

Instrumental Evening for the Earth



11th Annual Fall Benefit

Wednesday, November 12
6:00 - 9:30 pm

**Westshore Unitarian
Universalist Church**

20401 Hilliard Boulevard
Rocky River



Daniel McKelway, Lembi Veskimets and Hyunsoon Whang

a zero-waste, carbon neutral, and ground-breakingly fun event.

Guests will be treated to a gourmet assortment of hors d'oeuvres, desserts, coffee, wine and micro-brewed beer, and have the opportunity to bid on a unique array of auction items. These items will include earth-friendly products and services, artwork, sporting goods and tickets, weekend getaways, dinners at local restaurants and more. During the silent auction we will be highlighting our many environmental education, leadership and sustainability programs and initiatives so our guests know exactly what Earth Day Coalition programs, issues and services they will support.

Eleven Years of Music for Mother Earth

Earth Day Coalition proudly invites all to our 11th annual **Instrumental Evening for the Earth** on Wednesday, November 12 at Rocky River's Westshore Unitarian Universalist Church from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

We are honored again this year with the continued support of The Cleveland Orchestra's Daniel McKelway and Lembi Veskimets. The talented and philanthropic couple has, since 1998, generously gathered friends and musicians from around the world to support our programs and benefit our environment. This year world-famous Hyunsoon Whang will join them on stage. The three of them, along with additional Orchestra members and friends, will recreate the very first Earth Day Coalition Instrumental Evening for the Earth performance with trios of Mozart, Schuman and Bruch. WCLV 104.9 FM radio host Bill O'Connell will host this intimate, candle-lit chamber music concert. Bill is a long time supporter of our organization and our annual fundraiser.

Joining us, as co-Chairs of our benefit committee are Rebecca Reynolds of Green Clean and Planet Green (both on Old Detroit Road in Rocky River) and Maggie Busser of Plan It Forward and *Balanced Living Magazine*. The dynamic friends and local champions of the environment have a lot of knowledge to share with us and are continuing to help us raise the bar on our goals of



*Event hosts
Bill O'Connell,
Rebecca Reynolds
and Maggie Busser*



Immediately following the auction, guests will have an opportunity to make a 100% tax-deductible donation directly to Earth Day Coalition's education and leadership programming through the **Great Lakes Brewing Company Challenge Grant**. It proved to be an exciting 15 minutes last year when guests and sponsors collaborated together to raise over \$16,000.

Among the sponsors of this black-tie event are David Jacobs, WCLV 104.9 FM, Congregation of St. Joseph, *Cleveland Scene*, *Balanced Living Magazine*, *EarthWatch Ohio*, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Nelson Talbott Foundation, and Great Lakes Brewing Company.

Tickets are \$75 per person and seating is limited. Tickets are available at www.earthdaycoalition.org or call (216) 281-6468 to register by phone. We hope to see you there!

Westshore Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 20401 Hilliard Boulevard (accessible from I-90; use exit 162 from the east or exit 161 from the west) and just 8 minutes west from Downtown Cleveland-Tower City.

Environmental Profile: Rebecca Reynolds

When you were in college, you were diagnosed with a life-threatening blood-clotting disorder, prompting a vow to seek out a healthier means of living. Could you describe your early adventures into the emerging world of sustainable, organic living and tell us about your initial influences?

An adventure it was. Back in the late 1980's I was living in Cincinnati and the only way to get organic anything was to connect with a food coop. Even then, you had your choice of a small selection of produce, maybe dairy, eggs, and free range chicken, but no one was making convenience items on a national level. I purchased organically whenever I could and set out to read labels looking for key words of products to avoid such as "partially hydrogenated oil," "artificial colors or flavors," and "preservatives."

I figured that if I avoided these items, I was on my way to creating a healthier life for my family and myself. We lived in a college area, and walked everywhere. We didn't have much money, so we didn't buy much, which meant that everything we had in our home that was furniture was literally found on the lawn. I used to call it "lawn furniture." We made do.

Green Clean, the organic and safe cleaning product company you founded in 2002, has its roots in your realization that the chemicals you were using to clean with were every bit as much a danger to your family as the chemicals you had already chosen to remove from your family's diet. I'm curious, in such a large and well-established chemical cleaning industry, what have some of the roadblocks been to your success, and how you have overcome them?

