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### **Food For Thought**

"There is only one revolution tolerable to all men, all societies, all political systems: revolution by design and invention."

R. Buckminster Fuller

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### **Trends and Perspectives**

#### **First Global Look at the Biodiversity Beneath Our Feet**

Most of us may not realize it, but this year and the next are part of a worldwide program to protect Earth's diverse forms of life known as the International Biodiversity Observation Year. During this window in time, scientists and educators are joining forces to increase communication of science-based information about biodiversity to a broad audience.

[http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/11/11022001/s\\_45449.asp](http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2001/11/11022001/s_45449.asp)

(Source: ENN Worldwire News)

#### **Dialog on the Technological Implications of the September 11 Disaster**

The September 11 tragedy will accelerate a profound trend already well under way from centralized technologies to distributed ones, and from the real world to the virtual world. Centralized technologies are subject to disruption and disaster. They also tend to be inefficient, wasteful, and harmful to the environment. Distributed technologies, on the other hand, tend to be flexible, efficient, and relatively benign in their environment effects.

<http://www.kurzweilai.net/meme/frame.html?main=/articles/art0327.html>

(Source: KurzweilAI)

**Fusion Power 'Within Reach'**

Fusion power is "within reach", according to atomic scientists in the UK. "There are still very many difficulties but perhaps in a few decades we could have commercial fusion reactors in cities providing cheap pollution-free power", said Dr Alan Sykes.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid\\_1573000/1573450.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1573000/1573450.stm)

(Source: BBC News)

**Good Lovins**

In our nation's capital, the Bush administration and Republican members of Congress are rattling the saber of national security and calling for domestic oil and gas drilling to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. But in the pages of *Grist*, Amory B. Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute argue that the issue isn't foreign vs. domestic; it's about the architecture of the energy system. A good system makes large-scale failures impossible and local failures relatively harmless; it uses less energy more efficiently; and it relies on resources that are dispersed, diverse, and renewable. How would a really smart, secure energy infrastructure look? Read the article below to find out more:

Domestic oil and gas is not the ticket to energy security by Amory B. Lovins and L. Hunter Lovins

<http://www.gristmagazine.com/grist/imho/lovins112001.asp?source=daily>

(Source: Grist Magazine)

**Geodesic Climate Model Uses Different Mapping Technique, Coordinates And Supercomputing To Improve Predictions**

Using cutting-edge supercomputers to help solve mapping problems, Colorado State University atmospheric scientists will superimpose a geodesic grid on the earth's lands, ocean and atmosphere to better simulate climate factors. Working with oceanographers and mathematicians from other institutions, the Colorado State team has a cooperative agreement with the Department of Energy for \$4.5 million to build the mathematical simulation over the next five years.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2001/09/010926071704.htm>

(Source: Colorado State University)

**Iceland Iceland Baby**

Iceland is gunning to be the world's first carbon-free economy. The country is in something of a bind, as it now has very low carbon-dioxide emissions and the Kyoto treaty on climate change gives it little room to expand its economy in a way that would increase its emissions. Already, 67 percent of Iceland's energy comes from emissions-free geothermal heat and hydroelectric dams. During the next two decades, Iceland wants to convert its buses, cars, and fishing fleet to run off hydrogen fuel cells, which emit only heat and water. Giant companies like DaimlerChrysler and Royal Dutch/Shell, as well as the European Union as a whole, are investing in the fuel-cell projects.

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB996010595961794159.htm>

(Source: Grist Magazine)

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**Resources****Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth by Lester H. Brown**

A new book with a new vision of a new economy, one that is in harmony with the earth.

Eco-Economy has three goals: (1) to demonstrate that sustaining economic progress in the decades ahead depends on restructuring the global economy (2) to provide a vision of what an environmentally sustainable economy--an eco-economy--would look like (3) to supply a roadmap of how to get from here to there. You can order through the secure server on the earth-policy website:

<http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/index.htm> or you can order by phone. Phone: (202) 496-9290 You may

preview the book by reading a pdf of Chapter 1, "The Economy and the Earth":

<http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/index.htm>

### **The Tide is High**

If you think you have to spend a year in a tree or a lifetime on Capitol Hill to help the environment, think again. Thanks to a new online program called "Turn the Tide," everyday folks can learn how to protect the environment and -- here's the twist -- keep track of how well they do so. The program, a project of the Center for a New American Dream, offers participants nine simple, ecologically smart ways to change their lives, from cutting car trips to canceling junk mail. The center's Eric Brown describes the program as a "powerful tool" for demonstrating the impact of small behavioral changes. Each member has a personal log, and the site calculates how many resources the member saves.

<http://www.newdream.org/turnthetide>

### **Wind Powering America**

A better question is, "Where is good wind power?" Before you plan to build your own wind turbine or wind farm, you must know if the wind resource in your location is adequate. The map below gives you a macro view of wind resources in the United

States. From this map, you can determine if your area of interest should be further explored. Wind resource at a micro level can vary significantly; therefore, you should get a professional evaluation of your specific area of interest. Your regional Department of Energy Support Office will have contact information of local wind resource analysts.

[http://www.eren.doe.gov/windpoweringamerica/where\\_is\\_wind.html](http://www.eren.doe.gov/windpoweringamerica/where_is_wind.html)

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## **Events**

### **It's the holidays!**

We wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year.

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## **BFI Update**

A Call for Volunteer/Potentially Paid Help!

One Driver is needed to transport original prototype Fly's Eye Dome molds from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara.

We are moving the dome parts from Santa Barbara to a storage location in Northern California on December 14th. We urgently need the molds to be brought from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara in time to join the other parts for the main pick-up going north.

This entails renting a small moving truck picking the molds up in LA, and dropping them in Santa Barbara. BFI will reimburse all gas and truck rental costs.

If you can do this or know someone who can, please call us at 800-967-6277 or e-mail Lauren at [lauren@bfi.org](mailto:lauren@bfi.org). Thank you!

For other volunteer opportunities, visit:

[http://www.bfi.org/about\\_this\\_website.htm#HOW](http://www.bfi.org/about_this_website.htm#HOW)

### **Educational Gift from our Online Store**

This holiday season shop online at BFI. For meaningful educational gifts books, videos, maps and toys, such as the Roger's Connection kit visit our on-line store at <http://www.bfi.org/search.html>. And remember, gift memberships are also available. Call us at 707-824.2242.

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BFI member: As benefits of membership you receive our monthly newsletter, Trimtab, and 10% discount on all items from our store. Visit <https://sqi30.netplanet.net/bfi.org/member.htm> or call us at 707-824-2242.

Have you come across a pertinent news item that you think would be good for our e-bulletin? Please contact us at [info@bfi.org](mailto:info@bfi.org). We'd love to hear from you.

### **Buckminster Fuller Institute**

Working to Advance Humanity's Option for Success

The Buckminster Fuller Institute (BFI), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a diverse group of individuals committed to a successful and sustainable future for 100% of humanity. Founded in 1983 and inspired by the design science principles pioneered by the late Buckminster Fuller, BFI serves as an information resource to students, educators, authors, designers and concerned citizens working to advance humanity's option for success. To learn more about us, visit us on the web at <http://www.bfi.org>

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