

BUCKMINSTER FULLER INSTITUTE									
home		membership		donations		store		sitemap	
ABOUT the bfi	HUMANITY'S option	WHO IS r.b. fuller?	BOOKS AND resources	COMMUNITY links	DESIGN science	DOMES	SYNERGETICS		

Volume 2, Number 6

Food For Thought

Trends and Perspectives

UN Launches Extensive Study of Earth's Ecosystems
 First Titania Dye Solar Cell Manufacturing Operation
 "Paper" Houses May Be Trend of the Future
 High-Temperature Superconductors
 The Energy Web

Resources

New Ecological Footprint Calculator
 Wholeness, a New Book by Alex Gerber, Jr.
 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EREN)

Events

Worldwatch Institute Online Forum
 Ackoff Center for Advancement of Systems Approaches Seminar
 SolFest 2001

BFI Update

New On Our Site
 Needs and Wishes

Food For Thought

In commemoration of Buckminster Fuller's 106 birthday on July 12th, we would like to share with you the following quote:

"Either you're going to go along with your mind and the truth,
 or you're going to yield to fear and custom and conditioned reflexes.

With our minds alone we can discover those principles we need to employ
 to convert all humanity to success
 in a new, harmonious relationship with the universe.

We have the option to make it." R. Buckminster Fuller 1895-1983

[back to top](#)

Trends and Perspectives

UN Launches Extensive Study of Earth's Ecosystems

The United Nations, scientific groups, governments, foundations, and other international agencies, have launched the most extensive study of the state of the world's ecosystems.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) will examine the processes that support life on Earth like the world's grasslands, forests, rivers and lakes, farmlands, and oceans. The \$21 million, four-year effort will involve 1,500 of the world's leading scientists.

<http://www.ma-secretariat.org/en/news/index.htm>

First Titania Dye Solar Cell Manufacturing Operation

In Australia, Sustainable Technologies International opened first titania dye solar cell manufacturing operation the near Canberra. This technology lowers production costs compared to standard silicon based solar cells. They also perform under a wider range of temperature and light conditions including low and diffuse light, and they can be optically transparent or opaque. The company claims the production of its cells is less harmful to

the environment than the manufacture of silicon cells which emits hazardous gases and requires a great deal of water and electricity. Titania solar cell manufacture produces no toxic gas emissions, Sustainable Technologies says (From SustainableBusiness.com).

[Read more about energy news](#) from around the world.

"Paper" Houses May Be Trend of the Future

Papercrete, a recently rediscovered building material originally developed more than 70 years ago that consists of shredded recycled newspaper, water, cement, and common sand may be a future building material.

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/06/0612_paperhouses.html

High-Temperature Superconductors

This month, workers pulled out nine cables from underground conduits at a Detroit power substation so that they could be replaced by the first high-temperature superconductor cables in a working power grid. The three new cables contain only 250 pounds of superconductor, yet they will be able to carry just as much current as the 18,000 pounds of copper in the nine cables they replace.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/05/29/science/29SUPE.html?ex=995176813&ei=1&en=f261ee1e82dbc799>

Requires free registration.

The Energy Web

A recent article in Wired magazine highlights the new Intelligent Energy Web that is evolving in our midst.

"The best minds in electricity R&D have a plan: Every node in the power network of the future will be awake, responsive, adaptive, price-smart, eco-sensitive, real-time, flexible, humming - and interconnected with everything else."

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/9.07/juice.html>

[back to top](#)

Resources

New Ecological Footprint Calculator

This ecological footprint calculator was developed by Best Foot Forward who have also just released a new book on the subject. To estimate your footprint, you can select from options that most closely reflect your lifestyle.

<http://www.bestfootforward.com/footprintlife.htm>

Wholeness: On Education, Buckminster Fuller, and Tao

by Dr. Alex Gerber Jr.

At a time when many people are seeking personal and planetary transformation, this book responds to the question "What sort of consciousness and what approach to education are most necessary today?" Wholeness is a state of being, a perspective that cannot be "learned" in the usual sense--but things about it can be. The book presents wholeness as a metaphilosophy to help discern all philosophies and points of view--a fourth "R" as basic to an effective education as reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.

<http://www.wholenessbook.com> contains a preview, several reviews, and ordering information.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EREN)

Provided by the US Department of Energy (DOE), this site serves as a gateway to energy efficiency and renewable energy information. With over 600 links and access to 80,000 documents, the site is fairly comprehensive. The bulk of the content is accessed via the Technologies section, which is can be browsed by topic.

<http://www.eren.doe.gov/>

[back to top](#)

Events

Worldwatch Institute Online Forum

Join the World Watch Institute for a free one-week online forum on the third world debt crisis beginning on July 18, sponsored by the Worldwatch Institute and Communications for a Sustainable Future.

WHEN: July 18-25, embracing the July 20-22 G-8 summit in Genoa. The best time to subscribe is now, before the forum opens.

WHAT: David Roodman, the author of a new Worldwatch Institute report-- "Still Waiting for the Jubilee: Pragmatic Solutions for the Third World Debt Crisis"--will participate in this online global forum.

To learn more about the report and the forum, visit:

<http://csf.colorado.edu/sustainable-economics/third-world-debt>.

Ackoff Center for Advancement of Systems Approaches Seminar "On the Nature and Significance of Systems and Systems Thinking"

August 1-3, 2001 The Inn at Penn, 3600 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA.

To go beyond understanding to wisdom requires awareness of the difference between doing things right (efficiency) and doing the right thing (effectiveness). The righter we do the wrong thing the wronger we become. Today a great deal of effort is expended by organizations in efforts to increase the efficiency with which the wrong things are being done.

This course is devoted to enabling organizations to do the right thing righter through systems thinking and design.

On the Nature of Systems

- "Strategic Thinking" approach to Planning.
- Organizations as Systems.
- Learning from Mistakes.
- From Data to Wisdom.

Cases will be used throughout to illustrate design and processes.

For more information please contact:

Ackoff Center for Advancement of Systems Approaches (A-CASA)

University of Pennsylvania

Phone: (215) 898-2771

Email: acasa@seas.upenn.edu

SolFest 2001

The Institute for Solar Living is dedicated to the belief that education will help bring about the changes in consciousness and behavior necessary to create an environmentally sustainable future. The Institute is headquartered at the Solar Living Center in Hopland, California. <http://www.solarliving.org/index.cfm>

The Real Goods Institute for Solar Living celebrates the sun's power with SolFest 2001, its sixth annual weekend solar celebration to be held August 25-26 at the Real Goods Solar Living Center in Hopland.

<http://www.solarliving.org/solfest2001.cfm>

[back to top](#)

BFI Update

New On Our site

Over the next week, keep an eye out for the first four of Fuller's seven World Design Science Decade documents, which we will have up on our site as free downloadable PDF files at <http://www.bfi.org/worlddesign/>. This extensive scanning project is being accomplished through the generous volunteer efforts of Tony McKinley, Ed Lynch, John Collins, Bill Johnson, Suzy Evans and Michael Paterra. Thank you!

We are still looking for volunteer support with the scanning of one of these documents. If you interested in helping out, please email Lauren Darges at lauren@bfi.org.

Needs and Wishes

BFI is looking for a donation of a good quality printer that is Macintosh compatible.

Please contact Deborah Grace at deborah@bfi.org if you have any leads.

[back to top](#)

Find:

Search

[Humanity's Option](#) | [About the BFI](#) | [News](#) | [Community & Links](#) | [Glossary](#)
[Who is Buckminster Fuller?](#) | [Home](#) | [Membership](#) | [Store](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Contact Us](#)