

A SORTED AFFAIR
Eco Bits
by Jane Bogner
Sunday, May 18, 2008

This is a spring cleaning column. Not the traditional spring cleaning but purging my computer of small files with interesting environmental tidbits and updates about recycling news.
Faux Food

Are you ready for replicated food? The "In Vitro Meat Consortium" just wrapped up the first-ever international conference focused on the potential for replacing slaughtered animals with grown-in-a-lab chicken nuggets and ground beef. In theory, test-tube meat seems to have the potential to win over animal-rights activists, environmentalists, and others concerned about a protein-hungry, growing population. One question from the kitchen at Touro University is: But is it Kosher?

Under the category: you can't see the forest for the trees: the fuss over shopping bags brought out a statement: "It is not the bag, but what is in the bag." On Seattle's www.daily.sightline.org, there is a blog comparison of two different diets: a meat-based diet that included beef, potatoes, tropical fruit, and soda versus a vegetable-based diet composed of local produce and a soy-based protein source. The embedded energy for the meat-based diets was 186 times greater than the local vegetable-based diet.

Embedded energy is the amount of energy required to produce and transport the associated goods. Embedded energy equates roughly to climate change impact.

Alternate energy

As a followup to the knee brace that produces energy, The British Broadcasting Corp. reported on an article published in Nature. United State's researchers have developed a way to generate electricity from nanofibers woven into fabric. If the technology goes mainstream, we'll be able to generate energy just by getting dressed.

Solano County's First Certified Green Business

Congratulations to Triangle Digital INX (TDI) of Dixon for becoming Solano County's first certified green business. TDI specializes in outdoor durable pigment-based digital inks and protective clear coatings. They are a leading global supplier of alternative Inkjet Products. TDI passed rigorous inspections on handling hazardous waste, conserving energy and water, preventing pollution, and minimizing waste. They join more than 1,200 small businesses throughout the Bay Area that have successfully met the Green Business Program standards.

For more on becoming a green business, contact Solano County Senior Planner Narcisa Untal at 707 785-6765.

Confidential Paper Shredding

Starting yesterday and continuing on the third Saturday of each month, Vallejoans can bring personal documents and old tax form to VALCORE Recycling for free confidential paper shredding. Paper will be accepted from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at their site located at 38 Sherdian Street in south Vallejo. The service is open to all residents and businesses and is sponsored by the City of Vallejo and CINTAS paper shredders. For more information call 707 645-8258. Over 3.5 tons of paper was shredded at Earth Day in April and this pilot program will continue through September.

Recycling Rewards

Vallejo residents, apartment owners and businesses can apply to win one of twelve Recycling Rewards. Prizes include one year of free garbage service for residents or \$500 credit on garbage bills for apartment complexes or businesses. All you have to do is enter and make sure that your recycling, yard waste, and garbage totes are correctly filled. There will be one drawing and inspection each month. Entry forms are available at City Hall. For information, call Vallejo Recycling Coordinator Derek Crutchfield at 707 648-5346.

2008 WRAP Deadline: May 31

The Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) application is now an online form and easier for all of us procrastinators to fill out. Last year, Vallejo had only 3 winners last year. We should easily be able to double that. Businesses and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to apply. Information at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/ or (916) 341-6604.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

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