



Findhorn Becomes A Net Exporter Of Energy

The Findhorn Foundation community is about to become a net exporter of energy. Started 15 years ago with the erection of a 75 kW Vestas V17 wind turbine, Findhorn's wind energy project has just added an additional three turbines, each capable of delivering 225kW, giving a total installed capacity of 750 kW.

The expansion has been undertaken by Findhorn Wind Park Ltd., and has cost in the region of £600,000. The turbines will make the Ecovillage net exporters of electricity. About 75% of the electricity produced

will be used on-site on a private grid and the remainder will be distributed to the main grid.

Part of the financing for the turbines will be raised through the third issue of the community currency, the Ekos, that has been in existence since 2002. The Ekos provides Findhorn's community economy with investment funds at low rates of interest to community businesses. A short-term loan of £18,000 will be made available to Findhorn Wind Park as a result.


For further details, please contact: awalker@findhorn.org

LA CARAVANA WINS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION IN BRAZIL



Members of La Caravana celebrate in Brazil

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TEN EKOS

issued by ekopia resource exchange to support our local economy, promote local enterprise and publicise local initiatives.

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ekopia is a partner in the findhorn ecovillage project

PROMISE TO HONOUR HERE TO BEARER

Handwritten signature
chairperson ekopia

SERIAL NUMBER: FF862731

DANISH ECOVILLAGES

A team from the Danish ecovillage network participated in the Danish Social Forum in February. Among the highlights was a presentation by Sten Moeller about a debt free society and how the Friland project (that features heavily on Danish television) was started.

Ross and Hildur Jackson also made presentations on GEN, Gaia Education and global economics. Other presentations from within the ecovillage family were given from the Energy Folkecenter on their work with solar energy in Mali and China; and from the Svanholm ecovillage.

For further info, contact Hildur Jackson: hildurjackson@gaia.org

Post-Katrina Clean-up

Several US ecovillages helped with relief efforts in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina struck in September 2005.

Ecovillage members and 'communitarians' (commune members) were co-ordinated in part by a crew from the charity group, Plenty, from The Farm in Tennessee, and by carpenters and medical assistants from ecovillages, communities and alternative sustainable organizations from all over America.

"This disaster is rallying people like us. It is compassionate college students, young people and peace activists, grassroots medical people, community activists and organizers", wrote Peter Schweitzer.

La Caravana del Arcoiris por la Paz (The Rainbow Caravan of Peace), has just been recognized as an 'Itinerant Point of Living Culture' by the Minister of Culture of Brazil, Mr. Gilberto Gil.

It has been selected as a key player in a national programme in Brazil whose main purpose is: "To network for linking up, capturing and disseminating innovative cultural experiences across the country."

For this purpose, La Caravana has signed an agreement with the Indigenous Association Portal Xingu and the Brazilian Ministry of Culture, and over the next year will visit nearly 50 'Culture Points', sharing with the communities a variety of the educational and artistic experiences it has gathered in the last decade in its travels through 17 Central and South American countries.

La Caravana will receive a federal grant of US\$175,000 and will offer the Brazilian population multicultural activities, including: introduction to ecovillage and permaculture designing, facilitation by consensus, eco-construction, recycling, health, ceremonies, eco-feminism and the arts.

For information, contact: subcoyotealberto@yahoo.com or visit: www.lacaravana.org or www.cultura.gov.br

BRAZILIAN ECOVILLAGE BOOK

The Brazilian Ecovillage Network have launched a new web site in Portuguese dedicated to Brazilian activities and projects. They have also translated the book, *Ecovillage Living* into Portuguese and have made it available by internet. For further details, contact: vanessa@abra144.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW ECOVILLAGE FOR BRISTOL?

An organisation behind plans to convert the former mental health hospital at Barrow Gurney into Britain's largest ecovillage is confident it could get the go-ahead during the Spring/Summer of 2006.

Sustainable Initiative for Barrow (SIB) says it has now secured backing from Bristol Old Vic to help pay for its plans. The group wants to turn the hospital into a community where people would live and work in traditional craft industries.

SIB chairman Gail Stevens said: "We have now secured backing from Bristol Old Vic to work towards establishing a theatre school for technicians. We also have plans to develop a programme which will include apprenticeships in sustainable construction."

Visit: www.sib.org.uk or email: info@sib.org.uk

LOAN FOR ECO-CENTRE IN BOLIVIA

El Poncho has secured a US\$90,000 loan to finish phase two of their four-phase project, to allow them to receive up to 40 people for their training programs.

