

CLIMATE WISE NEWS  
November 2001

This newsletter is distributed as a service of the Seattle and Northwest Region's Climate Wise partnership program. Please direct any questions or comments to:

Jack Brautigam  
Climate Wise Program Manager  
Seattle City Light  
206-684-3954  
jack.brautigam@ci.seattle.wa.us

For further information you may also visit the Climate Wise Partners homepage:  
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserves/business/climatewise/>

Other useful sites:  
Seattle City Light's Global Warming homepage:  
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserves/GlobalWarming/>

Seattle City Light's Energy Smart Services homepage:  
<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/conserves/business/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENTS**

FREE LUNCHEON WORKSHOP –  
SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC RESTROOMS:  
RETROFITS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION  
*Discover ways to reduce water and sewer expenses while maintaining a high level of service in your public restrooms.*

November 28, 2001 – 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Seattle Center House - Rooms G / H  
305 Harrison Street, Seattle

RSVP / Information: (206) 275-4791  
or susanne@teamwatermark.com

Workshop features:

- ... How to retrofit older restrooms to achieve current efficiency standards.
- ... Options that will allow you to move one step further by exceeding code requirements.
- ... Information you will need when selecting toilets, urinals, and hand wash faucets.
- ... View a recent installation of water free urinals at Seattle Center.
- ... Operating demonstration of a dual flush toilet.
- ... Free samples of 0.5 gpm faucet aerators, to bring your hand sinks up to code.
- ... Vendor displays and special event pricing for restroom fixtures.
- ... Overview of technical assistance and rebates.

**ENVIRO EXPO AT THE SEATTLE HOME SHOW  
SEEKING BUSINESS EXHIBITORS**

In February 2002, the King County DNR Solid Waste Division's Waste Reduction and Recycling Section will conduct the 4th annual Northwest EnviroExpo, an exposition for bringing together consumers with businesses that offer environmentally-friendly products and services. The Expo will be held as a "show within a show" as part of the 9-day Seattle Home Show.

For more information contact:

Kris Beatty

King County Department of Natural Resources

Waste Reduction and Recycling

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 701

Seattle, WA 98104

TEL (206) 296-3740

FAX (206) 296-4475

kris.beatty@metrokc.gov

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEWS**

COMPANY NEWS...

**PARENT OF SEATTLE LAFARGE PLANT (A LOCAL CLIMATE WISE PARTNER)  
COMMITTS TO CUT CO2 EMISSIONS**

French cement manufacturer Lafarge, the world's leading cement manufacturer, has pledged to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from its operations. The company will undertake this and other environmental action through its conservation partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Lafarge said it hopes to cut its CO2 emissions 20 percent from 1990 levels by 2010. The company will also become a part of the WWF Climate Savers program.

"We are convinced that a global industry group can only continue to be successful if it operates within the framework of sustainable development with a genuine concern for the environment," said Lafarge chairman and CEO Bertrand Collomb. "This commitment will help Lafarge to prepare for a future carbon-constrained world."

Chief among the methods the company will use to reach this goal is an increase in energy efficiency at its plants, which it will examine more closely in a joint technical program with WWF. Lafarge will also look for ways to increase its use of waste fuels, and for incorporating waste products such as steel slag and coal ash in cement mixtures.

Contact: Lafarge, website <http://www.lafarge.com>.

For more information: visit the WWF Climate Savers Program at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate>

**NIKE PLEDGES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WORLDWIDE**

The international sporting goods company, which employs 500,000 people at 750 factories worldwide, hopes to reduce CO2 emissions from business travel and operations worldwide to 13% percent below 1998 levels by the end of 2005. Nike will also begin measuring emissions from contracted manufacturing and shipping operations, and create baseline data and reduction strategies for subcontractors.

For full text and graphics from the Environment News Service visit: <http://ens-news.com/ens/oct2001/2001L-10-03-06.html>

**HEWLETT-PACKARD JOINS EFFORTS TO COMBAT WARMING**

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change recently announced that Hewlett-Packard Company has joined the organization's efforts to fight global climate change. The Pew Center said it established the Business Environmental Leadership Council (BELC) with 13 members in May 1998. With the addition of Hewlett-Packard, total BELC membership is 37.

