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Volume 4, 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

" There is no energy crisis, food crisis or environmental crisis.
There is only a crisis of ignorance."

- R. Buckminster Fuller

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Trends and Perspectives

Reports See Major Growth in Store for Renewable Energy

Undeterred by a lagging world economy, the use of renewable energy has experienced an unprecedented surge in growth over the past few years, according to researchers at the Worldwatch Institute.

http://www.greenbiz.com/news/news_third.cfm?NewsID=25424

(Source: Greenbiz.com)

Power Up: The World on One Grid

Thirty years ago, Buckminster Fuller came up with a plan to plug all the world's continents into the same electrical grid. Once it's fully functional, the only excuse for power shortages will be greed.

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/11.09/start.html?pg=17>

(Source: Wired.com)

Time to Escape from the Grid?

The best way to keep the power from going out is to make your own. That's the line taken by home-power enthusiasts who tout mostly solar power -- along with a bit of wind and even less hydroelectric -- as the ultimate way to avoid grid-induced power shortages, while also reducing pollution and preventing global warming.

http://go.hotwired.com/news/culture/0,1284,60089,00.html/wn_ascii

(Source: Wired.com)

Glassy Sponge Has Better Fiber Optics Than Human-Made

Scientists say they have identified an ocean sponge living in the darkness of the deep sea who grows thin glass fibers capable of transmitting light better than industrial fiber optic cables used for telecommunication.

http://www.enn.com/news/2003-08-21/s_7708.asp

(Source: Environmental News Network)

Bucking Economic Greed

In this piece from Utne's July/August cover section on "The Future of Money," eight savvy thinkers tell us to put our money where our hearts are. By Marjorie Kelly, David Morris, Hazel Henderson, and others

http://www.utne.com/pub/2003_118/promo/10640-1.html

(Source: Utne.com)

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Resources

New! Our Latest EARTHscope Info Sheet Online in PDF Format

Check out the colorful one-page EARTHscope info pdf now linked on our home page (<http://www.bfi.org>).

This new pdf gives you an overview of the features, functions and purpose of EARTHscope. You can go there now via the link below:

http://www.bfi.org/pdf/BFIs_EARTHscope.pdf

Rocky Mountain Institute Comments on Eastern Power Outage

Read the 2-page pdf of the press release titled "Eastern Power Outage Unfortunate but Entirely Predictable; August 14 Event Offers Wake-Up Call for U.S. Energy Policy Makers." It can be found at:

http://www.rmi.org/images/other/MR_PR_NEPwrOutage14Aug03.pdf

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Events

BFI's September "Video and Conversation Night"

Our next Sebastopol event will be on Monday, September 15, 2003, 7-9 PM

Sebastopol Open Space Project

400 Morris Avenue, Suite E, Sebastopol, CA

Join us for an evening of Fuller

\$5 -20 sliding scale

Visit <http://www.bfi.org> for event and location details or call

707-824 2242.

Upcoming video and conversation event

"Gaviotas: Dialogue on Community" with Paolo Lugari

October 3 - 5, 2003

Sunrise Ranch, Colorado

Join Gaviotas founder Paolo Lugari and Friends of Gaviotas for an interactive weekend retreat based on the 30-year experience of Gaviotas, Colombia. The event will inquire into the social context that has fostered an amazing spirit of innovation at Gaviotas, which was named a model of sustainable development by the United Nations.

<http://www.friendsofgaviotas.org/2003retreat.htm>

ESOMAR Conference

Responsible Marketing: Sustainability and Quality of Life

October 12 - 14, 2003

Berlin, Germany

This conference in cooperation with United Nations Environment Program aims at establishing a dialogue and debate on the importance of sustainability, social and green policies, bringing to the fore real cases from all types of industries and institutions where research has helped move the sustainability agenda for a better quality of life.

See more conference information at: <http://www.esomar.org/index.php?a=3&p=208>

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BFI Update

Challenge Grant News

Your support is making a difference! We are over half-way to our \$20,000 mark!

To see how far we've come since the BFI Board presented their Challenge Grant, check out the "fundometer" on our home page at <http://www.bfi.org>.

The Challenge Grant is still open, so there is time yet to have a contribution matched by the grant! Our online form is at: <https://www.websitesecured.com/%7Ebfi.org/responseDonate.asp>

Thank you!

BFI September Event

Join us for our September 15th "Video and Conversation Night" in Sebastopol. See details above under Events listings.

Are you BFI member?

If you enjoyed this e-bulletin, you can say so with a tax-deductible donation. Any amount is welcome and a donation of \$30 or more you automatically become a BFI member and receive such membership benefits as our quarterly newsletter, Trimtab, and product discounts.

Donating is easy! You can do so right now by visiting <https://www.websitesecured.com/~bfi.org/member.asp> or call us at 707-824-2242.

Have you come across interesting design news? Feel free to forward them so we can consider them for inclusion: info@bfi.org.

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