

Motivating individuals to examine and transform personal values and habits, to accept responsibility for the earth and to act on that commitment.



CANADIAN EARTH INSTITUTE

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CLIMATE CHANGE & CEI



Have you seen the recent movie, or read the book *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore? What a powerful message about our need for change.

As the climate change solutions were presented in the book, I fully understood the importance of CEI and NWEI courses. In both this movie and with the well researched actions of David Suzuki's Nature Challenge, there is a clear direction to offsetting the problem we have/are creating with the release of too much CO2 into the atmosphere. But how do we put these efforts into our lives when we have been conditioned for generations to think and act in a way that has lead us to this dangerous situation? Little attention is spent on the *process* of how people alter their intensely patterned ways of living.

For instance, one of the recommendations in Gore's book is to consume less. This direction is given to a society that has been conditioned from birth to buy more, to live by the motto of ever-increasing profit (which means selling more things) and expanding use of resources, and to believe that our well-being and success is directly related to the possessions we own. What do you think the chances are for people to act in a way that is completely opposite to everything they know and are daily conditioned into a set response?

This is where CEI/NWEI courses play a key role. For people to look intently at their deepest beliefs and whether their behaviours are in alignment requires an

environment of psychological safety and connection. There needs to be personal relationship, space and a length of time to know our deeper motivations. Just providing information has been shown to have little effect in situations where people are required to make profound change.

People need personal contact with each other for inspiration, encouragement and to be held accountable. They need a place where they can think aloud new thoughts without criticism. They need support and time to try new actions, space to make mistakes and work out their individual path of metamorphosis.

The structure of CEI/NWEI courses has been carefully planned to help people handle and grow with the complexity and adversity of shifting individual responses As each individual makes their life more sustainable, the impact is exponential and leads to the transformation of our whole world.



CEI News

Climate Change and CEI	1
The Joy of Cob Building	2
Progress of Canadian Copyright	2
What's New at CEI	3
A Meaningful and Satisfying Life	3
NWEI News	3



THE JOY OF COB BUILDING

This summer, a cob fence was built where the CEI office is located. Over the summer, 30 volunteers danced, weight-lifted and vigorously exercised in cob mud (clay, sand and straw).



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With the expertise of builders from the cob companies of Hobbit Homes and Terra Cobba, the keen workers learned how to use natural and sustainable resources in the venerable art of building with cob. There is something so seductive about this form of building. Maybe it is because it requires a community to build it and everyone can do some part of it. The finished structure is so beautiful and strikes a deep chord in our human psyche. We are building a future society from the wisdom of the ancient past.



CANADIAN COPYRIGHT PROGRESS

We are close to going national! The big obstacle has been obtaining Canadian Copyright for the course books.

Over the summer, our key volunteer, Darcy Ambler diligently sent out and followed up on copyright permission letters for the study guide Choices for Sustainable Living. We only need 7 more out of a total of 60.

Earlier this year, Donna Ogden, Heather Kennedy-

Macneil and Steve Wandling put their efforts to obtaining copyright for the Study guide Voluntary Simplicity. We are following up on 7 missing copyrights.

Our next step is researching replacement articles and cartoons for both study guides. Christine Tomori and Maureen Powers are taking leadership to make the courses more Canadian.

If you read about the environment extensively, and understand

the subtleties of how Canadian viewpoints differ from U.S., you may be able to help us in our search for new writings and drawings. Please contact the CEI office, (250) 727-9163 for more information.

After we finalize the negotiations for transferring the electronic files of the books from NWEI, we will be publishing the course books for Choices and Voluntary Simplicity. Then anyone, anywhere in Canada can take one of the CEI/NWEI Sustainability Discussion course.

- Our homes reflect our environmental values.
- Our decisions about food have important environmental implications.
- Transportation is the single largest source of gas emissions and pollution.

- David Suzuki's Green Guide

WHAT'S NEW AT CEI

- We are offering 3 CEI courses through Royal Roads Continuing Education this fall and early 2007. Look for their website soon.
- Beth Cruise, our Executive Director, will be sharing her thoughts on caring for the environment and role of CEI at the Leadership and Mentoring Conference this Nov. 4th. The YM-YWCA'S Women of Distinction awards formed this legacy program.
- We are gearing up for printing study guides for distribution across Canada.

A MEANINGFUL AND SATISFYING LIFE

Here at CEI, we are mindful about matching what we talk about with how we do the work. With the principles of voluntary simplicity deeply entrenched in our system, we presently run on a shoe string budget with lots of volunteer help.

We do all those mundane tasks of maintaining an office with the daily administration functions such as responding to inquiries, keeping databases up-dated, revising NWEI resource materials, preparing publicity, But we always make sure we find time for heartfelt conversation, a laugh, noticing the munching deer, a walk in the woods, nutritious local edibles, soaking in the sun-



At CEI, our lives are enriched by the people we meet and the learning we undertake to keep our values intact in a world based on profit. It is sometimes challenging but, oh so satisfying, to continue pushing forward to obtain copyrights for two study guides, make study guide revisions, find Canadian replacement articles, and negotiate with NWEI for electronic publishing files so we can print the books here.

It is fulfilling to support each other, to use our creativity and intelligence as we build the foundation of this new organization in line with a vision for a future world. It may look routine as we take our next step to develop a shipping system for the guides, amend training information for new organizers and mentors across the country or create our website and publicity, but it is the care and thought we put into the way do these tasks and the connection between us.



NWEI NEWS

NWEI's annual Fall Volunteers' Retreat is September 22 - 24 this year. The theme is "Creating Time for Community" with workshops such as Your Money, Your Life and Moving Towards Zero Waste. We encourage currently involved CEI volunteers to attend.

NEW NWEI COURSE!
Global Warming. To be released in early 2007.

The 2007 NWEI National Training will be July 20-24 outside of Portland. It is a inspiring way for CEI volunteers to deepen their understanding and commitment to this work.

The newest Sister Earth Institute in the U.S. National Network is in Austin, Texas. What promise The territory of oil and George Bush is being infiltrated with environmental grassroots movement!



■ If you would like the company and support of environmentally aware, authentic, and thoughtful people to reclaim your hopefulness, give us a call at CEI Ph. 727-9163