a general warming and increasing sea levels, it predicted more frequent extreme events: floods, droughts, heatwaves and severe bushfires.'

Just Sustainabilities

“Re-imagining (e)quality, living within limits”



Professor Julian Agyeman presented a seminar / masterclass at the University of SA Hawke Research Institute on February 17th with the above somewhat cryptic title. He is Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University in Boston USA.

The presentation / discussion considered re-imagining the way

we could live, incorporating a full integration of social justice and environmental sustainability.

He defines a **Just Sustainability** as “the need to ensure a better quality of life for all, now and into the future, in a just and equitable manner, whilst living within the limits of supporting ecosystems”.

The problem: ‘how do we balance environmental quality with human equality?’

A big task given the significant inequality that exists in most societies, but he maintains that environmental degradation is almost always linked to questions of social justice, equity, rights and people’s quality of life in the widest sense.

The participants on the day covered a range of disciplines from the built environment to the social sciences (with a number undertaking PhD studies) and a range of interests from indigenous issues to sustainable communities. It was unique and encouraging to see such diversity tackling this topic.

Professor Agyeman encouraged positive thinking, imaging ‘the possible’. Too often we forecast a future by projecting forward the problems of today.

Imaging the possible is to pick the future scenario we want and back-cast to determine how we get there and the steps we need to take along the way. We need a vision of how things could be rather than a plan to deal with the current and projected problems.

Oakland, California has pursued a program of ‘just sustainability’ working towards integrating environmental issues with healthy human habitats as the central aim. It is their ‘urban ecology’ approach which guides physical and social planning and development patterns for all communities.

Professor Agyeman considers that a ‘just sustainability’ in practice would include the following aspects:

1. Planning for intercultural cities, where we celebrate cultural diversity and proactively leverage the benefits rather than merely tolerating and managing the diversity.
2. Environmental space and fair shares, a place which lies between our current unsustainable over-consumption and the minimum needed for subsistence. This is a challenge for us to accept that there are limits to constantly increasing consumption, and that we need to voluntarily reduce our consumption before others force us to.
3. Well-being and happiness, where it is important to focus on and measure what really matters in life; health (not merely an absence of disease), time (work-life balance), education that promotes flourishing, and social well-being. Generally we only measure things where there is money transacted and that becomes the measure of well-being.
4. Urban agriculture / food justice. Some cities are re-inventing themselves incorporating urban agriculture to reduce food miles, improve food security and build local resilience. Food is an important entry point for cultural, social and intergenerational engagement and can be a useful driver of change.
5. Spatial justice in open spaces and streets, means providing appropriate open spaces for all people, not only for recreation purposes but for all activities. Streets need to be democratised to make them available for a variety of uses, not just for cars. The streetscape is the public space that most people interact with on a daily basis.

Environmental quality and human (e)quality are inextricably linked and our policies and actions must consider these together to deliver ‘just sustainabilities’ to all citizens. They are not separate issues, and no public action should disproportionately disadvantage any particular social group.

This is also part of our core vision in Urban Ecology Australia: “the transformation of human settlements into ecological cities – vibrant, equitable, socially supportive, ecologically sustaining and economically viable communities”.

Andrew Tidswell

PS - Julian paid a quick visit to Christie Walk before he left Adelaide and was suitably impressed, particularly with the way it has functioned over so long as a vibrant working community. He provided some useful advice as to how we can better leverage the success of this place in the rest of the city, and he wants to continue a relationship with UEA including the potential to send students from the USA here.

“Ecovillages are the newest and most potent kind of intentional community. They unite two profound truths: human life is at its best in small, supportive, healthy communities and the only sustainable path for humanity is in the recovery and refinement of traditional community life.”

Dr Robert J Rosenthal, Professor of Philosophy, Hanover College

Adelaide Sustainable Building Network

This is a group of architects, building designers, and people interested in a sustainable built environment that now meet regularly to network and share information, something Adelaideans are very good at.

They meet at 5:30pm on the second Wednesday every few months at Higher Ground Art Café, 9–15 Light Square, Adelaide (the old Night Train place).

Contact the group at the email address below to be put on the mailing list for future dates.

The first event for 2011 was on 9th February with a talk by Susan Schuller, an environmental sociologist from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in Canberra and Manager of the 'Your Home Technical Manual'. She is keen for feedback on the current fourth edition of the Manual and also wants contributions for the next edition to be published later this year.