At first, everyone thought my last name was Green. Rebecca Green with an every day cleaning company. That used to make me laugh. It took some time to educate people, to show them that "green" was good and nothing new really, but a concept of living that was ancient, living naturally. Education is the first step to change. It was not hard to describe to people that the feeling in their throat, the moment when their eyes watered, or they lost their breath was their body telling them "enough of the toxins, give me some air!" Time and perception. The time it takes to reach people at a place when they are ready for change. The time it takes to educate in



Rebecca Reynolds

order for that change to happen, and the time it takes to change perception. Perception is very powerful. There are many things we perceive to be true that are in fact completely inaccurate. Money, or should I say the lack of money, that was one large roadblock. When I started Green Clean I was a newly single mom with three young girls. I did not have a bank account. I had been staying at home with my girls, cleaning on the side when they were in pre-school or elementary school, and I did not have the skills needed to go back in the workplace, nor the heart. I did not want to put my children in daycare. So, I literally started Green Clean with a credit card that had a \$3,000 limit. When I was to that limit, which is not hard to reach with insurance, advertising, uniforms, and equipment, I literally prayed for a miracle. That miracle was answered when my elderly neighbor, who I loved as a mother figure, passed away and left me the exact amount I needed to pay off the card...\$3,000. All along I have been guided. I don't mean to sound all spiritual about this, but it is for me, very spiritual. My whole life, each experience, each hard time, leading me to what I believe I am supposed to do to help people and heal our planet.

With all of your work in environmental advocacy, you seem to be fulfilling your mission of giving back to the planet and supporting organizations with like-minded missions. Your co-chairing of our benefit this year is one example, which you are doing while balancing the founding of your new store, Planet Green in Rocky River, evolving your Green Clean business model, and caring for your beautiful family. What advice would you give to others aspiring to commit to a life of sustainable ethics? Similarly, what is your reaction to those who say they are too busy, too tired, or don't have enough money to live organically and sustainably.

My advice, go where your soul tells you to go. Be passionate about something, anything, and live in that passion. Once you find that mission, the place in life that only you can fill, everything else seems unimportant. I'm busy, but I'm not tired. I'm moved every day by the people who say "thank you for doing what you do," or when I see the world get that much

Rebecca continued on page 6...



Our earth, our future
Earth Day Coalition provides education, inspires leadership and encourages action for a healthy environment. Est 1990

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Earth Day Coalition is supported by grants from The Cleveland Foundation, The Dolphin Trust, The Dominion Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Sears-Swetland Family Foundation, The 1525 Foundation, The Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation, The Staples Foundation, The Sullivan Family Foundation, National Wildlife Federation, Starbucks Foundation, Earth Day Network, The Ohio Department of Development, US Bank, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Energy, individual and corporate donations and contributing members. Your support is deeply appreciated. Earth Day Coalition is a founding member of Earth Share of Ohio. If you are interested in making a donation to Earth Day Coalition please consider **donating online** at www.earthdaycoalition.org or call Dolores at 216-281-6468 x221.

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printed on recycled paper with soy ink

President's Message

We have an important election coming up. There is, for us environmentally friendly types, something on the Ohio ballot that is important: Issue 2, to continue a statewide bond fund called Clean Ohio. Issue 2 is on the ballot for the November 4, 2008 general election.



The Clean Ohio Fund was approved by voters and started operations in 2001. Since then, Clean Ohio Fund grants have resulted in the assessment, clean up and revitalization of 173 abandoned and polluted industrial sites. These restored sites have led to \$2.6 billion of public and private investment, leveraging private investment to redevelop sites that will create tens of thousands of permanent jobs and over 100,000 well-paying jobs in the areas of construction, goods and services. The Clean Ohio Fund has conserved 26,000 acres of natural areas and wildlife habitats, preserved 20,000 acres of Ohio family farms and created 216 miles of recreational trails. Nearly all counties in Ohio have received funding.

