

Living Green is making choices in our day-to-day lives that reduce our impact on the environment and move us in the direction of a sustainable lifestyle – one that is healthy, ecologically sound, economically viable and socially just.

## RENEWING KYOTO

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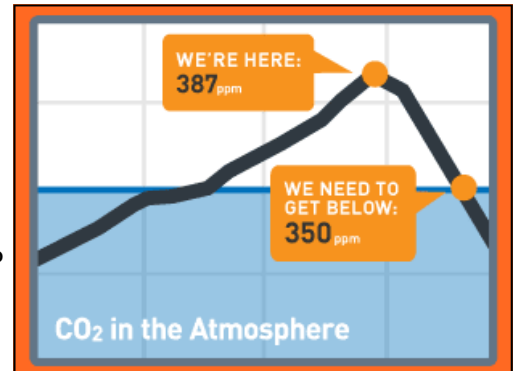
This December the Conference of the Parties (COP) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, to create a follow up plan for the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012. Under the Protocol, 37 industrialized countries committed to reducing four greenhouse gases by 5.2% from the 1990 level, and other countries gave general commitments.

Science says that greenhouse gas emissions have to peak then start declining by 2020 to avoid catastrophic climate change. This sort of catastrophic change would cause half of the world's population to experience water shortage, as well as the extinction of half of all animals and plants, the disappearance of coral reefs, and at least one meter sea level rise by 2100. To see the end of rising emissions, there must be a range of 25-40% reduction by

2020 from 1990 levels in the rich nations of the world.

Two years ago the COP met in Bali to outline the goals for the Copenhagen meeting.

They developed the Bali Road Map and two goals; one for the extension of the Kyoto Protocol into a second term and one for a new treaty in Copenhagen. At this meeting, world leaders also added a complete program to reduce emissions from forest degradation, called REDD, which stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. It would be impossible to control greenhouse gases without protecting forests that naturally consume carbon in the atmosphere. 17% of emissions come



Many scientists and climate experts recommend sustaining carbon dioxide levels below 350 parts per million in the atmosphere. Visit [www.350.org](http://www.350.org)

from forest degradation and deforestation.

The controversy over the Kyoto Protocol was due to the fact that the United States had never ratified, or committed to an agreement and was not making goals to reduce emissions. Now the US government has stated that they are willing to seriously look at emissions reductions and regulating greenhouse gases.

So far, rich nations have pledged far lower reductions than

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The developing field of Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) is creating ways to store carbon waste in geological formations underground, or as liquid into oceans or ocean beds, and as a solid into mineral beds such as limestone. None of these methods are well developed and all are extremely costly.

With the changing temperatures and the falling leaves, it is clear to see that summer has died down. However, one hot conversation from this summer is still going strong: the discussion on two prospective acts set to shape American policy on energy usage and carbon waste.

In June, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, otherwise known as the Waxman-Markey Bill, was passed by a slim margin through the House of Representatives. This bill includes a renewable energy standard requiring utility companies to meet 20% of their electricity demand through renewable sources by 2020. Another key

## CLIMATE BILLS

point of the bill is the reduction of carbon emissions from major sources by 17% by 2020.

A new climate bill was more recently passed through the Senate; the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. Also known as the Kerry-Boxer Bill, this latest policy prospect shares many commonalities with the first.

Cap and trade is one of these mutual goals. In this system, companies receive a specific cap placed on their pollution emissions. For every ton they go over their emissions cap, they have to pay for a permit. However, if a company uses less than their cap, they can sell their existing

permits to other companies, making a reduction in emissions beneficial to business.

Carbon offset is an alternative method for companies to pay for their carbon emissions and is a system included in both climate bills. Through large tree plantings or investing in new, green technology, companies can lower or offset their emissions.

Both bills push for more funding for carbon capture and sequestration, which is a system that would catch, contain, freeze, and bury carbon underground- all taking place before it is emitted into the atmosphere.

Besides these com-

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## GREEN WINTER TIPS



There are plenty of ways to be green amidst the winter white. Here are some quick and simple ideas!

**1) De-ice your driveway in a non-toxic way.** Try using cat litter, sand, or fireplace/stove ash instead. Chemical antifreeze pollutes our water.

**2) Save your ashes.** Cold ashes mixed with compost piles add valuable nutrients to soil, getting your

spring garden off to a good start.

**3) Give your heating system a check up.** Making sure equipment is working properly will save you from excessive usage and high costing energy bills. If equipment is in need of replacement, go with the *Energy Star* label.

**4) Close the recycling loop.** You can purchase winter clothing items made from recycled materials. Take an extra look at the tag when you buy presents!

**5) Ditch the gas-powered snow blower.** Instead, use snow shovels, ice crackers, or brooms to clear away snow.

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

### Strawbales, Sky Tombs & Sichuan Pepper: A Green Building Travelogue in China



**November 10  
7:00 PM  
The Magic Lantern Theater  
25 W. Main**

Local eco-architect Kelly Lerner and sustainability diva Alli Kingfisher will share slides of their recent trip to Sichuan Province in China to build strawbale homes after the 2008 earthquake that killed 70,000 and left up to 11 million homeless. The travelogue also includes: Jiuzhaigou National Park, Tibetan vernacular architecture and a Tibetan Dancing and Horse racing festival.

