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Volume 3, Number 7

This month's issue of BFI_News comes to you a bit later than usual as we were in San Diego at the ESRI conference that we mentioned last month. Look out for news from the event in our next bulletin!

BFI_News brings you news from around the world focused on design solutions to planetary problems. It also features updates from BFI and periodic special offers to our members.

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Food For Thought

"Observation of my life to date shows that the larger the number for whom I work, the more positively effective I become. Thus, it is obvious that if I work always and only for all humanity, I will be optimally effective.

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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Trends and Perspectives

Say Good-Bye to Plastic: Trash That Melts - Just Add Water

It could be the biggest thing since sliced bread was wrapped in cellophane: biodegradable food packaging cheap enough to compete with conventional plastic. Once used, it can be thrown onto the compost heap or even eaten. This year, startup Plantic Technologies will roll out a cornstarch-based bioplastic that can be molded into everything from Twinkie wrappers to cracker trays.

(Source: Wired.com)

Thanksgiving Coffee Company Brews Coffee, Environmental Protection in One Cup

Thanksgiving Coffee Company, a California-based company that specializes in certified organic, fair trade, and shade-grown coffees and teas, has announced a new line of coffee that that will raise funds to protect endangered species.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/07/07032002/s_47611.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

Computer, Heal Thyself

Self-healing and self-replicating circuits and chips mimic Mother

Nature at Villa Reuge museum in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland.

http://go.hotwired.com/news/technology/0,1282,53729,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Go Hotwired.com)

Study Shows Eco-Efficiency Yields Healthy Returns on Pharmaceuticals, Stock

Pharmaceutical companies with superior environmental performance have outperformed laggards by 17 percent in the stock market over the past year, according to a new study.

http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/07/07172002/s_47758.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

Sales of Solar Cells Take Off

Last year world solar cell production soared to 395 megawatts up 37 percent over 2000. This annual growth in output, now comparable in size to a new power plant, is set to take off in the years ahead as production costs

fall.

(Source: Sustainable Business.com)

'Consumption Barometer' to Help Keep Johannesburg Summit Green

Delegates to the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg will be able to consult a "consumption barometer" offering a daily update on how much food, water, energy, paper, and other resources they use.

http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=20933

(Source: BreenBiz.com)

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Resources

Cleaner Energy, Greener Profits

This research paper by the Rocky Mountain Institute explores the cost-effectiveness of using fuel cells to generate domestic, commercial, and industrial power. "Cleaner Energy, Greener Profits" finds that, over the next decade, the once-centralized electric industry will evolve toward a more competitive and heterogeneous structure. In this new environment, the use of fuel cells will become economical if their proponents can capture their benefits as small, decentralized power sources.

http://www.greenbiz.com/toolbox/tools_third.cfm?LinkAdvID=24949

Green Building Guidelines: Meeting the Demand for Low-Energy, Resource-Efficient Homes

By following "green" principles, home builders can design comfortable, environmentally friendly homes that will yield significant savings on utility bills for their owners. The *Green Building Guidelines* is full of useful design tips, explanations, and references on topics ranging from energy conservation to improved indoor air quality to the most inexpensive and sustainable construction materials. If you've ever dreamed of building the perfect green home, this book is a valuable blueprint for getting started.

<http://www.sbicouncil.org/home/index.html>

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Events

Sustainable Living Workshop

August 5-9 2002

Real Goods Solar Living Institute

Hopland , CA US

Permaculture; Passive Solar and Ecological Design; Sustainable Wastewater Design; Beginning Photovoltaics.

707-744-2017

isl@rgisl.org

<http://www.solarliving.org>

U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development

August 26 - September 4, 2002

Johannesburg, South Africa

Johannesburg Summit 2002—the World Summit on Sustainable Development—will bring together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other Major Groups. The Summit will focus the world's attention on actions to achieve sustainable development.

(Read the current issue of our [Trimtab Newsletter](#) to learn more about the Summit.)

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BFI Update

Our Summer Trimtab Newsletter Now Online!

Visit our home page (<http://www.bfi.org>) to read articles from our current issue of the Trimtab, or follow the links to download the pdf file.

Our special focus in this issue is the upcoming United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The content includes:

- A speech by Secretary General of the U.N., Mr. Kofi Annan
- Information about the World Sustainability Hearing
- Resources related to the Summit

Also in this issue:

- An article on the Eden Project, the geodesic dome biomes in England
- Meet the BFI Board
- Updates on the EARTHscope
- E. O. Wilson's "The Future of Life"

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