The vote on November 4 is whether to continue the Clean Ohio program. This is not a tax increase and is not a new tax; its approval simply allows the state to keep selling bonds to private investors. Continuing the program means that, over the next eight years, \$200 million will be spent in conserving greenspace, preserving working family farms, protecting our drinking water, lakes, streams and wildlife habitats, and expanding our recreational trails. Another \$200 million will be invested in the cleanup of polluted, contaminated industrial sites. Polluters are not eligible to receive funds for contamination they created.

With every cleanup of abandoned and polluted sites, and the reconstruction of urban areas, thousands of temporary construction and project related jobs are created. And the private investment in Clean Ohio projects and the new businesses they create, combined with the money communities spend on those businesses, all give a boost to the Ohio economy.

The priority for projects are community driven. Program accountability will be ensured through citizen advisory boards. I hope you will visit www.cleantohio.org to get more information about this important issue.

And please, on November 4th, just vote! I also hope to see our friends and supporters at our Instrumental Evening for the Earth.



The Ohio Green Fleets Program had a successful launch event on August 20 at Burke Lakefront Airport. The event was covered by the Ohio News Network which videotaped the event and interviewed many of the attendees who represented a wide variety of fleets from around the region. On display were a bevy of green vehicles, including a hybrid-electric dump truck, propane powered vans, school busses with diesel particulate filters, a hybrid-electric transit bus and additional interesting vehicles.

The primary objectives of the Ohio Green Fleets Program are to reduce petroleum use, reduce overall fuel use, and reduce emissions of CO₂, NO_x, PM 2.5, & VOC's. NO_x and VOC's are both precursors to ground level ozone and PM 2.5 (fine particle pollution) is the black soot that is emitted from diesel and gasoline powered engines. The five county northeast Ohio area, as defined by NOACA, is in non-attainment with the US EPA standards for both of these pollutants.

The Ohio Green Fleets program is a project of Clean Fuels Ohio. Earth Day Coalition is a partner of the program in Northeast Ohio. The program offers education to fleet managers to enlighten them on the varied means by which they can green their fleet operations. A metric has been created by the Ohio Green Fleets Programming committee in order to accurately gauge progress fleets have made in attempting to green their operations. Ohio Green Fleets will also recognize those fleets that have already attained a level of success.

On November 13, Clean Fuels Ohio and Earth Day Coalition will be hosting a half day seminar to educate interested fleets on the concept of greening their fleet operations. This event will begin in the early morning and take place at the Canalway Center at the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation. Please stay tuned to www.earthdaycoalition.org/cleanfuels for more information.



John McGovern and Scott Sanders recently road tested a great hybrid Prius by driving across the country to Big Sky, Montana for the National Clean Cities Conference.

John McGovern Appointed to RTA Citizen Advisory Board

On Tuesday, August 19 at the Board of Trustees meeting of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, John McGovern, Earth Day Coalition's Clean Transportation Program Director, was officially appointed to serve on RTA's Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). The purpose of the CAB is to:

- make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on matters, i.e., fare changes, Long Range Plan updates, and major or new projects. The CAB will also provide comments on service changes.
- review, monitor and recommend service and program improvements or expansion projects to RTA, and
- strengthen community relations within the transit communities through the development and implementation of public relations campaigns, programs and events.

In light of those objectives, John would like to extend an invitation to all EDC members to submit any questions or concerns about the Greater Cleveland RTA directly to him. Each of you is encouraged to take a hard look at RTA when planning your next trip across town. Whether for business or pleasure, RTA offers several great tools, including way-finding integration into Google Maps, to make trip planning easier for you. Every great city has a great transit system at its core because public transit facilitates efficient movement of people and therefore enables greater population density with less pollution. So please, consider using public transit for your next trip!

For more information contact John McGovern at (216) 281-6468 x 223.



Diesel Health Risk

Do you know that the diesel soot health risk in Cleveland is ranked as worse than 89% of all other metro areas in the U.S., placing our residents at elevated risk of asthma attacks, permanent lung damage, and other

cardiovascular and respiratory problems associated with the toxic and irritating particles in diesel exhaust.

One out of every five people living in the Cleveland metropolitan area lives in a diesel "hot spot" (an area with chronically elevated levels of toxic air emissions from diesel engine exhaust) according to the report, "Cleveland Diesel Hot-Spots - Dirty, Detrimental and Deadly."