Pew said that members of the BELC are committed to assessing their greenhouse gas emissions and establish programs to reduce emissions. The BELC considers the Kyoto Protocol a first step in global efforts to mitigate climate change and supports the development of market-based mechanisms as called for in the treaty.

"The companies understand that the world cannot avoid dealing in a serious way with climate change," said Pew Center president Eileen Claussen. "An important aspect of Hewlett-Packard's philosophy is its dedication to operating in an environmentally responsible manner. [Hewlett-Packard's] decision to join the Pew Center demonstrates their commitment to the climate change issue and we look forward to working with them."

Contact: Pew Center, website <http://www.pewclimate.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEATHER**

**WETTER WINTERS, DRIER SUMMERS PREDICTED IN COMING DECADES**

"The climate is changing, will change, and we want to understand at the regional level what this will mean for the Pacific Northwest." – Edward Miles, Head of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group

See the full article from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: [http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/local/46023\\_clim09.shtml](http://seattlep-i.nwsourc.com/local/46023_clim09.shtml)

## SUMMER 2001 SAW RECORD HEAT

Asheville, North Carolina, September 27, 2001 (ENS) - The summer of 2001 was the fifth warmest on record in the contiguous United States, scientists at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville said Wednesday.

Using the world's largest weather database, NCDC scientists, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, calculated conditions for the meteorological summer, June through August.

The nation's preliminary average temperature was 73.6 F (23.1 C), which was 1.5 F (0.8 C) above the long term average. June through August temperatures have been above average in 11 of the past 15 years.

Temperatures were above normal across much of the nation. However, cooler temperatures than average were seen in much of the Southeast.

The summer's most notable heat wave, in late July and early August, began in the southern Plains and stretched into the upper Midwest, with higher than normal temperatures extending into the northeastern U.S. by the second week of August. Daily high temperatures in the 90s and 100s, combined with high humidity, led to dangerous heat stress levels and numerous heat related deaths.

August 2001 ranked as the fourth warmest in written records. The nation's average temperature was 74.9 F (23.8 C), which was 2.1 F (1.2 C) above the long term mean. Coastal California was cooler than average with slightly below average temperatures widespread across parts of the South from Louisiana to Alabama.

Much of the nation was warmer than normal, with monthly spikes of greater than 5 F in parts of the Northeast and West.

Precipitation in the West did little to ease long term drought conditions, which worsened in many parts of the Northwest. By the end of August, moderate to extreme drought conditions covered much of that region, as well as western Wyoming and Montana.

The extended period of drier than normal conditions, which affected some of the same areas in the summer of 2000, was a contributing factor to wildfires that burned more than one million acres in the West. However, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, on a national basis in 2001, the number of acres burned through the end of August was less than the 10 year average of 3.4 million acres and much less than the almost 6.9 million acres burned by wildfire in 2000.

## SOLAR ENERGY FORECAST: SUNNY

According to a report released last week by Greenpeace and the European Photovoltaic Industry Association, solar energy could meet 26 percent of global energy needs by 2040.

See the Greenpeace press release at:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/pressreleases/climate/2001oct17.html>.

## IPCC RELEASES SYNTHESIS REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In late September, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approved the final volume of its Third Assessment Report, which is IPCC's third effort to gather all known scientific information about climate change and compile a consensus report about the state of the science.

Previously released are the three main volumes of the report, which look at the scientific basis for climate change, the anticipated impacts of climate change, and potential mitigation strategies. The new Synthesis Report summarizes the findings of the previous three volumes in a straightforward question-and-answer format. Although the full report will not be available until year end, a 26-page Summary for Policymakers is now available. Accompanying the summary is a set of 11 color figures that illustrate key points from the Synthesis Report.

