

Sustainable Practices 2008
Innovations, Technologies and Products
Coming Soon to a World Near You
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Eight U.S. Water Utilities Form Alliance to Address Climate Change. Eight of the nation's largest water utilities have been united by concern over the challenge that climate change poses to the delivery of high-quality drinking water. They have formed the Water Utility Climate Alliance and will work to improve research into the impacts of climate change on water utilities. The Alliance will also develop strategies for adapting to climate change and implement measures to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. Alliance membership comes from the water utilities of Denver, Portland, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Southern Nevada, New York City, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. (San Francisco Water, February 26, 2008, http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/20/MSC_ID/357/MTO_ID/552/C_ID/3867)

"Green Grannies" Use Sonoran Kitchen Gardens to Link Schools, Food and Jobs. Three local Tucson women formed the "Green Grannies" and have set about creating a Sonoran bioregion model of the Alice Waters Edible School Yard Garden concept. Their organization, Sonoran Kitchen Gardens, works to establish school kitchen gardens based on permaculture principles, with rainwater harvesting and proper site design to maximize sun, wind, shade and other site assets. Schools interested in a garden site assessment but without resources can pay in the form of mesquite pods harvested from local trees. The school projects also encourage participating high school students to form and spin off natural resource based green cottage industries. (Sonoran Kitchen Gardens, 2008, <http://www.heartzfoundation.org/sonorankitchengardens/index.html>)

Scale of Japan's "Urban Mine" Stocks Rivals Those of Exporting Countries. The Chief of the Natural Institute for Materials Science in Japan has calculated the total amounts of recyclable metals stocked across the country in an effort to determine the extent of the nation's "urban mine." His analysis revealed that the scale of the urban mine in Japan can compare with stocks held by the world's leading mineral resource-rich countries. Metals analyzed included gold, indium, lithium, silver, lead and tin. Japan intends to use this information to develop systems for recovery and recycling of products containing the metals in the face of rising demand and supply crises worldwide. (Japan for Sustainability, February 2008, <http://www.japanfs.org/en/newsletter/200802-1.html>)

Sustainable Practices 2008 is a weekly information service that has been highlighting innovations in technology, social and governance models and sustainable best practices since 2000. It is compiled from publicly available sources and is provided by David Schaller, 520-665-1767, daschaller@mac.com.)