

Welcome to Vol. 6 No. 5 of BFI\_News, the e-bulletin  
of the Buckminster Fuller Institute

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

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BFI UPDATE

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BFI in collaboration with BigPictureSmallWorld and GEM  
is proud to announce a new educational program:

DESIGN SCIENCE SUMMER LAB

<http://www.bfi.org/summerlab/index.php>

The Design Science Summer Lab offers a groundbreaking  
design program that engages students and educators in a  
design science methodology inspired by Buckminster Fuller  
and others. The Lab is a collaborative effort aimed  
at developing and disseminating compelling strategies for  
achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals including  
reducing global poverty, hunger, and other unmet human  
needs in environmentally sustainable programs.

Space is limited and the registration and application  
process is coming to its close. If you are within the  
target age range (17-22 years of age) and would still  
like to apply, please do so now. The deadline for all  
applications is June 6.

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SPACESHIP EARTH: THE GAME

<http://www.calit2.net/articles/article.php?id=597>

BFI completes a highly successful massively multi-player  
on-line Game Design Charrette hosted by University of  
California, Irvine's Game, Culture and Technology Lab

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\*DYMAX STORE UPDATE\*

BFI is pleased to announce two new additions to our  
Dymaxion Artifacts product lineup. We are now offering the  
great Bucky videos--World of RBF and Basic Bucky--in a new

DVD format. Supplies are limited and going fast, if you'd like to place an order, please visit our online store.

<<http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/>>

For more information about Basic Bucky, visit

<[http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse\\_Item\\_Details.asp/Item\\_ID/106/category/2/parent\\_ids/0,2/Name/Basic\\_Bucky\\_-\\_DVD](http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse_Item_Details.asp/Item_ID/106/category/2/parent_ids/0,2/Name/Basic_Bucky_-_DVD)>

For more information about World of RBF, visit

<[http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse\\_Item\\_Details.asp/Item\\_ID/107/category/2/parent\\_ids/0,2/Name/The\\_World\\_of\\_R\\_Buckminster\\_Fuller\\_-\\_DVD](http://bfi.easystorecreator.com/Browse_Item_Details.asp/Item_ID/107/category/2/parent_ids/0,2/Name/The_World_of_R_Buckminster_Fuller_-_DVD)>

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Need to renew your BFI membership? If you are a current member and would like to continue receiving the benefits of membership, please visit our membership homepage at

<<http://www.bfi.org/membership.html>>

Not a member? Find out what you're missing!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we are ignorant of their value.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

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TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

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Californians get hourly quake forecast

Scientists with the US Geological Survey in California have launched a website that will allow California residents to track earthquakes throughout their state. The website is updated hourly and scientists hope to use it to inform and alert citizens of upcoming quakes that may pose a threat. After a big earthquake hits an area, scientists know there

will be aftershocks, but they can't pinpoint when or where. Now residents rattled by a quake can go online and check for the possibility of more jolting in their area.

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/7898654/>

To see the quake-forecast website, visit

<http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/step/>

(Source: MSNBC)

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Densest materials known made to float on air

The densest materials known have been made to "levitate" on a pool of liquid air, reveals a new study. The trick may one day be used to separate precious minerals, metal and gems from rock and soil. The mixture provides enough buoyancy to lift the densest known material, osmium. And unlike ferromagnetic fluids, the mixture "just evaporates and turns back into air" after it is used. "It's very clean and green."

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7380>

(Source: New Scientist)

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Creating paper from banana trees, a sustainable alternative

Papyrus takes an abundant waste product and makes paper in an economical process that uses no chemicals, no water, and about 1% of the energy conventionally used.

<http://www.papyrusaustralia.com.au/>

(Source: Papyrus Australia)

Special thanks to E-Bulletin reader David Wyatt for suggesting this piece.

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The Skycar and the Jetpod, the next generation of transportation

Get a first look at the next generation of personal transportation. The Skycar and the Jetpod offer new models and alternatives to our current system of automobile-based Transportation, while reducing environmental impact.

VTOL Skycar  
<<http://www.moller.com/skycar/>>

VQSTOL Jetpod  
<<http://www.avcen.com/overview-eng.php>>

Special thanks to E-Bulletin reader John Warren for suggesting these pieces.

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#### Low rolling resistance tires improve efficiency

One of the key ways to improve efficiency is to reduce the rolling resistance of vehicle tires. Detailed modeling conducted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory concluded that a 10% reduction in tire rolling resistance should yield fuel savings of about 1 to 2%, depending on driving conditions and vehicle type.