See the IPCC announcement, the Summary for Policymakers text and the accompanying illustrations on the IPCC Web site at: <<http://www.ipcc.ch/press/pr.htm>>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SEATTLE DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE INTERVIEW WITH LINDA VERNOOY OF THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE *Campaigning for Clean Air*

Linda VerNooy describes herself as "a mom against global warming." A math teacher at Seattle Central Community College, VerNooy joined the Northwest Council on Climate Change three years ago after meeting its founder, Seattle attorney Blair Henry.

The council is a five-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing global warming by replacing fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Most of the council's 60 members come from academia or government.

"I have two kids, 8 and 12, and this is going to be a serious problem in their lifetimes," says VerNooy. "I don't want to pass it on to them. I want them to grow up on a healthy planet."

VerNooy recently spoke with DJC special correspondent Brad Broberg.

- How does the Northwest Council on Climate Change hope to accomplish its goal?

We've been pushing the state Legislature to take responsibility for greenhouse gases and show leadership on the issue since the federal government hasn't provided the kind of leadership we need.

We'd like to see our state take more leadership in clean energy (solar power, wind power), but we'd also like to see some solutions in the transportation area. For instance, we supported a Puget Sound Clean Cities proposal ... that would give a sales tax break to hybrid (gas/electric vehicles like the Toyota Prius).

- How can the state promote clean energy?

There are a variety of programs being tried in other states. Some states have a renewable energy portfolio. They require utilities to offer a certain percentage of their electricity through clean energy. Another is a system-benefit charge. All consumers pay it. It goes toward a fund to invest in or research clean energy.

- What kind of success have you had?

I think we've generated a lot of momentum toward legislation. We proposed a bill to start a Washington Climate Center that would provide an avenue for the state to provide leadership. We were able to get the bill passed in the Senate in the last session. That was a big validation for us because we're really only getting started in legislation. Before, we were mostly involved in planning international conferences.

- What would the Washington Climate Center do?

The Washington Climate Center would monitor greenhouse gases for the state. It would also analyze the feasibility of a greenhouse gas trading system. The value of a trading system is that companies would have to pay for the right to emit greenhouse gases. By assigning a cost, a trading system gives businesses an incentive to reduce emissions.

- What else is the council working on?

Another area where we're involved is to work with local government to plan for ... responses to the effects of global warming. We're going to see a very significant increase in drought over the next 20 to 50 years. We could see 10 times the frequency of droughts. Local governments that manage water supplies are going to feel the brunt. If we stopped greenhouse gases today, there would still be climate change impacts, so it's important to be prepared.

- Besides the water supply, what other problems might global warming cause?

We won't be able to generate as much power because of the reduction in water behind the dams. And some of the ski areas ... are going to be gone in the future. They're not going to have snow at their current altitudes. Some of the species [of plants and trees] in the forest are going to have a hard time. It's going to be really difficult on the salmon. But there's also [effects] on people's health. There is a suspicion that there is a connection between higher temperatures and the increase in asthma that we're seeing.

- What can individuals do to reverse global warming?

Buying a smaller car and a more fuel-efficient car is really the most important thing people can do right now. When buying any consumer product, keep energy efficiency in mind. We don't want people to give up their convenient lifestyles, but we want people to use clean and more efficient

energy. Clean technology, like wind and solar energy, is what we'd like to see.

- Does the public understand the issue?

There is a myth that there is scientific disagreement about it. But the scientific evidence is out and it's clear that the global climate is changing ... I think people are concerned and want to do the right thing. They think that government should step up and take more leadership.

\*\*\*\*\*

From EREN Network News —

#### SAN FRANCISCO TO SPEND \$100 MILLION ON SOLAR, WIND POWER

Residents of San Francisco recently approved two bond measures that will generate \$100 million for the installation of solar power, wind power, and energy efficiency technologies on city-owned property. Proposition B, the Solar Revenue Bond, is expected to provide financing for about 10 to 12 megawatts of solar power -- enough to make the city a world leader in solar generation -- and about 30 megawatts of wind generation. For comparison, the city government in San Francisco currently uses a total of 160 megawatts of power.

The solar panels will be installed on rooftops of city facilities in the sunniest areas of the city. The wind turbines will be located on city-owned property in Alameda and San Mateo Counties. Because the bonds will be repaid through energy savings from these installations and from energy-efficiency improvements at city facilities, the measure will not result in higher taxes.

