



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE Enews Bulletin 2015 #1 --- 18 January 2015

The following items have been gathered from various e- newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month. If you would like to discuss news items displayed or have letters for the editor please contact the office or <[newsletter editor - hotlink](#)>

Editorial

Welcome to 2015.

HOPE's focus for the year will be one of consolidation.

With several new committee members and admin support staff, we are taking the opportunity to review our office practices, membership and outreach activities.

I therefore take this opportunity to remind our members and supporters of HOPE's Charter; our many State, National and international partnerships/alliances; and our proposed local 2015 events program (see pages 2-3).

Accompanying this newsletter is our annual readership survey. Please do make the effort to complete and return the survey to us. Your responses are integral to our "year of consolidation"

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

Calendar of events

Search the [national environmental events calendar](#) and/or [national community calendar](#) for any events that might interest you.

International Year of Light - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Year_of_Light

International Year of Soils - <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

WORLD WETLANDS DAY: WETLANDS FOR OUR FUTURE

02/02/2015, Global

BUSINESS CLEAN UP DAY

24/02/2015, Australia

SCHOOLS CLEAN UP DAY

27/02/2015, Australia

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

01/03/2015, Australia

Office News Report

Good afternoon folks,

As part of our annual review, the committee and admin support staff are looking at strategies to lift our profile nationally, as well as providing more practical information and demonstration activities on sustainable living and gardening.

A series of monthly community forums will be held at the Dr Price Rooms, 6 Little St, Toowoomba, on the 1st Saturday of the month, 4pm – 6pm, from February through to November.
The program of speakers and/or demonstration activities will be available soon.

We also plan to provide information displays and/or demonstration activities at local events such as Gardenfest, Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival, U3A Seniors Expo and the Youth Leading the World Congress.

Offers of assistance with one or more of the above activities would be appreciated. Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135

T-shirt Logo Competition

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) is looking to lift its profile and to better 'market' itself at public events; and so, we are holding a "T-shirt logo competition".

The current logo is shown below. The design may be based on HOPE's charter OR a brand new concept! The logo should be attractive – with a catchy/meaningful message.



The logo is to be 15 cm square and can be made in any medium – remembering that it will need to be digitised for future use.

Submit your entry by Saturday 31 January 2015. There is a generous cash prize of \$500 for the winner.

Please email your entry to the HOPE office at office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering business card sized adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times by appointment only.

Phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming along for a chat or to access the library.

THE HOPE CHARTER

HOPE encourages people to take responsibility for their relationship with the environment in their daily lives.

HOPE members and supporters have the following aims:

- to use a little as possible of energy and resources.
- to create minimal pollution, both directly and indirectly;
- to prefer, in general, renewable to non-renewable, natural to manufactured, and local to imported; and
- to support and promote 'best practice' natural resource management and landcare activities.

HOPE encourages people:

- to view environmental problems in their local, economic and global context.
- to use what is already there, making the most of existing resources, technology and community networks; and
- to create, communicate and celebrate lifestyles which reduce consumption and improve quality of life.

While **HOPE** endorses individual action, it also encourages people to act together in their local community, and in society as a whole, to further these aims.

HOPE is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any political party.

HOPE's partnerships/affiliations

HOPE's affiliations in Queensland

HOPE is a member group of:

- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) <http://qldconservation.org.au>;
- Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) <http://www.qwalc.org.au>;
- Qld Protect the Bush Alliance <http://ptba.org.au>; and
- Friends of SEQ <http://www.envirobusiness.org/public/page.php?pageld=9>

HOPE's affiliations nationally

HOPE is either a member group of, signatory to, or supporter of:

- Make Poverty History (MPH) <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>;
- Container Deposit Scheme – Boomerang Alliance <http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au>;
- Lock the Gate Alliance (LtGA) <http://www.lockthegate.org.au>;
- Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love (PYL) <http://placesyoulove.org>; and
- Transitions Towns <http://www.transitionnetwork.org>

HOPE's affiliations internationally

HOPE is a signatory to:

- International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (iCANw), <http://www.icanw.org>;
- The Earth Charter Initiative <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content>; and
- IPEN (International POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) Elimination Network) www.ipen.org/

If you feel that we should support other initiatives or wish to contribute to any of the above relationships, please contact the office at email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone 07 4639 2135.

