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"All of humanity now has the option to "make it" successfully and sustainably, by virtue of our having minds, discovering principles and being able to employ these principles to do more with less."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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Trends and Perspectives

The Chrysler Group Demonstrates its 'CARE' for the Environment By Turning Garbage Into Car Parts

Innovative recycling technology shown for the first time in Chrysler Group's CARE Car II turns garbage into a valuable product while potentially saving the automobile industry \$320 million per year.

(Source: E-Wire News)

New Era of Plant-Based Plastics and Fibers a Reality

Minneapolis-based Cargill Dow LLC announced today the grand opening of the world's first global-scale manufacturing facility capable of making commercial-grade plastic resins from annually renewable resources such as ordinary field corn.

(Source: E-Wire News)

Also see our Trimtab article [The Carbohydrate Economy](#).

Magnets See the Light

A 'plastic' magnet that responds to light could lead to new ways of storing and reading large amounts of computer data. Light would be used to store information in cheap, fast and high-capacity 'magneto-optic' memories. The light-switchable magnet is the first to be made from organic (carbon-based) molecules.

<http://www.nature.com/nsu/020211/020211-16.html>

An Oil Company Proves Bush Wrong on Climate Change - John Browne Demands Government Help

by Seth Dunn

BP has exceeded its emissions reduction target eight years ahead of schedule, and at no net cost. That undermines Bush's claim that the Kyoto Protocol would be too expensive.

(Source: TomPaine.com)

A New Form of Matter

Wolfgang Ketterle, a physicist at MIT and one of the first scientists to create a new kind of matter called Bose-Einstein condensates. Bose-Einstein condensates ("BECs" for short) aren't like solids, liquids or gases. They are not vaporous, not hard, not fluid. Indeed, there are no ordinary words to describe them because they come from another world - the world of quantum mechanics.

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Resources

Virtual Exhibition: Your Window On A Sustainable World

A new initiative between business and the United Nations has been hailed as an opportunity for people all over the world to participate in the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (August 26 - September 4).

Virtual Exhibition will display a multitude of sustainable development projects being pursued all over the world and also bring summit proceedings to a global audience - in real time, via the internet.

"We are inviting people from all over the world to tell us what they have achieved in the last ten years since the first Earth Summit in Rio, tell us what lessons they have learned and share with us the experience they have had pursuing sustainable development objectives," Secretary General of the WSSD, Nitin Desai, said.

Please visit: <http://www.virtualexhibit.net>

GreenBiz.com to Launch Business Environmental Web Sites in Partnership with Leading Nonprofits

Green Business Network, the nonprofit producer of GreenBiz.com (<http://www.greenbiz.com>), has announced a series of partnerships with leading environmental and business groups to produce free, content-rich Web sites to help mainstream companies align environmental responsibility with business success.

Read more at:

<http://www.ewire-news.com/wires/EE08A42F-29BD-403B-AA838ECA599ADF79.htm>

(Source: E-Wire News)

Online Quiz Measures Human "Footprint" On Earth's Resources

Cars, cows, sprawl, and oil are just a few of the factors that account for the gigantic size of the "footprint" Americans make on the global environment, according to a new online yardstick unveiled last week by Earth Day Network and Redefining Progress.

The Ecological Footprint Quiz <http://www.earthday.net/footprint.stm>, created by Redefining Progress, is a scientifically based tool that allows individuals to calculate the amount of biologically productive land and sea area needed to produce the resources they use and absorb the wastes they produce. The Ecological Footprint measurement is also used to assess the impact communities, nations, and the world as a whole.

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Events

Energizing Potential

April 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002
University of Oregon

School of Architecture and Allied Arts
EDC Lawrence Hall

The Eighth Annual H.O.P.E.S. Conference theme is Energizing Potential. The conference will feature three internationally recognized leaders in the fields of environmental design and sustainable living. San Francisco based Landscape Architect and Urban Planner, Angela Danadjieva and German Architect Stefan Behnisch will address the theme Energizing Potential as it applies to their respective work in landscape, architecture, urban design and planning. John Schaeffer, the founder of both Real Goods and the Solar Living Center will present his experience in activating the goals of sustainability to create viable businesses and educational opportunities.

The conference kicks off with a design charrette that explores the challenge of Energizing Potential in a redesign of Eugene's south central riverfront district.

April 22nd is Earth Day!

Check for events in your local area. The Earth Day Networks web site at

<http://www.earthday.net> also offers some great resources and event listings.

The Links Between Natural Hazards, Environment and Sustainable Development: Taking Action to Reduce the Risks to Disasters

April 15 - May 9, 2002

Online Conference

The Secretariat for the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future invite to you to participate in this online discussion.

The discussions will focus on issues linked to ISDR's evolving Background Paper No. 5 "Natural Disasters and Sustainable Development: Understanding the links between development, environment and natural disasters," for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. (see <http://www.unisdr.org>)

Participation in the 4-week online discussion is open to everyone and focuses on a new sub-topic each week. For more details and to register see <http://www.earthsummit2002.org/debate>

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BFI Update

Our Spring Trimtab Newsletter Now Online!

View feature articles via our home page at <http://www.bfi.org> or download the complete issue in PDF format at <http://www.bfi.org/Trimtab/index.htm#current>.

You can also view past issues by following the links on our Trimtab pages online.

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