Dear Friends of Sustainable Tucson:

We'd like to bring you up to date on our activities since the last newsletter.

We have reached a tipping point in ST's development this summer as we build our working groups, develop projects, and fashion a strategic plan that will help us to achieve more of ST's full potential.

We have organized ourselves into a Core Team (CT) that serves as the hub for ST's membership and networking functions, and guides and represents the organization in an official capacity.

We have continued to adjust the programming of our monthly general meetings. We have also held visioning retreats, aligned with other groups and organizations to present joint programs and events, sponsored special educational events, and have tabled at established and spontaneous community expos, street fairs, movies and more.

Our Mission

From the beginning there has been the shared conviction that ours is a spiritual mission and that the earth is sacred and we are its caretakers. That sensitivity underlies everything Sustainable Tucson has ever done. The values we have always held consist of: 1) Respect to and for all; 2) Concise open discussion; 3) Patience; 4) Kindness; and 5) Consensus decision-making.

Our mission is to facilitate links between groups working to achieve sustainability so that our resources can be shared and our collective impact extended in ways that will help to create a more sustainable region.

Naturally, our mission statement continues to be revised, but its original intent remains clear: Sustainable Tucson is a membership-based organization facilitating the movement of the Tucson region towards ways of life that respect and nourish the earth, community and economy. We believe that the path to sustainability can only be achieved by involving the full community in lifestyle changes that preserve and enhance our quality of life while reducing our consumption of energy and other resources.

Where do we go from here?

The tipping point question we are asking right now is "where does ST go from here?" It will be the projects that emerge from our working groups...
and the core team that will answer this essential question and that will take us into our collective future.

Last month we mentioned one idea that is beginning to take form within the strategic planning committee: producing an inspiring multi-media film or presentation in which we can allow the many voices within the sustainability movement to find expression. This project can allow ST the opportunity to increase our visibility and impact within Tucson as well as broaden the public’s understanding of sustainability issues. Our various working groups can have an outlet for their sketch plan recommendations for taking action at the individual, business/organizational, and systemic/governmental levels.

ST can also offer like-minded organizations an outlet for suggested actions that can lead the way to greater resilience and sustainability. Finally, this project can offer anyone in the community a way of sharing personal or organizational experiences and stories in moving towards more community resilience. (By the way, a thank-you for those of you who have already sent in some ideas for the presentation. Please continue to send these ideas to Linda at lellinor@q.com, and to let her know if you have video, production, photographic, writing experience or would simply like to be involved with this important project.)

Another idea comes from one of our co-founders, Tom Greco. Tom has just finished his fourth book, *The End of Money, and The Future of Civilization*, on the topic of how money and finance contribute to the global environmental and social crises we are facing. He offers an innovative solution that is citizen-based, called “direct credit clearing.” He will be presenting these and other ideas from his book at this month’s General Meeting.

If you have an idea for a project that you would like to organize through one of our working groups (contact Judith Mattson at jasmwm@comcast.net or Tom Mendola at tmendola@gmail.com).

Another way to contribute to ST’s future is to volunteer for one of our functional committees such as marketing and PR, database/communications, finance, membership, event planning, etc. If you have skills related to these areas, please contact Stephanie St. Clair, our new volunteer coordinator, at sstclair@aol.com. She will be able to match you with a committee based on your interests and experience. We are currently looking for co-coordinators for finance and database/communications committees in particular. Please let Stephanie know if you would like to volunteer to take a leadership position in one of these areas.

Linda Ellinor & Vera Lander
Interim Co-Coordinators

We always welcome your input, and invite you to contact us with your ideas, feedback, announcements etc. at our website: http://www.sustainabletucson.org/contactcontribute/.

A Month-long Focus on Money

Following an introduction to the issue at the General Meeting on the 12th, there will be a special showing of *Money as Debt* and *Money as Debt II*, 1:45-4:30PM on Sunday, August 16th at the Main Library Downtown, 101 N. Stone Avenue.

The *Money as Debt* series is regarded as the best video primer on where money comes from and how we can create a more sustainable credit system. More information.

Next, on Monday, August 24th, a brainstorming and discussion group will explore how Tom Greco’s ideas about the role of mutual credit in a sustainable economy. The meeting will be held from 6-8PM at the Quincie Douglas Branch library (Kino Blvd. and 36th St.).

*Sustainable Santa Cruz* has scheduled two general meetings this month, on the 6th and the 20th at the Tubac Community Center, 50 Bridge Road, Tubac at 5:30PM. For further information about these and related meetings contact Cliff Marsom at sustainablesantacruz@live.com.