Feature Articles

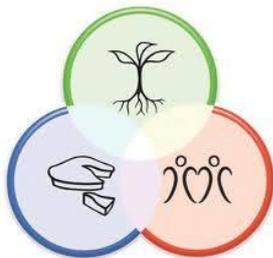
What is Permaculture?

"The word permaculture was coined by Bill Mollison and myself (David Holmgren) in the mid-1970's to describe an integrated, evolving system of perennial or self-perpetuating plant and animal species useful to man.

A more current definition of permaculture, which reflects the expansion of focus implicit in Permaculture One, is 'Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for provision of local needs.' People, their buildings and the ways in which they organise themselves are central to permaculture. Thus the permaculture vision of permanent or sustainable agriculture has evolved to one of permanent or sustainable culture."

- David Holmgren (co-creator of Permaculture)

Permaculture is a design system for the creation of sustainable, human-supporting landscapes, both physical (Earth care) and hidden (People care), that mimic the operation of ecosystems through sharing of the abundance (Fair share). By linking the different parts of each system in ecologically sensible ways, permaculture achieves high yields for low energy inputs while actually building fertility over successive seasons. For some, permaculture means an organic backyard garden that for relatively little work supplies an abundance of food all year round. For others, permaculture means a drought and flood-proof rural property ensuring food, water and energy security for the years to come.



Permaculture is a way of bringing together in a sensible system: ourselves and our communities, with whatever piece of land or space we are tending. It can be as small as a window with sprouts or as large as a farm or a bioregion. It can be in the city, the suburbs or in the country.

Permaculture addresses the way we live on this planet in a graceful and healthy way, respecting the plants and animals around us, and leaving the biosphere in a more productive and healthy state than we found it.

Michael Wardle, Savour Soil Permaculture
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<https://www.facebook.com/SavourSoilPermaculture>



Our City Leaders' 7 biggest challenges when cutting traffic congestion

By Rachel Smith, Principal Transport Planner, AECOM (www.aecom.com)

In 2014, the Guardian newspaper revealed the average London commuter loses 83 hours a year to traffic congestion, whilst an infographic from www.collegeathome.com suggested commuters who travel more than 45 minutes a day are 40% more likely to divorce. Meanwhile, shortening your commute by just 20 minutes could literally save your life.

I'm passionate about making sure our City Leaders, Mayors and Councillors have all the information and tools they need to cut traffic congestion, without incurring the expense of new roads or annoyed residents.

In 2014, I conducted hundreds of telephone and email interviews with academics, planning professionals, public servants and business owners to get to the very core of the problems and challenges we face when trying to reduce traffic congestion in Australian (and all western) towns and cities. I also interviewed many City Leaders, Mayors and Councillors. I asked them "What are the 3 biggest challenges you face in cutting traffic congestion?"

Our City Leaders' 7 biggest challenges in cutting traffic congestion are:

1. Providing good public transport

Our City Leaders believe providing alternative travel options to private motor vehicle use is the biggest challenge and that good public transport is an essential ingredient in reducing congestion. Large-scale public investment in public transit and real incentives to encourage men, women and children to use public transport were identified as two solutions.

2. Integrating transport and land use planning

City Leaders said the integration of transport and land use planning, as well as planning for the future, was a big challenge. Changing urban patterns so less people need to travel so far, and increasing residential developments along major transport corridors were suggested as ideal solutions.

3. Restricting car use and car parking

Many Mayors said many of their residents believe they have a right to drive their car to work and to park near their work place at no expense. Restricting car use and car parking, following cities such as Bogota, where people are only allowed to drive into the city 40% of the time (2 weekdays per week), was identified as a solution, in a long list of potential solutions.

