



Cohen, Maurie <mcohen@njit.edu>

## Your campaign Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter has been sent

1 message

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>  
To: mcohen@adm.njit.edu

Sat, Jan 4, 2014 at 8:53 AM



Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter**' was sent on 01/04/2014 around 08:52 AM EST.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

**Subject:** Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter



**January 2014**

Dear SCORAI,

We hope you are enjoying the holiday season and are ready for a new year. This issue is comprised of a few updates submitted from SCORAI folks and also includes a survey of recent news items related to sustainable consumption that may be of interest.

All the best,

### Executive Board

**Jeffrey Barber**  
Integrative Strategies Forum

**Halina Brown**  
Clark University

**Maurie Cohen**

Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

New Jersey Institute of  
Technology

## **Global Environmental Change Issue on Grassroots Innovation for Sustainability**

**John Stutz**  
Tellus Institute

The latest [issue](#) of the leading research journal *Global Environmental Change* is dedicated to the topic of grassroots innovation for sustainability. The special issue contains six original research articles guest edited by Adrian Smith and Gill Seyfang. These articles were selected from papers presented at a research workshop held at Sussex University in May 2012. More information about the workshop and the special issue papers are provided in a [research briefing](#).

**Philip Vergragt**  
Tellus Institute and Clark  
University

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## **Call for Papers: Innovation for Socially Inclusive Development. What is Inclusive Innovation?**

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## **ESOCITE/4S Conference on Science and Technology Buenos Aires, Argentina August 2014**

Researchers from Sussex, Clark and Quilmes Universities are seeking abstracts for high-quality research papers on the topic of innovation for socially inclusive development. The [call](#) arises from a session Adrian Smith and colleagues are organizing for the ESOCITE/4S [conference](#) on science and technology in Buenos Aires from 20-23 August 2014. They welcome abstracts in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Details can be found [here](#) in English and then Spanish.

## **Community Innovation in Sustainable Energy: Postcards from the Grassroots**

[Grassroots Innovation](#) has produced a set of postcards which makes a number of policy recommendations and summarizes findings from a 3-year research project investigating community energy initiatives in the UK. For more information, click [here](#), where you can request a set of the postcards or download and print your own.

## **Opinion Piece on Government Investment in Carbon Capture and Storage**

Stephens, Jennie C. 2013. "Time to stop investing in carbon capture and storage and reduce government subsidies of fossil-fuels." WIREs Climate Change doi: 10.1002/wcc.266

[Available here.](#)

### *Abstract*

Government investment in carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a large and expensive fossil-fuel subsidy with a low probability of eventual societal benefit. Within the tight resource constrained

environments that almost all governments are currently operating in, it is irresponsible to sustain this type of subsidy. CCS has been promoted as a "bridging" technology to provide CO2 reductions until non-fossil-fuel energy is ramped up. But the past decade of substantial government investment and slow progress suggests that the challenges are many, and it will take longer to build the CCS bridge than to shift away from fossil-fuels. Optimism about the potential of CCS is based primarily on research on technical feasibility, but very little attention has been paid to the societal costs of governments perpetuating fossil-fuels or to the sociopolitical requirements of long-term regulation of CO2 stored underground. Deep systemic change is needed to alter the disastrous global fossil-fuel trajectory. Government investment in CCS and other fossil-fuel technologies must end so that the distraction and complacency of the false sense of security such investments provide are removed. Instead of continuing to invest billions in CCS, governments should invest more aggressively in technologies, policies, and initiatives that will accelerate a smooth transition to non-fossil-fuel-based energy systems. We need to divest from perpetuating a fossil-fuel infrastructure, and invest instead in social and technical changes that will help us prepare to be more resilient in an increasingly unstable and unpredictable future.

### **New Working Paper Considers Issues of Sustainability, Inclusion, and Creativity in the Recent Flourishing of Makerspaces**

Smith, A., S. Hielscher, S. Dickel, J. Söderberg, and E. van Oost. 2013. "Grassroots Digital Fabrication and Makerspaces: Reconfiguring, Relocating and Recalibrating Innovation?" SPRU Working Paper Series 2013-02. SPRU - Science and Technology Policy Research, University of Sussex.  
[Available here.](#)

### **New York Times Article on Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Accounting**

**Rethinking How to Split the Costs of Carbon**  
**By Eduardo Porter**  
**Published: December 24, 2013**

It is probably a safe bet that very few Americans unwrapping a brand-new iPhone left under their Christmas tree are thinking about its impact on the global climate.

I have some good news for them, and some bad.

No, Apple hasn't managed to produce the device without adding heat-trapping carbon to the air. [The company expects](#) an iPhone 5s to inject 70 kilograms - about 154 pounds - of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere over its lifetime, 11 pounds less

than the iPhone 5 that Apple introduced last year.

The "good" news is that under the standard accounting of carbon emissions bandied about at climate talks, it's not, mostly, Americans' fault. About three-quarters of the carbon dioxide is considered the responsibility of other people - in places like China and Taiwan, South Korea and Inner Mongolia - where the phone and its parts were made...(continue reading [here](#)).

