

# Sustainability Resources at the Marin County Free Library and Beyond

## What Is “Sustainability”?

“Sustainability” or “sustainable development” is “the management of renewable resources for the good of the entire human and natural community... The goal of sustainable development is to provide resources for the use of present populations without compromising the availability of those resources for future generations, and without causing environmental damage that challenges the survival of other species and natural ecosystems.”



Source: Freedman, Bill and Judson Knight. “Sustainable Development.” *Gale Encyclopedia of Science*. 3rd ed. Detroit: Gale, 2004. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. MARINet. 8 Oct. 2007.

## Selected Books

The following titles are available in a Marin County Free Library branch and/or a MARINet library. The designation following each title’s year of publication in parentheses is the book’s call number indicating where the book may be found in each owning library’s non-fiction section.



[\*American Energy: The Renewable Path to Energy Security\*](#) by Worldwatch Institute, Center for American Progress (2006) 333.79 American

[\*The Citizen-Powered Energy Handbook: Community Solutions to a Global Crisis\*](#) by Greg Pahl (2007) 333.79 Pahl

[\*The Clean Tech Revolution: The Next Big Growth and Investment Opportunity\*](#) by Ron Pernick (2007) 333.794 Pernick

[\*Ethical Markets: Growing the Green Economy\*](#) by Hazel Henderson with Simran Sethi (2006) 338.9 Henderson

[\*Hell and High Water: Global Warming - The Solution and the Politics - and What We Should Do\*](#) by Joseph J. Romm (2007) 363.738 Romm

[\*The Homeowners Guide to Energy Independence: Alternative Power Sources for the Average American\*](#) by Christine Woodside (2006) 333.79 Woodside

[\*The Homeowner's Guide to Renewable Energy: Achieving Energy Independence through Solar, Wind, Biomass and Hydropower\*](#) by Daniel D. Chiras (2006) 644 Chiras

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[Ignition: What You Can Do to Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement](#) edited by Jonathan Isham, Jr. and Sissel Waage (2007) 363.738 Ignition

[An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It](#) by Al Gore (2006) 363.738 Gore

[Kicking the Carbon Habit: Global Warming and the Case for Renewable and Nuclear Energy](#) by William Sweet (2006) 333.79 Sweet

[Little House on a Small Planet: Simple Homes, Cozy Retreats, and Energy Efficient Possibilities](#) by Shay Salomon (2006) 728 Salomon

[Profit with Honor: The New Stage of Market Capitalism](#) by Daniel Yankelovich (2006) 174 Yankelovich

[The Revenge of Gaia: Earth's Climate in Crisis and the Fate of Humanity](#) by James Lovelock (2006) 333.7 Lovelock

[Worldchanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century](#) edited by Alex Steffen with a forward by Al Gore (2006) 333.7 Worldchanging

[XS: Small Structures, Green Architecture](#) by Phyllis Richardson (2007) 720.47 Richardson

The Civic Center Branch maintains a special collection, The Green Living Library, developed in part with generous donations from the Marin County Community Development Agency. To use the MARINet catalog to browse the titles in this collection, perform a Subject Search on [Green Living Library](#).

## Videos and DVDs

[Bioneers 2002: Revolution from the Heart of Nature](#) features lectures from the 2002 Bioneers Conference held in San Rafael, California, bringing together leading scientific and social visionaries with practical solutions for restoring the Earth. (2002/Video)



[Building with Awareness: The Construction of a Hybrid Home](#) (2005/DVD)

[The Eco House, Vol. 1: Ideas for a Healthier Home](#) (2004/DVD)

[Global Warming: The Signs and the Science](#) (2005/DVD)

[The Healthy Home and Garden: Less-Toxic Pest Control](#) (2005/DVD)

[An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning](#) (2006/DVD)

[Marin Countywide Plan Update Sustainability Workshop #1: Designing the Future of Marin County](#) (2000/Video)

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[Marin Countywide Plan Update Sustainability Workshop #2: Economy and Transportation](#) (2000/Video)

[Marin Countywide Plan Update Sustainability Workshop #3: Agriculture, Food and Sustainability](#) (2001/Video)

[Marin Countywide Plan Update Sustainability Workshop #4: Social Equity and Green Building](#) (2001/Video)

[Marin Countywide Plan Update Sustainability Workshop #5: Transportation in Marin, Past, Present and Future](#) (2001/Video)

[This Renewable House: The Definitive Guide to Renewable Energy](#) (2002/Video)

[Too Hot Not to Handle](#) offers a guide to the impacts of global warming on the U.S. and gives measures that can be taken to reverse this trend. (2006/DVD)

[Who Killed the Electric Car?](#) (2006/DVD)

## Accessing Online Magazine Articles

[InfoTrac Magazines](#) (also known as *Gale General OneFile*) is a subscription database available through the library which contains full-text articles from more than 6,300 popular magazines and over 400 news services. It is accessible from home for all patrons with a MARINet library card. Find articles with keyword searches such as the following:



- corporate social responsibility
- environmental activists
- environmental policy
- environmental protection
- environmental sustainability
- environmentalism
- global warming
- green movement
- natural resource conservation
- renewable energy
- sustainability
- sustainable development

## On the Web: Acting Locally

[Center for Regenerative Design at the College of Marin](#) “educates local community members and collaborates with higher education institutions...and local organizations and businesses to develop programs that highlight alternatives to support a sustainable future.”



