

This is the ninety-first edition of what is a “twice-monthly or so” *News You Can Use* newsletter for participants in one of the Initiative Foundation’s Planning and Preservation programs. This newsletter is sent to everyone that has provided an e-mail at one of our Conservation-based training events. If you wish to be removed or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Don Hickman (dhickman@ifound.org) or Leah Posterick (lposterick@ifound.org). The goal of this publication is to share funding opportunities, new resources, and pending hearing or training events of common interest.



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #91

November 6, 2008

Aquatic Plant Management Rules Revision

The DNR is revising its rules that regulate the management of aquatic vegetation in Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, and wetlands. To review updates on the rules revision process, identify [key areas](#) where rule changes are likely, provide [background](#) information, or to offer input visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/apm/index.html>

For more information contact:

Steve Enger, Coordinator Aquatic Plant Management Program, 500 Lafayette Road Box 25, St Paul, MN 55155-4025, steve.enger@dnr.state.mn.us, tel. (651) 259-5092.
Please allow 10 working days for a response to your inquiry

Dynamic Farmers’ Market Fall Conference

Two dates and locations, but you just need to choose one as the agenda is the same both days:

Tuesday, November 18 – T. Maxwell’s in Staples, Minnesota

Wednesday, November 19 – Cabela’s in Owatonna, Minnesota

The conference theme is “Learning from Each Other”, and as you will note, several segments of the agenda provide the interactive opportunity for sharing and exchanging ideas.

In that regard, we invite all attendees to share printed materials they use to promote their market. These materials will be displayed at the conference and copies available to inspire other attendees! If you have items you would like to share, please send one hard copy of each item to Ruth White, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55155-2538. All items need to be received by October 17th.

In addition, we are looking for participants on a couple of panels -- Topics are “Sponsorship/Friends of the Farmers’ Market” and “Printed Materials for Promotion”.

- Do you have market sponsors or a friends of the farmers' market program? Who are your sponsors? How do you recruit sponsors?
- How did you start the farmers' market program? Who is involved?
- What kind of printed promotional pieces does your market have? Who creates your promotional materials? Have you found them to be successful? How and where do you distribute?
- Where do you get your ideas?

If you plan on attending the conference and would like to share your experience (whether good, great or not so successful) about either one of these topics, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Carol Morris at 763-494-6002 or via email at cmorris@ci.maple-grove.mn.us Please provide your name, market, and which panel you would like to participate.

An agenda and registration form for the upcoming conference has been posted to the [Minnesota Farmers' Market Association](#) website.

Influencing Change:

A workshop to learn about transforming public policy decisions.

Thursday, November 20, 2008
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

Join Marcia Avner, public policy director at Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and Ready 4K Executive Director and former state representative, Todd Otis to learn about:

- effective ways to communicate with your elected officials
- passing legislation
- state funding & budgeting processes
- legal issues on advocacy & lobbying

Who should attend?

Nonprofit organizations, youth, community members and early childhood, K-12 and higher education professionals. Anyone interested in learning more about how to best influence and effectively communicate with policymakers!

\$20 fee includes refreshments and program materials.

Registration deadline: Monday, November 10th

Questions? Contact Jolene Howard at jhoward@ifound.org, (877) 632-9255.

> [flyer and registration form](#)

The BAELN 2008-2009 Season *The Path Less Traveled* is pleased to offer...

A Sustainable Planet: Dematerializing the World

Thursday, November 20, 2008, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Held at the MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter/Brainerd. Free. All are invited.

This month you have the opportunity to view and listen in on one of the top thinkers in sustainability and discuss the ideas and innovations he shares. This BAELN gathering we connect to Alex Steffen's words and ideas through a video podcast of a presentation he gave at a Pop!Tech conference in Camden, Maine. As co-founder and editor of WorldChanging.com, Alex Steffen sees the time as now to build a sustainable planet through imagining and designing products for one-planet prosperity that can work for every person on the earth. He offers challenges, ideas, products and services to help dematerialize the world.

Come hear thought-provoking ideas and enjoy discussing their viability and relevance to you, your community and the world.

Speaker: Alex Steffen has been the Executive Editor of Worldchanging since he co-founded the organization in 2003, as the next phase in a lifetime of work exploring ways of building a better future. In a very short time, Worldchanging has become the most widely-read sustainability-related publication on the Internet, with an archive of over 7,000 articles by leading thinkers around the world.

If you have questions concerning this presentation, please contact Denise Stromme at 218-85-5014 or denise.stromme@pca.state.mn.us.

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) works to create opportunities for people in the environmental field, and the community, to receive timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme "The Path Less Traveled" offers topics that can help us improve our communities and the environment in which we live. Each gathering held the third Thursday of the month from 3:00-5:00 p.m., will include an hour-long presentation with time for questions, networking and refreshments. The events are free and all are invited to come explore the path less traveled.

BAELN is a collaborative effort of the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Minnesota, Central Lakes College, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN Pollution Control Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Paul Bunyan Trail Association, and University of Minnesota Extension.

For information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelson at (218) 855-5001, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.