New information desired includes:

- New case studies.
- Updates of existing projects, including how houses perform having been lived in for a period of time
- Feedback on the checklists.
- How to make the information more widely accepted by the community and industry.

So if anyone wants to contribute information or provide feedback go to the website and the 'contacts – comments/ suggestions' page: (www.yourhome.gov.au).

The manual is a 'hidden gem' of information, and should be better recognized and more widely used. It includes an important case study of Christie Walk for medium density development, and our own Paul Downton was one of the principal authors of the manual.

The February event also included a presentation by Dr Helen Bennetts a local architect on her experiences with sustainable design including pioneering work with the University of Adelaide and local Councils about retrofits and redevelopments to improve the performance of the existing built environment. She encouraged those involved in the design and building industry to become educators in more sustainable design, from the science of materials to how spaces are used to improve the performance of our housing stock. And those that understand these things well must make it their mission to educate others.

If you are interested in attending future events (they are free!) contact the Adelaide Sustainable Building Network at: sust.buildingpechakucha@adam.com.au

Andrew Tidswell

Cities, climate change & health

As a member of Urban Ecology and in other parts of my life I have always taken a strong interest in the social and human dimensions of sustainability and 'ecological cities'.

I think most UEA supporters would agree that the idea of a genuinely sustainable form of life in cities is as much about promoting a better quality of human life, health and social relations as it is about protecting and restoring ecological systems.

Recently I have started work in the area of public health at Flinders University, and this has added to this picture; because it has given me greater awareness of a whole dimension of public health research and advocacy which is addressing issues of climate change, urbanisation and planning specifically as health issues. Indeed, climate change is now overtly recognized by the World Health Organisation and many others as one of the most significant threats to human health, and already contributing to illness or premature death for millions of people each year, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Health is affected by climate change in two ways. Firstly, there are direct effects such as increased exposure of localised populations to extreme weather events (such as the recent Queensland floods). However, the larger overall impacts are likely to occur through indirect effects of climate change in

areas such as food and water supplies, living conditions in cities and coastal areas, displacement of populations and the spread of some contagious diseases.

On the more positive side, there is also a rapidly growing focus on cities as the place where a majority of human being now live, and as the places where mitigation and adaptation to climate change must occur. And here I think it is becoming more clear everyday that the measures to improve the sustainability of urban environments are, in many instances, also measures to promote and preserve public health.

A recent issue of the Lancet contained a series of articles identifying measures which would produce gains in both health and climate change mitigation/adaptation, and many of these focused on city environments. So, for these kinds of reasons, I think it is clear that 'environment' organisations like UEA (with a specific focus on city environments) and others, and public 'health' organisations have many areas of common concern and interest, and opportunities for constructive collaboration.

<http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-and-climate-change>
<http://www.who.int/globalchange/en/>

Matt Fisher

Web Wanderings with Wayne

www.ecovoice.com.au

Eco Voice was mentioned in the last UEA newsletter but I think I'll mention it every time because it is packed with good information for the environmentally conscious and comes out every month. It is based in Adelaide.

www.ecology.com

This one looks interesting too. Two of the clickable headings are ECOLOGY TV and ECOLOGY RADIO

<http://www.planetdan.net/pics/misc/georgie.htm>

Nothing to do with ecology but fascinating graphics. When George Bush gets stuck you can get him going again by giving him the flick with your mouse. There are many versions of this game.

<http://www.treesforlife.org.au/home>

This is the address for the SA branch of Trees for Life.

Cruxcatalyst

Tireless roving reporter Sharon Ede, who is a long-term UEA member and Zero Waste SA worker, sends regular bulletins to a large mailing list from Cruxcatalyst.

The Cruxcatalyst website / blogspot is at <http://www.cruxcatalyst.blogspot.com/> and the banner atop the home page reads:

Sustainability stories collected and curated by an Antipodean sustainability transmitter and sponge, advocate of the just and ethical, appreciator of the unusual, humorous and odd...