[Environmental Action Committee of West Marin](#) was “founded in 1971 to protect West Marin’s natural environment and rural character.”

[Environmental Education Council of Marin](#) “works with...organizations including sustainable businesses, environmental educators, non-profits, and social justice advocates to implement sound ecological practices and promote environmental education in Marin.”

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[Environmental Forum of Marin](#) “is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the quality of our environment through education.”

[Marin Agricultural Land Trust](#) (MALT) was “founded in 1980 by a coalition of ranchers and environmentalists to preserve farmland in Marin County... MALT acquires agricultural conservation easements on farmland in voluntary transactions with landowners... (and) encourages public policies that support and enhance agriculture.”

[Marin County Community Development Agency: Future-Marin](#) provides access to past countywide plans as well as current revised drafts. Countywide planning incorporates guiding principles to design a sustainable future.

[Marin County Sustainability Team](#) works “with others to develop policies and programs that will help make the County of Marin healthy, vibrant and sustainable for many generations into the future.”

[Marin Organic](#) “is an association of organic producers...whose livelihood is based on a respect for nature and a sense of place... Marin Organic is committed to promoting and supporting a sustainable, organic county...in which growers and the people who rely on them recognize their mutual interdependence.:

[Marin.org Environmental Resources in Marin](#) is a directory of local groups and organizations involved in environmental education and restoration. There is also a link to a calendar of Marin environmental events.

[MarinMax](#) is a free materials exchange and reuse program “designed for use by businesses, non-profits and individuals within Marin County. The goal of this site is to divert waste from landfills, build partnerships within the community, and provide an environmentally sustainable marketplace.”

[Sustainable Fairfax](#) is a nonprofit educational organization that “supports the philosophy that we must attend to the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations and the natural world to provide for their own needs.”

[Sustainable Marin](#) advances “sustainable principles in the County of Marin...with the goal to transform the region in the areas of environment, economics, and society into a sustainable community by the year 2040 and beyond.”

[Sustainable Mill Valley](#) fosters “sustainable decision-making throughout Mill Valley, with a focus on promoting the adoption and implementation of public policies that reflect sustainability principles.”

[Sustainable Novato](#) seeks to “bring about a healthy and vital environment, self-reliant economy, and inclusive community for the long term.”

[Sustainable San Rafael](#) “is a grass-roots organization focused on advocating for sustainability and green policies in San Rafael, CA.”

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[WalkBikeMarin](#) “is an initiative by the County of Marin to help make Marin more healthy, livable, and environmentally sustainable by encouraging walking and bicycling as everyday transportation.”

## On the Web: Thinking Globally

[Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities](#) “is a coalition of business, environmental, social equity and government leaders who forge collaborative solutions to improve the quality of life in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.”



[Bioneers](#) “is a nonprofit organization that promotes practical environmental solutions and innovative social strategies for restoring the Earth and communities.”

[Convention on Biological Diversity](#) is a pact established at the 1992 Earth Summit with “three main goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

[Earth Institute at Columbia University](#) promotes “understanding Earth as one integrated system” and “is working to achieve [sustainable development](#) through education, scientific research, and action.”

[Global Energy Network for Community Sustainability](#) “is an emerging affiliation of organizations that collaborate on sustainable energy initiatives which contribute to the economic, social and environmental health of communities around the world.”

[International Institute for Peace through Tourism](#) is a non-profit organization “dedicated to fostering and facilitating tourism initiatives which contribute to international understanding and cooperation, an improved quality of environment, the preservation of heritage, and through these initiatives, helping to bring about a peaceful and sustainable world.”

[International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) “champions sustainable development around the world through innovation, partnerships, research and communications.”

[Living Lakes](#) has as it’s stated vision, “All lakes, wetlands and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems and where they are used by human kind that use should be sustainable and not damaging to the environment.”

[National Center for Appropriate Technology](#) maintains a family of websites “on sustainable energy, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable community development.”

[Planning and Conservation League](#) is the only organization solely devoted to making California a better place to live by lobbying the California State Legislature on a full range of environmental issues and by sponsoring environmental initiatives.

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[Redefining Progress](#) “is the nation’s leading public policy think tank dedicated to smart economics. We find solutions that ensure a sustainable and equitable world for future generations.”

[Rocky Mountain Institute](#) “is a not-for-profit ‘think and do tank’ that works with individuals and organizations...to help them use energy and resources efficiently while being ever-better stewards of the environment.”

[Smart Growth America](#) “is a coalition of national, state and local organizations working to improve the ways we plan and build the towns, cities and metro areas we call home.”

[Sustainable Northwest](#) “partners with communities and enterprises to achieve economic, ecological, and community vitality and resilience.”

[U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development](#) “is a non-profit association of businesses whose purpose is to deliver highly focused, collaborative projects that help its members and partners demonstrate leadership in the United States on sustainable development and realize business value.”

[U.S. Green Building Council](#) seeks “to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.”

[United Nations Atlas of the Oceans](#) “is an information system designed for use by policy makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues and by scientists, students and resource managers who need access to underlying data bases and approaches to sustainability.”

[United Nations Division for Sustainable Development](#) “was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ([UNCED](#)), also known as the Earth Summit.

For additional websites, search the [Librarians’ Internet Index](#) with keywords such as [sustainable](#) or [green](#).



[Marin County Free Library/Civic Center Branch](#)

Mon, Wed, Fri: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tue, Thu: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Closed Sundays

Marin County Civic Center • 3501 Civic Center Drive, #427  
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October 2007

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