Upcoming events:

December 18: Birding 101

Birding 101 is perfect for those of you who want to know more about birds. From identifying to biorhythms to habitat selection to feeding, there's always something new to discover.

January 15: Wildlife and Climate Change

As the climate changes, so do our animal numbers. Find out what's happening here in Minnesota and elsewhere to our valuable wildlife populations.

February 19: Balancing Development and Conservation: Baxter's Conservation Overlay District

A conservation overlay district looks at development alternatives in environmentally sensitive areas. Hear city officials and citizens share how this new concept is being applied right here in Baxter.

March 19: Socially Responsible Investing

Socially responsible investing describes an investment strategy which seeks to maximize both financial return and social good. Come learn if this strategy is for you and your community.

April 16: Treating Stormwater as an Asset: Three Things You Can Do

Rain gardens, rain barrels and shoreland buffers are cropping up in the area. Find out more about these practices, why they are important and what would work for you.

May 21: Making Solar Power Accessible to People of All Income Levels

Discover more about solar energy, what's happening with solar in our region and how you can take advantage of its benefits.

June 18: Taking Charge: One Family's Journey toward Energy Self-Sufficiency

Living off the grid, without reliance on public utilities for things like electricity and water, is becoming a more common practice. Hear how people are doing it and glean lessons that you can apply to your own way of life.

Aquatic Conservation Programs Funded Worldwide

http://www.projectaware.org/english/grants/grant_information.aspx

The Project AWARE Foundation is committed to the preservation of the aquatic environment and its resources throughout the world through education, advocacy, and action. The Foundation provides grants for the conservation of both marine and

freshwater underwater environments, with a focus on coral reefs, shark protection, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism, shoreline cleanups, and aquatic education for children. Grants range up to US \$10,000, AU \$2,500, or UK £5,000. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the next application deadline is December 15, 2008. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website.

Reducing Energy Costs in Minnesota Local Governments

This summer two compilations of Minnesota case studies were published that showcase the cost-saving benefits of local government efforts to cut energy use and to use energy more efficiently. Both are based on surveys of actions being taken by cities across Minnesota:

- *Best Practices Review: Reducing Energy Costs in Local Government* (Office of the State Auditor - www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx look under: Reports & Data)
- *2008 State of the Cities* report, chapter 3 (League of Minnesota Cities - <http://www.lmnc.org/page/1/sustainability-resources.jsp>)

The 126-page State Auditor's report includes recommended steps to guide local governments in reducing energy costs, and cost/benefit analyses of different types of energy-reducing technologies and services. Designed to be easy to use, the online version has live links to financial resources and cost calculators. The review features nine case studies:

- Lighting retrofit projects - City of Minnetonka, St. Louis County and Washington County
- Geothermal heating and cooling - Watertown-Mayer School District
- Passive and active solar energy systems - City of Minneapolis
- Wind energy system - Pipestone-Jasper School District
- Displacement ventilation system - Anoka-Hennepin School District
- LEED certification - Blue Earth County & Watertown-Mayer School District
- Energy performance contracts - Scott County

Chapter 3 (pages 29-52) of the League of Minnesota Cities' (LMC's) annual report highlights examples of cities' energy efficiency efforts, and reports on survey results of efforts across the state. Common goals for many cities making these efforts, based on the latest LMC survey, include achieving the long-term cost savings associated with many energy-efficient technologies, combating pollution, meeting environmental regulations, creating healthier work environments, and reducing a city's impact on the environment. Cities profiled and samples of their many accomplishments are:

- Anoka - building improvements at a public golf course
- Apple Valley - building and stormwater design
- Elk River - multiple "Energy City" efforts
- Minneapolis - sustainability efforts including fleet reductions
- Northfield - street lighting, building renovations

- Rushford Village - green and energy-efficient technologies encouraged when evaluating building permits
 - Wells - community center and rain garden upgrades
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Sustainable Trail Development Guidelines

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/trails_waterways/index.html

In 2007 the MN Dept. of Natural Resources produced a first-ever comprehensive 'how-to guidebook' for developing all types of recreational trails. These 'best practices' for professional trail builders are intended to aid Minnesota land managers in applying new, innovative and environmentally sustainable approaches to trail planning, design and construction.

Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines is a 300-page spiral-bound publication useful for trail clubs and volunteers, local government sponsors, educators, and both public and private land managers. The guidelines address both new and existing trail corridors, summer and winter-use trails, and multi-use trails in the American Midwest.

Practical, low-cost and 'low-tech' solutions to the unique challenges faced by Minnesota trail builders are highlighted, recognizing the state's wide range of soil and site conditions, riparian area concerns and climatic extremes. Trail project planning, funding, permitting and environmental review steps are also discussed and references are provided. With extensive diagrams and photos, the publication includes these chapters:

- Framework for Planning Sustainable Trails
- Principles of Designing Quality Recreational Trails
- Principles of Ecological Sustainability
- Trail Classifications and General Characteristics
- Shared-Use Paved Trails
- Sustainable Natural Surfaced Trails

Free downloads of the Guidelines are available at no cost for non-commercial or educational purposes. For details and to order a hard copy at \$19.95 each, see the web page above.