4. Messaging that the car is the only desirable mode of transport

People in Australian cities, like most Western cities, have a love affair with their cars. Mayors and Councillors said their communities are given the message from media and advertising that the car is the only desirable mode of travel.

5. Building infrastructure for all modes of transport

We need to build appropriate and safe infrastructure for all modes and multiple modes of transport - especially walking and cycling - to encourage people to use other forms of transport and not just private vehicles. Many City Leaders said if a city is building a new road they should also put in bus infrastructure, a cycleway and good pedestrian facilities.

6. Getting businesses to stagger working hours

Another challenge identified by our leaders is the need to encourage businesses to see the value of staggered working hours, working from home and flexible working patterns for employees, thereby reducing peak hour demand on road and transport networks.

7. Convenience of the car

A huge challenge for Mayors and Councillors is getting residents to really think about their modes of travel and transport for the various aspects of their daily lives. Mayors want people to ask themselves, "Can we walk to school once a week?" "Could we ride our bikes to the café on Sundays?" "Can I car pool to work once a week?" "Could we use a bus service to get to the Saturday afternoon sports match?"

If we really want to ease - or cut - traffic congestion in our towns and cities, we need to make sure we have all the information and tools we need to make a change, without the expense of new roads or annoyed residents. That way, we'll all have more time each day, less stress and a few more years to live!

Do you agree?

Rachel Smith is an Author, Blogger, Keynote Speaker and a Principal Transport Planner at AECOM in Brisbane. Her 1st book "Decongestion – 7 steps for Mayors and other City Leaders to cut traffic congestion, without the expense of new roads or annoyed residents" is due for release in January 2015.

Rachel Smith

Principal Transport Planner - AECOM

D +61 7 3553 3749; Rachel.Smith@aecom.com

Toowoomba News

Appeal for Office Stationery

The Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) service is seeking donations of office stationery.

Specific items required are:

- Printer/copy paper
- White board markers
- Pens
- Manilla folders
- Wallet folders

If you can assist with some or all of these items, please drop off your donations to TRAMS at 123 Neil St, Toowoomba; or to the HOPE Office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

Wanted – Used Postage Stamps

HOPE collects used postage stamps and/or un-wanted stamp albums for community groups' fund-raising purposes.

Please consider collecting used postage stamps from home and/or work, and forwarding a pack of used stamps to the HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) office, PO Box 6118 - Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba, QLD 4350; or drop them off at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba..

Date Claimer:

12 April 2015 --- Felton Food Festival -- “Grow. Gather. Enjoy”

64 Bryce Rd, Felton East, www.feltonfoodfestival.org.au

Featuring: Fresh produce & food stalls; Celebrity Chefs & Gardeners; Cooking Demonstrations & Tastings

Equipment and Building Materials Appeal in aid of Highfields Pioneer Village

The Highfields Pioneer Village Museum and Park Inc. is seeking the community's support for their major appeal for equipment and building materials.

The Pioneer Village is a community based non-profit organization established in April 2000 to support, maintain and give voluntary assistance to a functioning Pioneer Village at Highfields, on the Eastern Darling Downs.

There are a number of buildings at the Pioneer Village that require restoration and maintenance; and donations of second hand/recycled materials are being sought.

The Village also has a recycling program. Volunteers recycle newspapers, telephone books, soft-drink cans and car batteries.

So, if you have something donate, please contact the Highfields Pioneer Village by phoning (07) 4696 6309 or email highfieldspioneervillage@hotmail.com . The Village is located at 73 Wirraglen Rd, Highfields.

Queensland News

QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL NEWS

NEW BOARD

A new Board has taken the helm at QCC, and we are keen to advocate and campaign strongly on behalf of and in partnership with, the Queensland environment movement

The Board brings a strong mix of skills and experience to the task, and has representation from Cairns, Townsville, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and SE Queensland. Our new President is Jeremy Tager, who is widely respected across the movement.

