

SUSTAINABLE LIVING & ACTIVISM

10:20 AM, Barn Urine as a Fertilizer - closing the loop with sustainable sanitation – Kim Nance; 50 min.

Since 2012, Rich Earth Institute has been demonstrating the potential of pee. As a non-profit research platform, we collect, transport treat and apply urine in the Windham County region. Come learn the science behind this effort and the practicalities associated with "peecycling", as well as our collaborative research results funded by the National Science Foundation, EPA, USDA and the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Kim Nance holds an M.A. in International Administration from World Learning and an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Keene State College. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Botswana and has taught children of all ages. She coordinated research funded by the MacArthur Foundation and later served as an Elementary School Principal in rural Vermont and in Chennai, India. She has been passionate about sustainable sanitation alternatives ever since creating an educational video about composting toilets for her 1989 master's thesis project. As Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Rich Earth Institute, she has focused her leadership and organizational strengths to build a high-performance team at the Institute and to engage others in the possibilities and practicalities of urine recycling. Kim and her family use a urine diverting composting toilet. kim@richearthinstitute.org; www.richearthinstitute.org

11:20 AM, Roosevelt House Guide to True Fossil Fuel Divestment – Todd Walker; 50 min. Divesting your portfolio from fossil fuels is easier said than done, especially with the many pseudo "fossil-free" investments now out there. This course from one of the most experienced fossil-fuel divestors in VT will explain the concept of fossil fuel divestment in detail and help you separate the wheat from the chaff in both getting rid of dirty investments and picking those that are truly fossil-fuel free. Also covered will be how to avoid some important general investment mistakes when divesting that can cost you unnecessary expense.

Todd Walker has been a registered Socially Responsible Investment Advisor since 2004 and is a co-founder of Greenvest®, a leading Vermont SRI firm with offices in Wells and Montpelier VT that serve individuals, businesses and institutions. Todd has been a frequent speaker over the years on social/impact investing, and has been published in Green Energy Times, Green Living Journal and The New England Business Journal. todd@greenvest.eco; www.greenvest.eco

12:20 PM, Roosevelt House B Corps: Balancing Profits with Purpose – Rebecca Kline Coffey; 80 min. Today, businesses are compelled to focus their attention on multiple bottom lines, from profit to charitable activity, diversity and inclusion to their environmental footprint. Outcomes that businesses produce in these areas are increasingly revealed to the public. The growth in B Corp certification is a response to the mounting need for businesses to join governments and civil society to meet social and environmental needs. Certified B Corporations are a new kind of business that balances purpose and profit. They are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions on their workers, customers, suppliers, community, and the environment. Well-known brands like Ben & Jerry's, Patagonia, Athleta and Method are leading the way for all companies to align their profit with their purpose. This presentation will examine the difference between B Corps and Benefit Corporations, what it takes to become a certified B Corp, and how consumers and business owners alike can support purpose-driven companies.

Rebecca Kline Coffey has worked at the intersection of poverty alleviation, agriculture, and environmental sustainability for the past 20 years. She is founder of New Haven Farms, a pioneering nonprofit organization that promotes health and community development through urban agriculture, and currently works as a consultant with Impact Growth Partners to help companies improve their social and environmental impact.

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3:40 PM, CSA Shed Best Practices for Group Council – Skills for good meetings – Theo Talcott, 80 min. Building on the Lakota Way of Council, we'll go thru 20 practices that create horizontal democracy & how gender, class and power often allow some people to talk over and interrupt others. We'll discuss strategies from Quaker Meetings to "harvest the consensus" by listening to "the spirit of the meeting." We'll review basic roles that are possible in a meeting: facilitator, timekeeper, stack-taker, keeper of the heart. This will be a class of experiential learning and we'll actually practice all these techniques together in council. Life is too short for bad meetings and we have important work to do to save the Mother Earth, so we better learn to talk amongst ourselves!

Theo Talcott is a community organizer, musician, video maker on Youtube/Theo Talcott, independent journalist, spiritual person. His article on "Best Practices" is available on the SolarFest website. theo.talcott@mail.sit.edu

4:00 PM, Roosevelt House Earn 12%+ R.O.I. Investing in Solar Power – Karen Lee, 50 min. An in-depth explanation and discussion of the financial aspects of investing in solar power for the purpose of earning a high rate of return on your investment. Ramifications of changes tax credits and Green Mountain Power's new policies for large solar arrays will be included. Actual case histories will be highlighted.

Karen Lee has been a solar professional since 2008 as co-owner of Solar Pro, selling and designing solar power systems. She has been a lifelong advocate of renewable energy and had a prior 30-year career in the finance industry. SolarProVermont@gmail.com; www.SolarProVermont.com