*Events Here*

**Orientation Training Session**

If you would like to become more active within ST, the Core Team will be holding another orientation training session on August 29th from 1pm to 4pm. Even if you attended the first session, you are invited to attend the next one as we will be going
Each month, the newsletter will feature one of Sustainable Tucson’s affiliate organizations. This month’s organization is The Food Conspiracy Co-op

The Food Conspiracy Co-op is a natural foods market owned by its members and open to the public. Since 1971 the Co-op has provided the highest quality natural and organic foods and products to the Tucson community. At the Co-op, everyone is welcome to shop, but members get special benefits, including monthly member-only sales and an annual patronage rebate. In 2008, the Co-op gave back $44,000 of profit from member purchases to its members through patronage rebate checks that ranged from $2 to $363.

The Food Conspiracy is owned by approximately 1,500 members and operates on Fourth Avenue, Tucson’s most vibrant, pedestrian-friendly street. The Co-op is affiliated with a national network of other food co-ops known as NCGA. Through NCGA, the Co-op is able to offer more competitive pricing in the store, share training expenses for staff, and compare its performance against other similar stores in other areas of the country.

At the Food Conspiracy, the produce department is entirely organic (including locally grown "claimed organic" items), and the staff is committed to offering certified organic products and non-GMO foods whenever possible throughout the store. Along with this commitment to healthy food choices, the Co-op has the most extensive bulk selection in town, allowing shoppers to cut down on waste and save money.

In alignment with their commitment to environmentalism and social justice, the Food Conspiracy maintains strong relationships with many local growers and producers in Southern Arizona and offers the most extensive selection of local products in Tucson. Shoppers can find locally grown eggs, meat, milk, wine, beans, olive oil and seasonal fruits and vegetables. Locally grown products are labeled with signs designating where exactly they were grown (and by whom). Locally produced products
can also be found throughout the store. By selling products made by local artisans, the Co-op helps to foster a thriving locally economy that sustains a diversity of regional food producers.

As a cooperatively owned business, the Food Conspiracy adheres to the seven international cooperative principles. The fifth principle, Education, Training, and Information, leads the Co-op to organize events and educational opportunities around town such as the Solar Rock Festival, the Eat Local Challenge and the City Chickens Coop Tour. They also publish a monthly newsletter and a monthly e-newsletter and regularly update their Facebook page with interesting articles about food, sustainability, health and local events.

The Food Conspiracy Co-op is committed to operating their business in the most ethical manner with a strong focus on strengthening local economies and communities and an underlying commitment to sustainability in all they do.

The Food Conspiracy Co-op is located at 412 N. Fourth Ave and is open from 8 am to 9 pm daily. More information about the Co-op can be found at www.foodconspiracy.coop or by calling 520-624-4821.

Torey Ligon, Outreach Coordinator

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**Reports from the Working Groups**

**FOOD and AGRICULTURE**

The working group continues to evolve through the active participation of its members. The group is moving forward on several projects including initiatives emphasizing organic gardening in the desert, and the mapping of food and agricultural resources in Greater Tucson. Success with these projects will require talented and energetic volunteers who will be invited to pitch in.

The August meeting will be at a new time, and a new day, but the same place: 5:45 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday, August 19th at the Woods Memorial Library (West side of 1st Ave , just south of Prince). For further information, contact Judith Mattson, co-chair at jasmwm@comcast.net.

**WATER**

While the working group has not been meeting this summer, we have been hard at work updating our Water Sustainability document for the Sustainability Sketch Plan. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to finalize this document. Those interested in participating should contact either Chris Brooks at cibrooks@theriver.com or Tracy Williams at dntwilliams@msn.com.

**MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION**

A preliminary meeting for the "presentation project" will be held on Thursday, August 6th, 6-8 PM at the Himmel Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue. For further information contact either Linda Ellinor at lellinor@q.com or Sarajean Harwood at sarajean.harwood@pima.gov.
DATA & ANALYSIS
The purpose of the group is to promote the value of measures and metrics in the pursuit of sustainability. Within the organization, it seeks to support each of the work groups in identifying performance indicators of sustainability in their arenas of concern. For more information, contact Donna Branch-Gilby: (branchgilby4az@cox.net).

Sustainable Tucson's next General Meeting.

Wednesday, August 12th, 5:45 to 8:00 PM
Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Downtown
101 N. Stone Avenue
(free lower level parking off Alameda St.)

This special meeting will feature one of ST's founders, Thomas H. Greco, Jr., who will deliver an illustrated presentation entitled "The Global Financial Meltdown: Its Causes, and Opportunities for Localized Restructuring."

For more information about this meeting and Tom's latest book, "The End of Money and the Future of Civilization," visit our website.

Hope to see you there!

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