The report identifies a diesel hot spot as an area located within a quarter-mile of a roadway with particulate matter emission levels of at least 675 grams per mile per day (equivalent to the particulate matter emission levels from an average major urban roadway with annual traffic levels equivalent to 20,000 vehicles per day, or urban highways with traffic levels equal to 32,000 vehicles per day).

Diesel pollution is the most widespread air pollution risk in the U.S. and fine particle diesel pollution (PM) is linked to serious health problems. Cleveland's and Northeast Ohio's air quality has triggered a federal PM "non-attainment" rating and the region is required to create an implementation plan to reduce PM pollution.

David Wilt, our NASA summer 2008 intern, did some calculations based on Cuyahoga County's average particulate emissions (PM2.5) from the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) 2005-2007 Ohio EPA Data and illustrated the equivalent mass of PM2.5 that one would inhale over an 18-year time period in Cleveland (mass image is compared to a dime).

Earth Day Coalition is working with the Cleveland Clean Air Century Campaign, Ohio Environmental Council and the Clean Air Task Force on local diesel reduction initiatives. The good news is that pollution control technologies, practices and clean fuels are available today that can significantly reduce diesel pollution.

What can you do to clean up diesel pollution now:

- **Reduce idling** - turn your engine off when stopped for more than 10 seconds
- **Join the Cleveland Clean Diesel Campaign** to reduce diesel emissions in our community
- Ask your school, church or organization to **endorse the Diesel Clean-Up Platform**

Check our web site for more information and Cleveland Clean Diesel Campaign materials such as an informational brochure, a "Cleveland Diesel Hot Spots Report," a school bus survey, school program signage, window clings and program information, presentations for a business or city (fleet managers and/or decision makers), municipal idle reduction sample legislation and an organizational "Diesel Clean-Up

Platform" endorsement form.

Call Chris at (216) 281-6468 x 227 for more information and to ask for campaign materials.

OEC Aids Local Cities in Meeting Federal Air Quality Standards

The Ohio Environmental Council will give a combined \$24,000 to Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Parma Heights to purchase diesel emissions controls. The funding comes from a violation of the Clean Air Act and will help the cities pay for retrofit technologies on municipal trucks and busses.

"This money will help us achieve our goal of greening our fleet and reducing harmful diesel emissions through the installation of additional emission controls," states Andrew Watterson, Sustainability Program Director for the City of Cleveland. "Our no-idle policy and GIS route planning has helped us increase service to residents while improving fuel efficiency."



Dave Wilt's visual presentation of the amount of particulates breathed into your body in 18 years.



Congratulations

Congratulations to longtime EDC volunteers Pam Carter (Pam is Environmental Coordinator for Frito-Lay in Wooster), Sue Suppan and Jill Mosley. Pam, Sue and Jill recently volunteered at the Dike 14 Nature Preserve event and volunteer year after year at EarthFest. If you participate in the Walk or Bike for the Earth, you probably know Pam organizes the water quality display at Brookside Park.

Frito-Lay's Wooster facility recently became one of 14 Ohio companies to receive US EPA's "Performance Track" recognition. Performance Track is a voluntary program to recognize and reward private and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements. Program members must be in compliance and set three-year goals for continuous improvements in environmental performance beyond their legal requirements, have internal management systems in place to manage their environmental impacts, and engage in community outreach.



Collaborate and Generate Innovative Education

The Student Environmental Congress (SEC) will be presenting at the second Great Lakes Bioneers - Cleveland 2008 conference to be held on October 17-19th at Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs (more

information at www.gubl.org/bioneers). Bioneers is a network of visionary innovators working to build a sustainable, positive and creative future for the web of life. The program features a virtual feed of outstanding international plenary speakers each afternoon and an exciting line-up of more than twenty workshops and ten tours showcasing programs in Northeast Ohio each morning. The emphasis is on the Great Lakes, water and the challenges and opportunities we have in this region.

