WSU Carbon Masters
“...there's this big gap between what we understand scientifically and what is known, recognized by the public and policymakers. We have to close that gap in a hurry, because we're running out of time.

James Hansen
Director, NASA
- June 2008
What can we do?

• Examine Environmental impacts of our lifestyles
• Explore alternatives to reduce consumption
• Vote

But most importantly…
Teach others

Carbon Master’s final projects are designed to educate, motivate and inspire

- Reduce carbon emissions
- Consumption and
- Waste
- Provide tools to adapt.
NEED: Families deserve fresh, local organic foods no matter their income

- Reduce emissions through urban food production
- Nurture and beautify the local community
- Unify neighborhood through service
- Create a healthier lifestyle for participants
- Encourage self-sufficient sustainability
The garden’s beginnings
Neighborhood kids connecting to their soil
Fruits (and vegetables) of community’s labor
NEED: More efficient ways to heat buildings

District Heating and Power has been used in Europe effectively and efficiently for decades.

- 14 house neighborhood study to
- Examine economics of CHP implementation
- How much will they save?
- Could Bellingham use this city wide?
Iris Lane
Need: Everyone needs information about climate change and reducing energy use
Waste stream study

**NEED:** Identify Bellingham’s entire waste stream and find ways to reuse materials

- Collaboration with WA Dept Ecology,
- Beyond waste
Need: increase awareness of energy independence and community resilience

Coordinates a local Gardeners market in Blaine

- Not only sell produce and plants, but information on:
  - Rain barrels
  - Composting agricultural waste
  - Year round organic food production
  - Providing tours of these sites to community leaders, neighbors, and interested citizens
Creative Reuse toolkit

NEED: Redefine trash to children.

What some consider trash can be reused as art

- Creating useable items from waste while
- Promoting literacy and
- An appreciation of the arts

(Reduce waste stream=not as much to landfill
Reduces need for producing art items)
What Can you Create with this TRASH?

A Snake (or other creature!)

Stained glass (or picture frames!)

Cool beads (for pendants, door-hanging necklaces!)

[Image of a girl in a mask]
NEED: Create a zero waste conference with 300 attendees

- Ensuring materials are properly recycled, composted, or landfilled
- Ordering 100% recycled products
- Giving priority to green-oriented vendors
Event Waste Management

• Volunteer went “Dumpster Diving” with Rodd Pemble to find out what could be recycled

• Also sorted from the kitchen trash all that could be recycled

• From kitchen waste, ended up with: ONE FORK
Event Waste Management
Living Lighter Parties

NEED: Community members collaborating on a neighborhood level

- Save energy and
- Save money while
- Lowering their carbon footprint and
- Having fun while learning new skills.
NEED: teach people how to save energy in their kitchen

- Demonstrate solar cooking while advocating the
- Reduction of wood & dung smoke in the developing world and
- Setting up demonstrations at:
  - Lummi Island Energy Fair
  - Farmers Markets
  - Northwest Washington Fair
  - Built Green Expo
Need: Understand impact of eating habits have on CO2 emissions

– Campaign spreads the idea through social marketing and education
– City-wide challenge to eat vegetarian one day a week.
– Diet change is the easiest way to reduce your carbon footprint.
Pledge

Reduce your carbon footprint by participating in Bellingham’s Meat Free Mondays. Pledge to go meat free on Mondays for the month of October.

Take the pledge now by leaving a comment such as, “I pledge to go meat free on Mondays.”

By pledging to go meat free on Monday for the month of October, you will reduce your carbon footprint by almost 33 pounds. For every 61 people who take the pledge, we can reduce our carbon footprint by one ton!

Our goal is to reduce Bellingham’s carbon footprint by 5 tons. Help us reach our goal by pledging to go meat free on Mondays in October!

30 responses

Tina Hoban (13:09:44):
Meatless Monday Education

Need: an understandable clear program on climate literacy in order to explain the importance of the meatless Monday campaign. So a volunteer developed it:

– The content is age-neutral and up-beat, and therefore uses pictures to illustrate points.
– The U.S. Global Change Research Program/ Climate Change Science Program is the primary content source.
– The program is available for anyone to use—posted on our website.
Take the Pledge Here!
After only one Carbon Master course:

- Connecting the events on sustainability in Whatcom County
- Nourishing a sense of connection, commitment and community
- Empowering the individual to take action
Join Us in 2010!
WSU Carbon Masters