NEW DIRECTION

The Board is very conscious of the attacks on the environment which have been occurring in Queensland in recent years. We are determined to ensure that the community once more puts concern for the environment high in importance, and that politicians are aware of the strength of the community's concerns.

We have therefore restructured the operations of QCC to achieve a greater focus on community campaigning. With limited resources, we made the difficult decision to make the positions of Executive Director and Manager redundant, and to create two new positions in their stead, Campaign Coordinator and Community Organiser. We aim to be able to introduce these two people to you early in 2015.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many years of service to QCC and the environment movement that both Toby Hutcheon and Wendy Dell have given.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Four significant activities have already occurred.

- 1) We have made a detailed submission to the proposal to dump Abbot Point dredge spoil in the Caley Wetlands;
- 2) We have agreed that we will partner with AMCS and WWF on a major Reef election campaign;
- 3) We have organised a well-attended Ministerial Roundtable, despite the short notice;
- 4) We have distributed the movement's Election Policy to the LNP, ALP and Greens, asking for a meeting to discuss the policy issues identified.

IN THE NEW YEAR

There is much to do in 2015. In "front of house" QCC will announce a major climate change campaign, and campaign strongly on the environment rollbacks of the current State government.

In "back of house" we will strengthen our fundraising opportunities, build our volunteer strengths, and develop our communication strategies with member groups and the community. This will include a major overhaul of our website, Facebook page and other social networking opportunities. Board member Lee Curtis has volunteered to be our Membership Officer and she will make direct contact with you shortly.

We have a goal to provide training and skill development opportunities for our member groups, and we will need to develop our case for continued funding to conservation groups.

THE FUTURE

We all know that conservation gains that took years to put in place are being rolled back with deliberate intent. However, we also know that the community can be a powerful force in resetting the political landscape to once more put the environment front and centre in politicians' minds. Everything that QCC does will be tested against this goal. We are looking forward to the challenge!

Jeremy Tager and the whole QCC Board

<http://qldconservation.org.au/>

Articles on National Agencies

(The following 3 articles were written by Tracy Musgrave, HOPE Volunteer (Qld))

Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA)

This volunteer group began in 2011 with the aim of carrying out research, providing education and also delivering promotional and activist work, designed to further our understanding of the “practical application of Earth Jurisprudence and Wild Law in Australia”.

As they say, they aim to use “local laws to assert community and nature’s rights”.

When I read this I was astounded, as the concept of using laws to “assert nature’s rights”, really was foreign to me in a Western sense. The World’s Indigenous Cultures often talk about their relationship to the land and nature and I’ve often thought how amazing that is to hear people speak like that. Now to think that lawyers and businesses have joined together, in the West, and in Australia, to promote this same ambition, is truly astounding. And ... fantastic! AELA isn’t just trying to protect the environment because it’s trendy, they advocate that Nature has ‘rights’ and on this basis, they are using their knowledge, skills and energy to fight for Her in the Courts.

Currently the AELA Board of Management is made up of lawyers from around Australia. They also plan to establish an Advisory Board which will include prominent Australian lawyers, scientists and policy makers.

AELA’s National Convenor is supported by a group of student volunteers from across Brisbane’s 3 Universities – Griffith University, University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology.

Their website says:

“As a member-driven organization, AELA is keen to operate as a friendly and inclusive ‘umbrella’ for member projects. There are many ways that people can engage with AELA’s work.

The first step is to become an AELA member. Please [click here](#) to go to our membership page.

The next step is to get in touch with our National Convenor, Michelle Maloney for a chat! Drop us an email at: convenor@earthlaws.org.au and organize a time to talk about your area of interest.

You can start working on an existing project, invite AELA to host an event in your community, or you can suggest new initiatives for AELA to get involved with”.

AELA’s website notes that this year they will be hosting a citizens Tribunal for the Rights of Nature in Far North Queensland, so that people can discuss their concerns and ideas for the future of the Great Barrier Reef. They have invited indigenous and non-indigenous parties to get involved. Outcomes from the mid-year Tribunal will then be presented at the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature in Paris, in December 2015.