\$ 10 Suggested Donation (more if you can, less if you can't)

As the holiday season approaches, advertisements start to take over the landscape, encouraging us to buy, buy, buy. With large unemployment numbers and money tight, it is time to consider keeping the credit card in the wallet and be more creative with your gift giving. It only takes a bit of thought and innovation to come up with meaningful, lasting gift ideas for friends and family. Here are some ideas:

1) Create, bake, or make! Instead of purchasing something with lots of plastic packaging, try making gifts out of things you already have at home. Be it through baked goods, creating artwork, or making a calendar out of pictures you've taken-home made gifts have a personal touch that Walmart lacks.

2) Try out a jumble exchange. Get your friends or family together and have everyone bring something from home that they don't need anymore. Put the items on a table, have everyone draw

numbers, and take turns picking presents from the table.

3) Give the gift of service. A fun idea for this is to make coupons offering things like a free night of babysitting, lessons for a musical instrument, house cleaning, or even something as simple as a back massage.

4) Give a donation. For those of us who already have enough "things", the gift of a charitable donation to a favorite non-profit organization is a fun,



inspiring way to approach giving.

[www.justgive.org](http://www.justgive.org) is a great database for finding charitable causes that could align with the passions and interests of friends and family members.

### Climate Bills *continued from p. 2*

monalities, many would call the Kerry-Boxer Bill more ambitious than its predecessor. Kerry-Boxer calls for a carbon reduction of 20% instead of 17%, and focuses even more money on carbon cap-

ture. The bill also places a large emphasis on independence from foreign fuel, putting more money toward nuclear energy and aiming to convince coal companies to switch over to native natural gas.

With so many prospects on the burner, we can hope and expect that these discussions will lead us in the right direction and lessen our carbon impact on the planet.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY



Every year the Community Building hosts a Fair Trade Festival in the lobby and the storefront now occupied by fairtrade retailer, Kizuri. (See the calendar, p. 6, for dates).

Fairtrade standards are not simply a set of minimum standards for socially responsible production and trade. The Fairtrade standards go further in seeking to support the development of disadvantaged and marginalized small-scale farmers and plantation workers.

They relate to three areas of sustainable development: social development, economic development and environmental development.

The practice of fair-trade means that a guaranteed minimum price is agreed upon, an additional amount might be invested in projects that enhance social, economic and environmental development, and it emphasizes trade relationships.

In today's world economy, where profits

rule and small-scale producers are left out of the bargaining process, farmers, craft producers, and other workers are often left without resources or hope for their future. Fair Trade helps exploited producers escape from this cycle and gives them a way to maintain their traditional lifestyles with dignity.

Resources:

[Transfairusa.org](http://Transfairusa.org)  
[Globalexchange.org](http://Globalexchange.org)  
[Fairtradefederation.org](http://Fairtradefederation.org)

## PROGRESSIVE PARTIES



Are you looking for a new, creative way to celebrate the upcoming holidays? Try out a progressive party! This celebration idea is a way to lessen the weight of hosting by spreading it out over multiple homes.

These steps can give you an idea of what a progressive party can look like and how to get it started.

1) Find 3 to 4 friends who would be interested in hosting with you. Each friend is responsible for hosting and preparing one phase of the meal at his or

her home, be it hoer d'oovers, main dish, or dessert. You can be creative!

2) Create a guest list. The average home can usually host anywhere between 6 to 12 people comfortably.

3) Send out invitations. This can be as simple as an email invitation. Let people know the times and addresses for each host's house and request an RSVP.

4) Follow up with each host a week before

the scheduled party. Make sure everyone knows the final number of guests and is still prepared to host their part of the meal. If children are involved, make sure each hosting house has games, crafts, or other activities to keep them occupied and entertained.

5) Enjoy the quality time of sharing a meal with friends and family!

# RECIPES

## Apple Gingerbread Cake

Taken from *allrecipes.com*



Yield: 1- 9in round cake,  
16 servings

Baking time: 40 minutes

### Gingerbread

¼ cup butter  
3 Granny Smith Apples-  
peeled, cored, and  
chopped  
1 tablespoon honey  
½ cup white sugar  
½ cup packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons ground cinnam-  
on  
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie  
spice  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
¼ teaspoon salt

½ cup milk  
½ cup chopped walnuts

### Frosting

½ cup softened butter  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 (8 oz) package cream  
cheese, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 (20 oz) can apple pie fill-  
ing

### Candied walnuts (on top)

1 egg white  
1 teaspoon ground cinnam-  
on  
½ cup chopped walnuts  
1 tablespoon brown sugar

Preheat the oven to 350  
degrees F. Grease and  
flour two 9 inch round  
cake pans.