To download .pdf report, visit this site  
<[http://www.greenseal.org/recommendations/CGR\\_tire\\_rollingresistance.pdf](http://www.greenseal.org/recommendations/CGR_tire_rollingresistance.pdf)>

(Source: Greenseal.org)

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#### RESOURCES

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#### Smart shoes decide on television time

Sports shoes that work out whether their owner has done enough exercise to warrant time in front of the television have been devised in the UK. The shoes - dubbed Square Eyes - contain an electronic pressure sensor and a tiny computer chip to record how many steps the wearer has taken in a day. A wireless transmitter passes the information to a receiver connected to a television, and this decides how much evening viewing time the wearer deserves, based on the day's exertions.

<<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7395>>

(Source: New Scientist)

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#### Mini Eco-Pods

Mini Eco-Pods is a system that allows children to keep track of their class garden and natural elements over time. The Mini Eco-Pods system builds on outdoor education methods, in which children are encouraged to explore nature. Mini Eco-Pods enhances this method of teaching by allowing children to monitor their garden and allowing them to keep track of the changes of different natural elements. Using this information the children can compare and reflect on past events and their influence on the garden. The system is composed of four monitoring devices (the Mini Eco-Pods) and an information display and retrieval system. The first three monitor (respectively) water, light, and temperature periodically. The fourth Mini Eco-Pods takes a picture of plants in its proximity. The information is stored in the Mini Eco-Pods until children retrieve it.

[http://www.tiltool.com/Eco\\_Pods.htm](http://www.tiltool.com/Eco_Pods.htm)

(Source: Worldchanging.com)

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NextBillion.net, Development through enterprise

A new hyper-interactive blog launches today as the world's premiere online water cooler and conference room for business development aimed towards eradicating poverty. NextBillion.net allows development and poverty reduction to reach a new level by offering a bottom-up educational resource and threaded discussion tool for everyone from multinational executives to small-business entrepreneurs.

<http://www.nextbillion.net/>

(Source: Business Wire)

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2005 Energy Priorities

Top 5 steps businesses can take towards sustainability

What are the top five actions that your business can take in 2005 to become a more responsible energy user and take us closer to a clean and sustainable energy future? EP gathered ideas from engineers, entrepreneurs and investors to compile this year's business energy priorities. Here they are, in priority order.

[http://energypriorities.com/entries/2005/01/2005\\_energy\\_pri.html](http://energypriorities.com/entries/2005/01/2005_energy_pri.html)

(Source: EnergyPriorities.com)

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Earth Exploration Toolbook

The Earth Exploration Toolbook is a collection of computer-based Earth science activities. Each activity, or chapter, introduces one or more data sets and an analysis tool that enables users to explore some aspect of the Earth system. Step-by-step instructions in each chapter walk users through an example ~ a case study in which they access data and use analysis tools to explore issues or concepts in Earth system science. In the course of completing a chapter, users produce and analyze maps, graphs, images, or other data products.

<http://serc.carleton.edu/eet/index.html>

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EVENTS

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CODEPINK Action Alert

Thursday, June 2nd @ 12:00 noon  
at the corner of Broad and Wall St. in front of George Washington Statue at Federal Hall  
New York City, New York

Texas Gold: Drinking Water for the Businessman

Fellow Unreasonable Women, Men, Children, and Codepinkers!  
Come out in your best Texas ropin' gear and help deliver TEXAS GOLD, the real Businessman's water back to the businessmen and the cowboy at the White House.

TEXAS GOLD is no prissy drinking water! No siree, this water is bottled at the Mercury Superfund, Lavaca Bay, Texas, by bankrupt and depressed fishermen.

Now is the time to send some down home drinking water to George Bush (and any other 'special' businessman ya'd like to honor). One bottle of this water and you'll never drink another bottle again. Really.

<http://www.chelseagreen.com/media/wilsonaction>

Special thanks to Deborah Grace for this action alert

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The 2005 Business and Sustainability Conference

June 13-15  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
New York City, New York

The Conference Board's 2005 Sustainability Conference will look at the emerging corporate leaders in sustainable development, examine and analyze their varying approaches, and offer attendees an opportunity to better understand the promises and challenges of the issue. We will also focus intensively on the increasingly essential role of energy management in achieving sustainability through a pre-conference forum.

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/bsc2005/bsc2005.htm>

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Have you come across interesting Design Science news articles, resources, or events?

We invite you to forward them so we can consider them for inclusion in future e-bulletins. Send them to:

[mbarron@bfi.org](mailto:mbarron@bfi.org)

If we use your suggestion for future e-bulletins and you would like to be credited by name, please indicate it in your e-mail.

Thank You!

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