To find out more you can visit their website at www.earthlaws.org.au

Australian Renewable Energy Association (ARENA)

ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency) is a government-established body which is independent of the government. It opened for business on 1 July 2012 with two objectives:

1. To improve the competitiveness of renewable energy technologies, and
2. To increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia

At the moment ARENA has \$2.5 Billion in funding to use/give away for:

- The funding of renewable energy projects
- Supporting research and development activities, and
- Supporting of activities to capture and share knowledge

Their website is really well set out and is divided into three main areas:

1. How to Apply for Funding
2. Our Projects, and
3. Knowledge Bank

ARENA explains that renewable energy is “energy which can be obtained from natural resources that can be constantly replenished”.

And the types of renewable energy technologies are:

- Bioenergy
- Geothermal energy
- Hydropower
- Ocean energy
- Solar energy, and
- Wind energy

I found the website to be informative and very easy to navigate. I also learnt a thing or two!

If you'd like to explore further, then you can view their website at www.arena.gov.au

You can also contact them via email arena@arena.gov.au

Phone (02) 6243 7773

Mail GPO Box 643, Canberra ACT 2601.

The Change Agency

Their motto is, “Making Change Happen”.

The Change Agency Education and Training Institute Inc. is a small and independent not-for-profit education initiative, based in Australia. They work within our Asia-Pacific Region, helping community organizers and activists to win social and environmental change. They offer workshops, training resources and research to help build the skills of those working for social and environmental change.

Their website offers training resources, case studies and articles for activist research, as well as workshops and links to other like-minded websites. They also have a free monthly e-newsletter.

For Community organizers they also have a mentoring and advisory service.

From their website you can easily access training resources on:

- Personal Development
- Political Skills
- Social Action Skills
- Strategy
- Working in Groups

I noted that they acknowledge Australia's First Nation People by stating, “Our team acknowledge that we live on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's Country”, which is clearly marrying their desire for social change with their desire for environmental awareness and change.

You can check out more about what they have to offer by logging on to their website www.thechangeagency.org

You can also reach them by mail at:
PO Box 15, Islington NSW 2296

Phone 0431 150 928.

BLUEPRINT FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND A PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

A new Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists blueprint describes the transformative, long-term economic and institutional reforms that Australia must implement if it is to create a healthy environment with a productive economy.

World News

IPEN's Vision of a Toxic Free Future

By: Olga Speranskaya, IPEN Co-Chair, and Mariann Lloyd-Smith, IPEN Senior Policy Advisor

The global toxic threat is largely underestimated by many politicians and governments, despite it being a unique issue in that often one can point directly to those responsible for the pollution, degradation of the environment and the declining of human health. In 2001, Klaus Toepfer, then the Executive Director of UNEP, [warned](#) that basic human rights to life and health are 'threatened by exposures to toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, and contaminated drinking water and food.'

Over the last 20 years, the serious and deadly threats posed by toxic chemicals have drastically increased, revealing new challenges that must be urgently addressed. Despite this situation no new actions were agreed upon on sound chemicals management at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012 to ensure our children are not exposed to poisonous toxic chemicals before they are even born.

IPEN (the International POPs Elimination Network) has been involved in issues of chemical safety since 1998, when it was established to take part in the preparatory process of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), a global treaty aimed at eliminating hazardous chemicals. We work at both the international and national levels, as well as with communities and people directly affected by toxic chemicals. Building on lessons learned from the negotiations and implementation of the Stockholm Convention, IPEN has moved to the work on a broader strategy, which consolidates international and national activities on POPs, heavy metals, including mercury, endocrine disrupting chemicals and nanotechnology. IPEN now addresses pollution sources such as industrial emissions and releases, waste stockpiles and exposure at the workplace, schools, agricultural areas and at home. Working to implement the major international chemical agreements such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), IPEN focuses on problems linked to chemicals which can affect hormone functions, cause cancer or birth defects, harm reproduction, and build up or persist in the environment, food chain and our bodies. It addresses these problems through campaigning, generating new data, raising awareness, educating and executing projects on the ground.

