

In the current Sierra Magazine, I found the following for you to contemplate with your morning coffee.

"There I sat at a desk made of Formica (an oil-derived polymer), wearing a sweatshirt made of fleece (also derived from crude) over yoga pants made from Lycra (ditto), sipping coffee shipped from Zimbabwe, eating an apple trucked from Washington, surrounded by walls covered with oil-derived paints, jotting notes in petroleum-derived ink, typing words on a petrochemical keyboard into a computer powered by coal plants. Even the supposedly guilt-free whole-grain cereal I had for breakfast and the veggie burger I ate for lunch came from crops treated with oil derived fertilizers. My purse yielded another trove of specimens: capsules of Extra-Strength Tylenol made from acetaminophen (a substance, like many commercial pain relievers, that is refined from petroleum); glossy magazines and a packet of photographs printed with petrochemicals; mascara, lip balm, eyeliner, and perfume that, like most cosmetics, have key components derived from oil. Once I connect the dots between so many seemingly disparate elements of my life - my car, my clothes, my e-mail, my makeup, my burger, even my health - I saw an energy landscape far more vast and complex than I'd ever imagined. Energy, I realized is *everything*."

This missive is from Amanda Little's "Power Trip: From Oil Wells to Solar Cells - Our Ride to the Renewable Future".

Obviously, we are not going back to living in a cave, but hopefully we will be more cognizant of the impact that oil has on everything that we touch.

On a lighter note, here is more green winter games news. Lori Brown from www.Earth911.com, reported that the 2010 Olympic medals are made from recycled electronics. "After shredding, separating and heating end-of-life electronic components, the byproducts were combined with other metals to create the 2010 Vancouver medals.

"Hunt, a Vancouver-based artist of Komoyue and Tlingit heritage, chose the orca and the raven as motifs for the Olympic and Paralympic medals respectively. Each medal was hand-cropped, ensuring no two are alike." In addition, organizers of the 2010

Games have a goal to divert 85 percent of the event's waste from the landfill.

Green events in Solano County

The Solano County Tire Amnesty Event is in effect now and open to county residents, growers, ranchers, and farmers. They will accept all sizes and types of tires. Participants need to preregister by calling the county Department of Resource Management at 707 784-6765. The program will end when funding runs out.

Help clean our air by exchanging your gas mower for a rechargeable one. On April 1, log on at 6am to www.neutonpower.com/ys, or call 800-463-4958 to get a voucher for a discounted rechargeable mower. Supplies are limited.

The Neuton 14 inch model is priced at \$169 (retail price \$399) and the 19 inch model is \$269 (retail price \$499). After you drop off your gas mower at a designated place, you will get authorization to order the mower which will be ship to your home.

Gear up for Earth Day. Benicia will celebrate on Thursday, April 22. Contact Terry Baldwin at 746-4370. Vallejo and Fairfield will celebrate on Saturday, April 24. Vallejo's contact is VALCORE R at 707 645-8258 . Fairfield's contact is Sandra Gonzalez at 707 428-7489. Check out www.recycle-guide.com for updates

Confidential Paper Shredding will be held on Saturday, March 20 at VALCORE Recycling (38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

VALCORE Recycling has an open seat for a Community Member on their Board. This active board helps fulfill VALCORE's mission of promoting recycling and resource recovery in our community. Call 707 645-8258 for information.

*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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