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## Volume 3, Number 8

BFI News brings you news from around the world related to humanity's option for success and comprehensive anticipatory design solutions. It also features updates from BFI and periodic special offers for members.

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### Food For Thought

#### That Mysterious Integrity

"You can't better the world by simply talking to it. Philosophy to be effective must be mechanically applied."

-R. Buckminster Fuller

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### Trends and Perspectives

#### GM Says Stationary Fuel Cell Power Generators Key to Producing Vehicles

General Motors Corp. plans to have fuel-cell-powered electric generators commercially available by 2005, a move that could provide it with the revenue and technology for meeting its goal of widely available fuel cell vehicles by the end of the decade.

[http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/07/07302002/ap\\_47979.asp](http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/07/07302002/ap_47979.asp)

(Source: Environmental News Network)

#### Alternative Currency Promotes Fresh Thinking about Sustainable Economics

With standard currency, there is always incentive to chop down non-interest-bearing trees and put the proceeds into interest-bearing bank accounts. Because alternative currency systems do not bear interest — and in some cases, actually have negative interest - there is less incentive to plunder natural resources.

[http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/08/08022002/s\\_47824.asp](http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/08/08022002/s_47824.asp)

(Source: Environmental News Network)

#### New Magazine Tackles Tough Environmental Issues

Within four months of going live, online magazine and resource center The New Environmentalist has attracted thousands of readers - from soccer moms and solar enthusiasts to students, educators and other professionals as far away as Vietnam and South Africa - with its global appeal.

For full text visit:

<http://www.ewire-news.com/wires/88AD0870-AF74-4B04-8E438179B7E95ACE.htm>

(Source: E-Wire News)

#### Tokyo Turns to Rooftop Gardens to Beat the Heat

At a run-down three-story office block in downtown Tokyo, government clerks and secretaries cool off among azaleas, hydrangeas, and even blueberry bushes during coffee breaks, seemingly far away from the

sweltering urban heat.

[http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/08/08082002/reu\\_48069.asp](http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/08/08082002/reu_48069.asp)

(Source: Environmental News Network)

### **Australia Plans 1Km-High Convection Tower to Supply 200,000 Houses**

A one kilometer-high tower capable of producing enough energy for 200,000 homes has been approved by the Australian government and could be in operation within three years, subject to approval by the New South Wales state authorities.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,776735,00.html>

(Source: Guardian)

### **New York City Sky**

" We should think about a soaring... beautiful memorial that draws millions of people here that just want to see it... And a place that could be remembered a hundred and a thousand years from now."

Rudolph Giuliani

We thought our readers might enjoy this web site featuring design ideas for a memorial for Ground Zero in New York. One of the proposed features is a geodesic dome, based on Fuller's design and philosophy.

Deborah Grace at BFI

[http://www.nycsky.com/pg4\\_dome.html#top](http://www.nycsky.com/pg4_dome.html#top)

<http://www.nycsky.com>

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## **Resources**

### **Worldwatch Paper**

"Reading the Weathervane: Climate Policy from Rio to Johannesburg" Now Available

"The next critical step in controlling global warming is to bring the Kyoto Protocol, and its legally-binding emissions limits, into force as soon as possible and leave the era of voluntary commitments behind," says author Seth Dunn.

You can order your copy online by going to:

<http://secure.worldwatch.org/cgi-bin/wwinst/BWP160>

This paper is available as a printed document, or you can use your charge card to download a PDF file immediately.

### **Energy Turnaround**

The path to a sustainable energy system in Germany is the focus of the study "Energy Turnaround", commissioned by the Heinrich Boell Foundation. The German Oeko-Institut has taken a thorough look at studies produced by different institutes in order to develop strategies for embarking on a new energy system, culminating in two scenarios for the period to 2020 that are compared with a status quo scenario.

Read more and download the paper at

<http://www.worldsummit2002.org/?publications/wspapers15.htm>

### **How To Make Your Property Wildlife Friendly**

While environmental headlines make much of the rift between property rights advocates and conservationists, a growing number of landowners around the United States are working to make their backyards more attractive to wildlife, benefiting both the human and animal worlds.

[http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/07/07262002/s\\_47825.asp](http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/07/07262002/s_47825.asp)

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## Events

### **Las Gaviotas: Dialogue on Innovation and Perseverance**

September 9-11, 2002

Ghost Ranch conference center, New Mexico

Paolo Lugari, founder of Gaviotas, and Gunter Pauli of the Zero Emissions Research Initiative will lead a "Dialogue on Innovation and Perseverance" based on the story of Gaviotas, a remarkable village (population 200) in Colombia.

#### **Gaviotas:**

<http://www.urbanecology.org/gaviotas/about.htm>

#### **Workshop:**

<http://www.urbanecology.org/gaviotas/2002workshop.htm>

### **The Americas Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility**

September 22 - 24, 2002

The Inter-Continental Hotel in Miami, FL

Mandated by the Presidents of the Western Hemisphere in the 2001 Summit of the Americas, this conference will bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and multilateral organizations to explore ways to work together to advance Corporate Social Responsibility in the Americas.

#### **Organizers:**

The Organization of American States, World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank

<http://www.csramericas.org>

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## **BFI Update**

### **ESRI Conference Update and Photo Gallery link**

Here is the news from the ESRI Conference we promised you last month!

The Conference we attended in early July in San Diego was a great success for us. We had a distinctive geodesic exhibit booth and more than one visitor delighted in seeing a 'Bucky dome' at the event and told us so.

The EARTHscope, our showpiece at the conference, drew great interest from educators and several of them expressed interest in doing EARTHscope pilot projects at the college and university level.

We also met a number of GIS software professionals (GIS = Geographic Information Systems) who volunteered their services in producing GIS maps for the EARTHscope. This has already benefited our student group at Golden Gate University (San Francisco) that is working on an EARTHscope pilot presentation on global conflict areas.

And we are still busy following up with the many interested and engaged people we met, including some potential GIS technology partners and are exploring the strategic alliances we may form.

Follow this link to see our dome booth and some of our activities at the ESRI conference - we have a selection of photos up on our gallery. <http://www.bfi.org/gallery/>

Thanks again to Pacific Domes for their generosity in custom-making and donating our dome booth, and to our volunteers for all the support and fun during the trial set-up here in Sebastopol!

If you want to learn more about Pacific Domes, please visit their web site at

<http://www.pacificdomes.com>.

You can find out more about ESRI at <http://www.esri.com>

If you would like to receive an email when the map is ready, please email [lauren@bfi.org](mailto:lauren@bfi.org) with the words "map poster" in the subject line.

Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience! You can look forward to a beautiful new

map!

For other gift ideas, browse our store at <http://www.bfi.org>.

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