It is well worth a read. Some recent introductory paragraphs include:

Changing Models of Ownership

Posted: 15 Feb 2011 05:35 AM PST

Excerpt from Shareable, 8 February 2011 'From cars to CDs, houses to handbags, people are no longer aspiring to own. Belongings which used to be the standard by which to measure personal success, status, and security are increasingly being borrowed, traded, swapped, or simply left on the shelf. Various factors – arguably the most important being an increasingly connected and digitally networked

Communicating Climate Change to Mass Audiences

Posted: 15 Feb 2011 04:57 AM PST

Sourced from the Public Interest Research Centre website, 14 February 2011 'The Climate Change Communication Advisory Group (CCCAG) is made up of a diverse range of individuals from academia and the third sector, with expertise in climate change communication and engagement. CCCAG's aim is to use current academic research and practitioner-based expertise to best inform

Growth vs Development

Posted: 09 Feb 2011 07:08 AM PST

Dennis Meadows gives a very clear, simple presentation of the sustainability challenge, with a focus on growth, peak oil and the possibility of collapse...Dr. Meadows made this video in Davos, Switzerland in September 2009, when he was there to participate in the World Resources Forum. Sourced from The Oil Drum, 1 March 2010 'I am Dennis Meadows. I was for many years a professor in different

WikiLeaks Cables - Have Saudi Arabia's Oil Reserves Been Overstated?

Posted: 09 Feb 2011 06:29 AM PST

For those of you going 'what does this mean? - it means oil and all the things that depend on it (like food, travel, petrol etc) will become much less affordable much sooner than expected...what are our leaders doing about transitioning? Reposted in full from The Guardian, 8 February 2011 'The US fears that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude oil exporter, may not have enough reserves to....

Paris may ban large, high-emissions vehicles from its city center: <http://is.gd/EfpcrP>

Ecocities Illustrated - your help needed

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Ecocity Builders and I (Richard Register) are collaborating with *Kickstarter*, an up-and-coming internet startup, to launch a community-funded educational project.

We're seeking to raise funds to enable me to finish my ecocity design sketch book, ECOCITIES ILLUSTRATED.

Kickstarter is all or nothing: If we cannot secure at least \$3,500 by March 23rd, you will not be charged.

THE BOOK

I coined the term "ecocity" about 35 years ago and have been steadily amassing a repertoire of sketches that seek to explore and describe the concept and design approach. The book will highlight about 150 of my original ecocity related drawings, both color and black and white. The sketches are arranged according to topic, including whole cities, plazas, transport, natural features, mapping, ecocity fractals, basic principles and strategies for communicating, among others.

You can help me finish the project AND get rewards, including copies of the book once it's published (likely sometime later this year or early in 2012).

Visit <http://kck.st/fpZlqi>

By pledging on this Kickstarter page you are giving me the support I need to complete this project, a first of its kind.

The money raised will fund the time the time I need to finish the project, which includes creating the chapter text and illustrations, captions and draft layout, as well as my time for working with the publisher on the final layout and ensuring that there is a good promotional plan in place once the book is published.

YOUR PART

By contributing, you take an active part in the book design and development process.

And please help spread the word on Twitter and Facebook using this url:

<http://kck.st/fpZlqi>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Richard Register

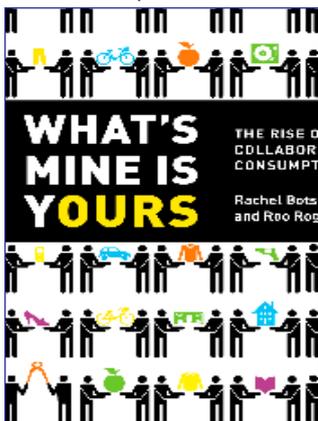
Ecocity Builders

Other reports from Web/TV watchers/ Radio listeners! and we'd like to hear from readers who have come across interesting links, web sites or you Tube videos on urban ecology topics.

<http://www.nextworldtv.com/videos/shelter/small-house-society-.html>

Interesting clip about living in a smaller house:

http://www.ted.com/talks/rachel_botsman_the_case_for_collaborative_consumption.html



... is author Rachel Botsman's TED talk on the rise of Collaborative Consumption, detailing her study of how social media are enabling more sharing and reducing individual consumption.

The book on this topic is 'What's mine is yours' by Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/02/09/3134472.htm>

"An apartment complex in Sydney's inner-west has become the first public housing estate in Australia to achieve a five-star energy efficiency rating.

The 88 apartments have been designed with natural ventilation, recycled water and solar hot water and power.

The estate at Lilyfield also has a large communal courtyard where residents are encouraged to grow their own vegetables.

Builders are putting the finishing touches on the complex before residents being moving in this month..." (there's more on the website)

And on the topic of 5-star ratings see:

<http://www.ecovoice.com.au/eco-news/1077-why-your-5-star-energy-efficient-home-isnt>