SEC will be presenting "Stories of Collaboration" along with 'STEM' Schools in Cleveland. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and STEM schools use project-oriented learning to teach students all topics and to emphasize the special curriculum. The workshop will demonstrate how two STEM schools, MC2 STEM School and Design School Lab, are reinventing education in Cleveland to improve learning and create a new generation of problem solvers and environmental stewards. For more information on these two schools visit www.mc2stemhub.org/.

SEC is looking forward to presenting with Cleveland

STEM schools, and sharing its twelve years of experience using project-oriented learning with the environment as a foundation to engage northeast Ohio high school students in science. SEC Director Dawn Wrench will also be coordinating student attendees at the Bioneers Conference.

SEC Collaborates with Garret Morgan School of Science

Garret Morgan, through SEC, will partner with Earth Day Coalition to expand the already exceptional educational

experience that Garret Morgan offers. Students will not only experience specially designed environmental lessons in the disciplines of language, math, science, social studies, and the arts, each grade will be responsible for developing and implementing an environmental service project to 'Green' their school and serve the community. This partnership will give students a real world connection to their classroom education. This is an exciting effort for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Earth Day Coalition is proud to partner with Garret Morgan School of Science in this unique endeavor.

Last year Garret Morgan held their first **WormFest**, giving worms, worm bins and some wormy words of wisdom to those in the community who wanted to reduce their waste stream through vermicomposting (a type of composting using earthworms, usually Red Wigglers (*Eisenia foetida*) or Red Earthworms (*Lumbricus rubellus*), to breakdown organic matter). Students also successfully planted a vegetable and herb garden on their school grounds. Several students even helped maintain and harvest the



Teacher Emmett Keller and his science students worked on the garden this summer.



special garden over the summer break.



Executive Director Scott Sanders helps kids learn their EQ score (Environmental Quotient) at the local School Days event at Edgewater.

Eco-Energy

The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently announced that renewable energy accounted for more than 10 percent of the domestically-produced energy (biomass/ biofuels, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind) used in the United States in the first half of 2008. Wind power, however, experienced the largest growth rate, increasing by almost 49% from the first half of 2007 compared to the first half of 2008. Biomass and biofuels were the largest source of renewable energy in the United States.

The EIA report "Monthly Energy Review" can be viewed at www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/contents.html.

EarthFest 2009

**Be involved, Be committed,
Be part of the Climate Change
Solutions in Northeast Ohio**



EarthFest 2009 will be held on Sunday, April 19th, at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, from 10 am – 5 pm. Mark your calendars now, because you won't want to miss the gala 20th annual celebration of EarthFest! Visit our website www.earthdaycoalition.org for updates on EarthFest activities, registration forms for the Art, Poetry and Essay Contest, the Walk or Bike for the Earth, and exhibitor registration information.

Better yet, plan to volunteer at EarthFest 2009. There are literally hundreds of volunteer jobs to be filled by individuals and groups, one of them is bound to be just right for you.

Attend one of the following Volunteer Orientation Meetings to find out how you or your group can get involved:

Saturday, January 10, 2009: 10 am - 11:30 am at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Windows on the World Room in the Zoo's Education Building. Parking and admission are free for this training. This is the **ONLY** orientation that will be held at the Zoo.

Saturday, February 21, 2009: 10 am - 11:30 am at Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library

Monday, March 16, 2009: 6 pm - 7:30 pm at Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library

Saturday, April 4, 2009: 10 am - 11:30 am at Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library

The Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library is located at 1900 Fulton Road (just north of the intersection of Fulton Rd. and Lorain Ave.), Cleveland, OH 44113

There is ample free parking on the street or in the lot located at the corner of West 38th and Bridge Avenue.

Please call the office at (216) 281-6468 for more information or driving directions.

...Rebecca continued from page 2

greener for my children.

When people tell me they can't afford organics or to eat healthier, I say, "You can't afford not to." No one who has been ill, really ill to the point of nearly dying can put a price on the amazing feeling and power of wellness. It costs far more to get well than it does to stay well. I mean that in all areas of your life, emotionally, physically, and financially. The impact disease has your body, mind, spirit, family, and finances makes staying well the only option for me.

Buying organic has never been easier or cheaper. My goodness, you can go to your local store, even your discount store, and get organics. Also, knowing where to best spend your money will allow you to buy wiser. Local farmers markets are your best

Rebecca continued on next column...