## **New York Times Article on Stanford Design School's Innovative Problem-Solving Approach**

### **Solving Problems for Real World, Using Design**

**By Nicole Perloth**

**Published: December 29, 2013**

PALO ALTO - Akshay Kothari's first assignment at the [D.school](#) - formally known as the Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford University - was to rethink how people eat ramen noodles. His last D.school assignment led to a news-reading app that was bought by LinkedIn for \$90 million.

While the projects had wildly different end products, they both had a similar starting point: focusing on how to ease people's lives. And that is a central lesson at the school, which is pushing students to rethink the boundaries for many industries.

At the heart of the school's courses is developing what David Kelley, one of the school's founders, calls an empathy muscle. Inside the school's cavernous space - which seems like a nod to the Silicon Valley garages of lore - the students are taught to forgo computer screens and spreadsheets and focus on people...(continue reading [here](#)).

## **New York Times Article on Pollution of the Chinese Food Supply**

### **Pollution Rising, Chinese Fear for Soil and Food**

**By Edward Wong**

**Published: December 30, 2013**

CHENJIAWAN, China - The farm-to-table process in China starts in villages like this one in the agricultural heartland. Food from the fields of Ge Songqing and her neighbors ends up in their kitchens or in the local market, and from there goes to other provinces. The foods are Chinese staples: rice, cabbage, carrots, turnips and sweet potatoes.

But the fields are ringed by factories and irrigated with water tainted by industrial waste. Levels of toxic heavy metals in the wastewater here are among the highest in China, and residents fear the soil is similarly contaminated. Though they have no

scientific proof, they suspect that a spate of cancer deaths is linked to the pollution, and worry about lead levels in the children's blood...(continue reading [here](#)).

## **Guardian Article on Sustainability and Culturally Resonant Story Telling**

### **Great Story Telling is Vital to Winning the Green Debate**

*Stories with deep cultural resonance allow people to see themselves "on the right side" of an issue, as Aesop, Pushkin and Dr Suess show.*

**By Andrew Simms**

**Published: December 31, 2013**

Slowly and painfully it's dawning on campaigning organisations that no amount of fact and rational argument will win the case on climate change. As the Radical Emissions Reduction conference, organised by the Tyndall Centre at the Royal Society, heard on 11 December, forces don't align according to a rational analysis and policy process.

Rather, powerful interests mobilise constituencies by manipulating people's sense of belonging to different groups. And they do so by telling stories with deep cultural resonances that allow people to see themselves "on the right side" of an issue.

This presents a problem. In spite of the fluidity of much social media, large scale media ownership still tends to be politically one-sided (to the right).

A tilted playing field creates a communication problem, but only up to a point. Good storytelling breaks the leash of attempts at narrow cultural control. And, when it comes to folk wisdom, the devil certainly doesn't have all the best tunes, or tales. As it's the season of myth and legend, here's just a few that might come in handy...(continue reading [here](#)).

## **NPR Story on Residential Construction and Agricultural Proximity**

### **Forget Golf Courses: Subdivisions Draw Residents With Farms**

**By Luke Runyon**

**Broadcast: December 17, 2013**

When you picture a housing development in the suburbs, you might imagine golf courses, swimming pools, rows of identical houses.

But now, there's a new model springing up across the country that taps into the local food movement: Farms - complete with livestock, vegetables and fruit trees - are serving as the latest suburban amenity.

It's called development-supported agriculture, a more intimate version of community-supported agriculture - a farm-share program commonly known as CSA. In planning a new neighborhood, a developer includes some form of food production - a farm, community garden, orchard, livestock operation, edible park - that is meant to draw in new buyers, increase values and stitch neighbors together...(continue reading and listen [here](#)).

## **San Francisco Chronicle Reports on the Food Movements Efforts to Raise Wages of Agricultural Workers**

### **Influential Voices in Food Movement Seek Better Worker Wages**

**By Joe Garofoli**

**Published: December 25, 2013**

Since he wrote "Fast Food Nation" more than a decade ago, muckraking author Eric Schlosser has noticed a sympathy gap in the food movement that he helped foster. Some foodies seem to care more about the treatment of the animals they eat than the workers who prepare and serve them.

"It's not all foodies by any means," Schlosser said. "But the food movement can get sidetracked into wealthy, upper-middle-class people caring about food as status, caring about food as pleasure. I'm a huge supporter of animal welfare, but the compassion for the abuse of animals is so much more excessive, I think, than for low-wage workers in this country."

That is changing, as interest in the plight of low-wage restaurant workers is becoming part of the national conversation - from President Obama calling for a higher minimum wage, to one-day strikes by fast-food workers this month in 100 U.S. cities, to Pope Francis denouncing the wage inequality in a world where CEOs of fast-food chains are making 1,200 times as much as line cooks....(continue reading [here](#)).

## **New SCORAI Affiliates**

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 605.

Brandon Cloud  
Jennifer Everett  
Oliver Galibert

Doreen Havenstein  
Sabine Hielscher  
Malin Jonell  
Sean Lerch  
Michele Wick

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