A related measure, Proposition H, enables an ongoing commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency by allowing the city to use general revenue bonds for these types of projects. General revenue bonds are approved by the city's board of supervisors and do not require a public vote. In essence, the measure allows the city to handle such energy investments in the same way as other infrastructure investments, such as roads and water and sewer systems.

For details about the two propositions, see the California Solar Center Web site at:

<<http://www.californiasolarcenter.org/sfbond2001.html>>.

#### STUDY FINDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLES CREATE JOBS

Here's a test: What could the United States do regarding energy that would generate 1.3 million new jobs by 2020 while increasing U.S. energy security, boosting U.S. gross

domestic product by \$43.9 billion, and putting, on average, an extra \$400 each year in the coffers of every household in the nation?

The answer, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), is the implementation of energy efficiency technologies and the development of renewable energy resources. Both approaches also reduce the U.S. dependence on limited energy resources while reducing the vulnerability of the U.S. energy infrastructure.

See the WWF press release, with a link to the report, at: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/news/headline.cfm?newsid=303>.

**U.S. CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS UP 3.1% IN 2000**  
U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide increased 3.1 percent in 2000 -- well above the average growth rate of 1.6 percent for last decade, according to DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA). Energy production and use is responsible for 98 percent of the U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, which in turn make up 80 percent of the U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The report, released last week, showed the increase to be distributed among electric power production and energy used for residences and for transportation. However, despite a 4.1 percent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), there was no growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions from industry. See the EIA press release, with a link to the full report, at: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press184.html>.

Related Environment News Network announcement — [http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2001/11/11122001/reu\\_carbon\\_45543.asp](http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2001/11/11122001/reu_carbon_45543.asp)

The timing of the EIA report was somewhat ironic, since it was released just as international negotiators finally agreed on a set of rules for implementing the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol establishes limits on greenhouse gas emissions for industrialized countries, but the United States has announced that it will not ratify the agreement. With the establishment of rules for implementing the Protocol, it remains to be seen if enough other countries will ratify it. The Protocol will take effect only when ratified by at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55 percent of developed country emissions of carbon dioxide in 1990.

The final rules include many of the concessions that the United States had requested in previous years. Specifically, the rules allow countries to trade their carbon emission credits, allow industrialized countries to take credit for clean

development projects in developing countries, and allow credits for carbon-absorbing "sinks" such as forestry projects and land management efforts. See the summary on the Pew Center on Global Climate Change Web site at:  
<[http://www.pewclimate.org/cop7/update\\_110901.cfm](http://www.pewclimate.org/cop7/update_110901.cfm)>.

**BALLARD POWER SYSTEMS UNVEILS NEW HIGH-POWER FUEL CELL**

Ballard Power Systems fired the latest round in the fuel-cell performance war last week when it unveiled its new high-power fuel cell, the Mark 902. Ballard's fourth-generation fuel cell can serve either transportation needs or stationary power applications and can be sized from 10 to 300 kilowatts in power capacity. Passenger vehicles typically need about 35 kilowatts of power; transit buses will require the 300-kilowatt model. The company has already shipped evaluation versions of the fuel cell and expects to deliver production versions by the end of this year. See the Ballard press release at:  
<<http://www.ballard.com/viewpressrelease.asp?sPrID=247>>.

According to Ballard, the Mark 902 fuel cell can produce as much as 2.2 kilowatts of electricity per liter of fuel cell volume. This high "power density" is necessary for transportation applications, which need a compact and powerful energy source. The struggle to achieve high power densities is fueling a rivalry in the fuel cell industry: Just one month ago, General Motors (GM) was boasting about its 1.75-kilowatt-per-liter fuel cell, which at that time was the top performer. See the September 26th edition of the EREN Network News at:  
<[http://www.eren.doe.gov/newsletter/archives/2001/sept26\\_01.html](http://www.eren.doe.gov/newsletter/archives/2001/sept26_01.html)>.