They are building a 100m³ water tank (for drinking and irrigation of their ecological park), an educational farm, the first natural self-cleaning swimming pool in Bolivia, a Solar Restaurant, and an events centre. View details at: www.el-poncho.org

TAMERA LAUNCHES PEACE PROJECT

Tamera launches its Mote Cerro 3-years peace research project in May 2006. Young peace workers from around the world will study the theory and practice of peace, focusing on community-building and truthful communication in all areas of life, including political networking, ecological thinking, gardening, building, and conflict resolution. The students will build the 'Solar Village': a model village, that generates its energy from solar power. For details contact: amelie.weimar.igf@tamera.org



Findhorn members at the CIFAL centre, Forres, March 2006

The Findhorn Foundation ecovillage took another giant step towards becoming accredited as a partner in UNITAR's (the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) international network of training centres.

GEN is a partner in UNITAR's CIFAL initiative (to provide sustainability-related training to mayors and local government officials) since its inception in 2002 and has provided training in several programmes around the world in CIFAL centres.

A team of people met in Forres, near Findhorn, in late March, to discuss the possibility

of a new CIFAL training centre being established in Findhorn. These included Bernard Hoarau, Director UNITAR CIFAL Network together with local MPs, the Director of Highlands and Islands Enterprise Moray, the Planning & Development Manager, Moray Council and representatives of British universities, NGOs and businesses. All participants gave a strong endorsement of the new training centre and said they would do all in their power to make sure it comes to fruition.

For details, contact: internationalrelations@findhorn.org or visit <http://dcp.unitar.org/>

URBAN REGENERATION IN LATIN AMERICA

Nowhere on earth is the need for ecological understanding more urgent than in cities, where human activity is most intense. Cities built on only two per cent of the world's surface use up to 75% of the world's resources and discharge similar amounts of waste. Cities as they are designed need urgent transformation, or else they are likely to cause the destabilisation of our cultures and the increasing degradation of the planet's ecosystems.

In December 2005, GEN ran its first training session in collaboration with the Municipality of Curitiba (Brazil), CIFAL Curitiba, the British Council and UNITAR. GEN trainers presented an integrated model for urban sustainability along ecovillage lines to inspire and encourage environmentally responsible design and development on the

part of planners and mayors of Latin American cities.

This year, GEN will run a 6-month programme in partnership with the Secretary of Environment of Sao Paulo Municipality, the largest South American city. It will have a four-week programme led by GEN educators on the themes of ecological, social, economic design and world view.

This initiative is based upon EDE, the Ecovillage Designer Curriculum, developed by the GAIA Education team which is comprised of educators from over 20 ecovillages worldwide. The curriculum has been designed to be flexible, so that it is able to be adapted to meet the needs of specific projects or circumstances, or to highlight the various special strengths and traditions.

For further details, contact May East, mayeast@findhorn.org

Ecovillages in Canada

Kakwa Ecovillage in Canada participated in a recent government-sponsored public presentation in the City of Prince George. It focused on the importance of settlement design for healthy populations and communities.

Ecovillage components were in abundance amongst many exhibitors and speakers with topics including: indoor air quality and its relationship to non-toxic home furnishings, edible landscape, sustainable urban food systems, community composting, district heating from waste biomass, and field to table public schools.

The Kakwa speakers gave a presentation on ecovillages furnished by GEN-Europe and participants vowed to visit Kakwa in the Summer of 2006.

For details contact: Russ Purvis, russ@kakwaecovillage.com or visit www.kakwaecovillage.com

Ecovillage Day, Vienna

In January 2006 the nonprofit organisation, Keimblatt Oekodorf, co-ordinated the 'Second Ecovillage Day' at the University of Agriculture in Vienna. Almost 200 students and community members attended, including politician Dr. Madeleine Petrovic (former leader of the Green Party in Austria), university professors Dr. Peter Weish, Prof. Dr. Oliver Meixner and Dr. Jürg Minsch who noted how ecovillages are examples of more sustainable, human-scale lifestyles.

Organisations learned about ecovillages in Austria, alternative money systems, and community-building tools. Speakers included Wolfram Nolte and Julia Komerell from Sieben Linden Ecovillage in Germany, Martin Kirchner who spoke about the ecovillage organisation Austrotopia, and Ing. Alexander Dwozak who presented the Keimblatt Oekodorf project.

The conference was followed by dancing and a buffet sponsored by local organic businesses. An 'everybody wins' lottery's prizes included organic products and eco-friendly services.

Contact: l.glick@oekodorf.or.at or visit www.oekodorf.or.at or [www.ger/index_7kbf_pics.html](http://www.oekodorf.or.at/www.ger/index_7kbf_pics.html)