One Environment...One Simple Way to Care for It

Earth Share of Ohio (ESO) is part of the exciting nationwide network of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation organizations, working to promote environmental education and charitable giving through workplace giving campaigns. Earth Share of Ohio is an opportunity, a system, and an answer for environmentally conscious employees and workplaces to support dozens of top environmental and conservation organizations at once through a charitable giving drive.

Earth Day Coalition is one of many beneficiary organizations, for whom Earth Share of Ohio collects donations through payroll deductions, allowing environmental supporters to make substantial gifts the easy, painless way. When you have as little as \$2 per pay period deducted from your paycheck over 26 weeks (if you are paid bi-weekly), that adds up to a total gift of \$52 for the year!

If you have a charity campaign at your place of employment, please keep Earth Day Coalition and Earth Share of Ohio in mind when you are making your charity recipient choices.

If Earth Share of Ohio is not presented as an option where you work, please call Earth Day Coalition at (216) 281-6468 x221 to inquire about gaining this charitable giving choice to help support a sustainable future in Ohio. For more information on ESO call (877) 434-2357 or contact by email at info@earthshareofohio.org.

...Rebecca continued from previous column

bet. I buy items that are the same price or within a few cents per pound higher. Knowing the "dirty dozen," or the list of most heavily sprayed crops helps people decide what they **MUST** buy organically in order to protect their family from heavy doses of pesticide, some even sprayed from the bud stage of growing. That kind of insecticide application you can't wash off.

Finally, with the major corporate business world warming up to the idea of environmental sustainability, what future do you see for small companies and organizations that have worked and succeeded on a grassroots level?

I see a lot of buy outs. Major manufacturers not having the expertise to run organic/sustainable businesses are buying up already cultivated smaller businesses.

I also see a great deal of 'green washing'. The public is confused, and rightly so. Big industry has big money to convince you that their products are safe and natural, when there is often little proof of this. Back to perception. Consumers must educate themselves. Education is the foundation of Green Clean and Planet Green. We don't just sell you goods and services, we actually help you make choices to live a healthier, more sustainable, natural life, and we give you the tools to do that. This is something that big business cannot and does not offer.

A consumer who focuses their attention to local purchases, and supports small businesses doing well with their dollars, is not only investing in their health, but in the well being of their community.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

Welcome to the newest members of the Earth Day Coalition and thank you to all who have renewed membership for 2008. We are happy to have you help improve the health, quality of life and environment of the greater Cleveland community.

Diane Bickett, Leslie K. Blakemore, Renee Boronka, Kathryn Brock, Joyce Burke-Jones, Church of the Resurrection, Paul R. Daly, Pam Davis, Rosemarie F. DeJohn, Sr., Alice Dugar, Environmental Health Watch, Ruth Anne Gillett, Susan Harnden, H. Clark Harvey, Gretchen Hurley, Marilyn & Larry Jelinek, Albert Kawentel, Lauren Kawentel, Alan & Ginger Kuper, Julie Lindstrom, Maureen E. Pergola, Susan Powers, Don Quist, Kristen L. Sobieski, Diana Slobodian, Susan E. Squires, Nelson Talbott, Turtle Plastics, Elvin M. Vauss, Jr., Wal-Mart-North Olmsted, and Mrs. Richard C. Weiss.

If you are interested in becoming a supporting member of Earth Day Coalition, please send in the membership form included in this newsletter, or call Earth Day Coalition at (216) 281-6468 ext. 221, join on-line at www.earthdaycoalition.org or contact us by email at dwatson@earthdaycoalition.org. Help make 2008 your year of environmental action to effect positive Climate Change Solutions in Greater Cleveland.

Go Cleveland

Since beginning in 2005, the SustainLane US City Rankings of the 50 most populated cities is one of the nation's most complete report cards on urban sustainability. They rank quality of life (local food availability, tap water quality, air quality, walk ability, park space and roadway congestion), city economic and management and look at public transit, renewable energy and development approaches that are most likely to either limit or intensify the negative economic and environmental impacts of fossil fuel dependence.