GM, meanwhile, has formed a strategic partnership with Hydrogenics Corporation, a fuel-cell company. The two companies have already built a backup power system that uses an electrolyzer to generate hydrogen when the power is on. When grid power is lost, the system uses a fuel cell to generate electricity from the hydrogen. Yesterday, Nextel Communications signed an agreement with Hydrogenics to install a 25-kilowatt demonstration system at a cell tower site in California. See the Hydrogenics press releases at:  
<<http://www.hydrogenics.com/news.htm>>.

\*\*\*\*\*  
From Environment News Network –

WASHINGTON — Voluntary pledges by electric power companies to cut heat-trapping carbon dioxide (CO2) pollution have been an abject failure, according to a new report by NRDC ([Natural Resources Defense Council](#)). The findings demonstrate the need for legally binding CO2 control measures.

<http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?id=5524>

WASHINGTON — Congress is being urged to enact mandatory limits on greenhouse gases linked to global warming so regulators and companies alike can plan ahead with certainty.

[http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2001/11/11022001/ap\\_45441.asp](http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2001/11/11022001/ap_45441.asp)

\*\*\*\*\*

From Environment News Service –

#### NEW STANDARD GUIDES GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING

WASHINGTON, DC, October 23, 2001 (ENS) - The World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) released today an international standard that will enable businesses to uniformly report their emissions of greenhouse gases.

The standard, called the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Initiative or GHG Protocol, was developed over a three year period by a partnership of more than 350 individuals from corporations, nonprofit organizations, and governments. It is supplemented by a number of user-friendly calculation tools that can be found at: <http://www.ghgprotocol.org>

"Unlike for financial accounting and reporting, there are no generally accepted international accounting and reporting practices for corporate emissions of greenhouse gases," said Kjell Oren, director of WBCSD's Climate and Energy Program. "GHG Protocol will enable businesses to account and report information from global operations in a way that is consistent with financial reporting standards."

The GHG Protocol addresses the six greenhouse gases identified by climate treaty negotiators as key contributors to global warming. They are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

Negotiators to the international treaty called the Kyoto Protocol will work out details of the agreement when they meet in Morocco, October 29 through November 9, 2001.

"In the future, greenhouse gases will need to be accounted for on a company's balance sheet in the same way as other assets and liabilities," said Jonathan Lash, WRI president. "WRI and WBCSD have created an invaluable tool for business and others with the GHG Protocol."

The development of the GHG Protocol was guided by two principles: inclusiveness and transparency. It was road tested by more than 30 companies in nine countries, including Dow Chemical Canada, Du Pont, Ford Motor Company, Fortum Power and Heat, General Motors Corporation, Hindalco Industries, IBM, Norsk Hydro, Ontario Power Generation, Shell Canada, Tokyo Electric Power Company, and Volkswagen.

"The GHG Protocol provides an important global standard for the identification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions," said Dr. Paul Tebo, corporate vice president for safety, health and environment at DuPont. "It provides accounting and reporting building blocks that are critical to any emissions trading scheme."

#### GOVERNMENTS AGREE ON FINAL CLIMATE PROTOCOL RULEBOOK

MARRAKECH, Morocco, November 10, 2001 (ENS) - They negotiated the terms of a new climate change agreement through the night, and at dawn the exhausted

delegates achieved success. In a plenary session held at six this morning, government officials signed off on a deal that finalizes the terms for implementing the Kyoto Protocol.

\*\*\*\*\*

From The Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center  
[www.pprc.org](http://www.pprc.org)

\* King County Environmental Purchasing Annual Report \*  
In 2001, King County agencies spent \$3.8 million on recycled and environmentally preferable products. In addition to increasing King County's support of recycled material markets, these purchases also brought \$580,000 in savings to County agencies. Check out the report <http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/annrep01.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*

**REMINDERS**

We welcome news or information that we could share in future mailings.

If you would like to be added to or removed from this email distribution, let us know. The list currently numbers about 300.

Please be aware that although every URL is checked for accuracy prior to publication, URLs are, for various reasons, subject to change. Further, servers sometimes fail to connect to working URLs.

\*\*\*\*\*