Chemical contamination jeopardizes our health now and in the future

Chemical contamination of the environment and humans affects the health of present and future generations. The food we eat, the cleaning and personal care products we use, electronic equipment, and even our children's toys contain toxic chemicals which are released into the environment, accumulate in water and soil, pollute air and food, and cause irreversible damage to human health. IPEN's [projects](#) in many developing countries and economies in transition have revealed severe health effects including birth defects, cancers and heart diseases in people living in the vicinity of pollution sources like coal power stations, chlor-alkali facilities, landfills and others.

IPEN's recent [Global Fish and Community Mercury Monitoring Project](#) added its voice to the growing scientific evidence of the harm caused by mercury in seafood affected many communities dependent on fish as their sole source of protein. Mercury monitoring information generated through the project confirmed high concentrations of mercury in both fish and seafood as well as in hair samples collected. In the majority of cases it was possible to identify concrete sources of contamination.

New and current challenges

Over the last 20 years, the serious and deadly threats posed by toxic chemicals have drastically increased, revealing new challenges that must be urgently addressed.

These new challenges include the mercury pollution caused by artisanal small scale gold mining (ASGM). Some argue that ASGM helps people to sustain their livelihoods, but the practice also causes 80% of all human mercury poisoning. Yuyun Ismawati, IPEN ASGM Lead, works to highlight environmental and health problems associated with ASGM at the global level and nationally, in her own country of Indonesia. Her hard work was recently recognized by the Government of Indonesia for her research in ASGM communities in the rural areas of Indonesia.

Another example of emerging environmental and health challenges directly linked to exposure to toxic chemicals is hydraulic fracturing that results in the intentional release of vast quantities of unassessed industrial chemicals into waterways, aquifers and airsheds. National Toxic Link (NTN), an IPEN participating organization from Australia, has raised concerns over water and air contamination,

chemical impacts and the carbon footprint while addressing the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing. In New South Wales, Australia NTN's work has resulted at least in the introduction of 2 kilometre buffer zones around urban areas and critical agricultural infrastructure helping to protect them from the adverse impacts of gas activities.

NGOs are a key partner for change

The time when an industrial activity can be undertaken purely for profit or economic growth has gone. Sustainable futures depend on access to clean water, soil, air, food and products as well as the right to be protected against toxic chemicals. These are basic inalienable human rights for all peoples of the planet and to ensure and protect them is the real challenge for the global community and political leadership.

Non-governmental organisations are part of this political leadership and a driving force for positive changes. IPEN groups are committed to the fight for a life without toxic chemicals, and for the right of all to live in a safe environment. As a global network IPEN succeeds in inspiring people to work for pollution elimination and chemical safety. People around the globe understand our goal and have joined the network to become part of global political leadership that fights for toxic free future for all.

IPEN (International POPS (Persistent Organic Pollutants) Elimination Network) – www.ipen.org.au/

IFOAM backs GM-free

The Global GMO Free Coalition (GGFC) has the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) as its newest member. Both advocate GM-free futures globally. IFOAM opposes GM and also the industrial, chemical-based agriculture being pushed by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) with Gates Foundation money. IFOAM leads the campaign for ecological and organic food production, free of synthetic chemicals, irradiation and other assaults on food quality and safety.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT – WHY OUR BRAINS ARE WIRED TO IGNORE CLIMATE CHANGE

Why, despite overwhelming scientific evidence, do we still ignore climate change? And what does it need for us to become fully convinced of what we already know? George Marshall proposes answers to these questions in his [new book](#).

Report of the 2014 Cities and Subnational Governments Biodiversity Summit released



Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) – Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC) have released the [report of the 2014 Cities and Subnational Governments Biodiversity Summit](#). The Summit was held in the Republic of Korea in parallel to the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12).