The SustainLane US City Sustainability Rankings placed Cleveland at number 16 in 2008 (up from 28 in 2006) saying the, "city has done a heck of a job, taking a giant leap up SustainLane's charts this year," and noting Andrew Watterson's hiring as the city's first Sustainability Program Manager beginning in 2005. The city of Cleveland has dedicated itself to sustainable improvements across the eco-spectrum. Cleveland was a leading city, ranked as #1 in the water supply and metro street and freeway congestion (the least congested) and #2 in local food and agriculture. Cleveland's wind monitoring project was also noted.

Earth Day Coalition's Executive Director, Scott Sanders, is proud to serve on the Steering Committee for Cleveland's Sustainability Program.

More information is available at www.sustainlane.com.

It's Cool

The recently enacted Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) says consumers should see 'country-of-origin labels' (COOL) on store shelves by the end of September 2008. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture established broad exemptions for processed foods and minimally processed foods such as roasted nuts, frozen vegetables, and pork products like smoked bacon - these products will not have to be labeled with their country of origin. Food can easily become a global crisis. The Chinese food safety system was recently compromised with tainted baby formula and milk products. An investigation discovered the industrial chemical melamine in 20% of China's producers of infant formula and also in liquid milk products of China's top dairy producers. Globalization can send food around the world before it arrives on our table. Knowing where your food comes from is an essential step toward food security and sustainability - another good reason to shop locally and purchase food and products grown and produced by local farmers.

More information is available at www.foodandwaterwatch.org/food and www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/



Transitions

Congratulations to Earth Day Coalition's former Special Events Coordinator, Brandy Carney, husband Freddy and their baby girl, McKenna. She was born on May 27 and weighed 7lbs. 4 ounces.

Dawn Wrench, SEC Director and husband Shane welcomed their baby boy, Sawyer Thomas, weighing in at 6 lbs. 14 ounces, on February 25.

Welcome to the world little McKenna and Sawyer!

Walk This Way for a Healthy Planet, Healthy You

The Walk or Bike for the Earth is a good way to help offset your carbon footprint (calculating how much you might be contributing to climate change) for Earth Day and every day. Biking to work (10 miles per day, three times per week) can save up to 13% of your CO2 emissions or



even more if you bike more or have an older more polluting vehicle. Walking can lower your blood pressure and blood sugar, boost your metabolism and is a great way to get in touch with your

community. Get your walking or biking fitness program started now and participate in the 20th anniversary Walk or Bike for the Earth. Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 19, 2009.

Check our website in December at www.earthdaycoalition.org for online registration and event details.

Mark your calendars for the 11th annual *Instrumental Evening for the Earth* on Wednesday, November 12. More details inside.



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Confirm your membership status by viewing the expiration date on the mailing label on your newsletter.

Please renew today if your membership has lapsed.

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Dike 14 Update

“Everybody expects that their vote’s going to count.” *Stephanie Tubbs Jones*

It matters who sits in the Oval Office, in Congress, in Columbus and your home town. Voter registration is over, but you can cast your vote early if you wish. Call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at (216) 443-3200.



Nature Preserve Update

Earth Day Coalition members and volunteers were treated to a sunny September 20 hike at the Nature Preserve at Dike 14 followed by s’more snacks. We got a chance to see a vole nest with four tiny babies, brown snakes, white-footed field mice, praying mantis and much more. The special hike was preceded by an open house presented by the Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative. Over 240 people visited the site in the morning and counted over 50 species of birds and a dozen butterfly species. Many thanks to the Collaborative volunteers and exceptional interpreters who guided visitors during the one-mile hike. Visitors were also able to self-guide themselves and stop at educational displays from each Collaborative member organization. We would especially like to

thank the following EDC staff and volunteers for helping at the event: Dave Kosewick, Dianne Williams, Dolores Watson, Ginaya Willoughby, Jeff and Sarah Bloom, Justin Zucker, Lauren Kawentel, Lily Wengerd, Nick Swetye, Rex and Pam Carter, Rhiannon Muchowski, Roseanna Keough, Rosemary and Morgan Pastrana, Sue Suppan, Jill Mosley and Whitney Williams. For a species list or more information on the Nature Preserve please check our website at www.earthdaycoalition.org or www.dike14.org.