Melt ¼ cup butter in a skil-  
let over medium heat. Add  
the apples and cook until  
tender. Set aside and allow  
to cool.

Mix ¾ cup butter, honey,  
brown sugar and white  
sugar until fluffy. Beat  
eggs in one at a time.

Combine flour, baking  
soda, cinnamon, pumpkin  
pie spice, cloves, ginger  
and salt. Stir into batter,  
alternating with milk. Stir  
in walnuts and cooked ap-  
ples. Divide evenly and  
spread batter into the two  
prepared cake pans.

*Candied walnuts:* Whip  
egg whites until foamy.  
Stir in brown sugar, cinna-  
mon, and walnuts. Spread  
out on a cookie sheet and  
bake for 10 minutes.

*Frosting:* Mix together but-  
ter, confectioners' sugar,  
and cream cheese until  
smooth. Thinly frost the  
first layer of cake with  
cream frosting, then frost  
an additional layer of apple  
pie filling. Stack the sec-  
ond cake on top and  
spread the remaining  
cream frosting. Decorate  
the top of the cake with  
remaining apple pie filling  
and sprinkle candied wal-  
nuts.

## Winter Vegetable and Bean Soup

Taken from *epicurious.com*.

Yield: 4-6 servings

### Soup Ingredients:

2 large leeks (white and  
pale green parts only),  
chopped  
2 medium carrots, peeled  
and diced  
1- 6oz white potato, peeled  
and diced  
3 tablespoons water

8 cups canned vegetable  
broth

1/2 cup orzo

6 oz green beans, cut to  
1/2 inch pieces

1-15oz can cannelloni  
beans, drained and rinsed

1/4 teaspoon dried crushed  
red pepper

### Directions:

Combine first 4 ingredients  
in a large pot. Cover and

cook on me-  
dium-low  
until veggies  
are about  
tender. Add  
broth and  
boil. Stir in orzo, boil un-  
covered until orzo is tender.  
Add green beans and let  
simmer for 6 minutes. Stir  
in cannellini and crushed  
pepper. Simmer; salt and  
pepper to taste.

Sprinkle with parmesan  
cheese.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**11/10 Strawbales, Sky Tombs and Sichuan Pepper**, A Green Building Travelogue in China. Magic Lantern Theater, 25 W Main, 7:00 pm.

**11/11 America Recycles Day** Kids activities at Mobius, River Park Square from 11-3. [mobiusspokane.com](http://mobiusspokane.com)

**11/14 SARS Ski Swap** at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. 9am - 2pm.

**11/14 KYRS 6th Anniversary Party**, Come out and celebrate your community radio station with the party of the year, Lincoln Center, 1316 N Lincoln, 7:00pm, \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

**11/14 Food and Faith Forum, Faith and Environment Network** A discussion on the importance of food sustainability with lunch provided by One World Spokane, Admission is \$20. St. Mark's Lutheran

Church, 316 E 24th, 9-3:30pm.

**11/14 & 12/12 Community Roots Market** Buy local food and crafts at Fresh Abundance's monthly farmer's market, 2015 N Division, 11-4pm.

**11/16 Sarah Kramer** Hosted by Spokane Vegans, Sarah Kramer will speak and sign books at One World Spokane. 1804 E Sprague, 5:30pm. Buy tickets at [spokanevegans.wordpress.com](http://spokanevegans.wordpress.com)

**11/20-22 Banff Film Festival** at the Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague. 7pm Friday and Saturday, 6pm Sunday. Shows sell out so buy tickets soon. Info: (509) 325-900, or [www.mgear.com](http://www.mgear.com).

**11/21 Spokane Jingle Bell Run and Walk.** Event starts and finishes at Riverfront Park. Registration starts at 7:30am. Children's 1k begins at 8:30am, adult

5k begins at 9:00am. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Go to: [spokanejinglebell-run.kintera.org](http://spokanejinglebell-run.kintera.org) for more.

**11/27-29 Festival of Fair Trade** with sweat-shop free handcrafts, clothing, jewelry and pottery from around the world. At the Community Building 35 W. Main; 10-6pm. For more information 509-464-7677.

**12/9 Green Drinks** at Brooklyn Nights featuring Faith and Environment Network, 122 S Monroe, 5:30pm.

**12/13 Gingerbread House Build-Off** at the Davenport Hotel, 10 S Post St. 10-4. Proceeds benefit Christ Kitchen. More info: (509)954-0554.

**12/31 First Night Spokane Shows**, ice sculptures, film festivals and kids activities. For buttons, [firstnightspokane.com](http://firstnightspokane.com), or call 252-5027.

## Renewing Kyoto *continued from p. 1*

needed. This changed in October when the European Union pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 95% by 2050, with a short term target of 20-30% reductions by

2020. This pledge, however, will only take place if a global climate deal is signed in Copenhagen in December.

The Copenhagen conference will take place

between December 7th-18th with officials from 192 countries.

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