

## The Oil Drum: Campfire

### Discussions about Energy and Our Future

## Energy, Transport and Sustainability Changes in The Puget Sound Area

Posted by [Nate Hagens](#) on March 25, 2009 - 6:11pm in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Environment/Sustainability](#)

Tags: [seattle](#), [sustainable ballard](#) [[list all tags](#)]

*Below the fold is a brief overview from TOD reader Sustainable Ballard, on the growing number of energy/transport/sustainability initiatives taking place in the greater Seattle, WA region. I fully support initiatives such as these - one day we are likely to look back and wish we had done more regionally, locally, and as individuals...*



Greetings from the Puget Sound area, on another rainy spring day (could there be any other type? :-)

This Campfire post is meant to provide some insights into the robust local sustainability movement here in the Seattle area.

We thank Nate and other leaders at The Oil Drum for this opportunity.

### A HEALTHY BIO-REGION

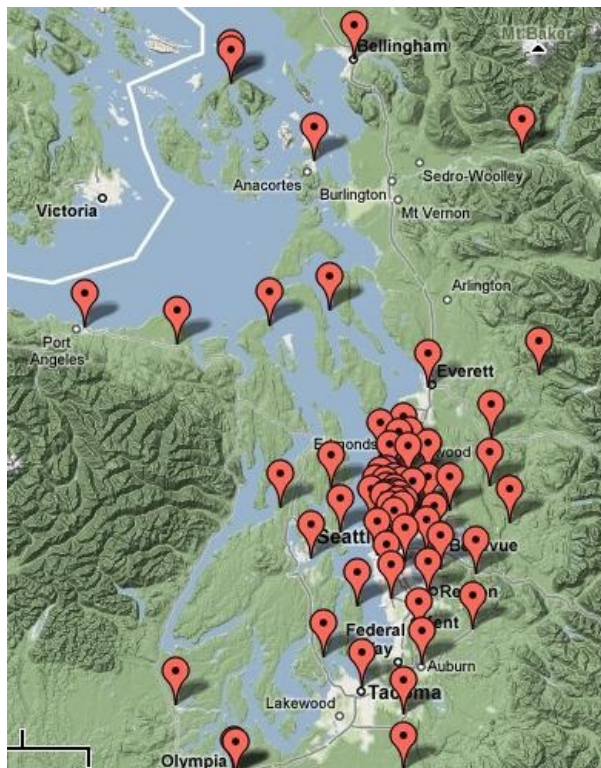
Sustainable Ballard is the original incubator/the mothership for the rapidly growing Sustainable Communities ALL Over Puget Sound (SCALLOPS) network, now an amazing 72-town strong movement! Vic Opperman has been a tireless leader and catalyst for the sustainability movement in Washington State. Along with David Wright and Artemis, Vic founded Sustainable Ballard 6 years ago as a channel for her despair over the Iraq War. When protesting the war failed, she decided it was wiser and more productive to start building a resilient community very close to home.

Following are some of our projects that we'd love to chat about with Oil Drum posters, and share our successes and failures:

Learn about Sail Transport Network, [http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Sail\\_Transport\\_Network](http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Sail_Transport_Network)



Learn about SCALLOPS (Sustainable Communities ALL Over Puget Sound), <http://scallops.sustainableballard.org/>



Learn about Undriving Ballard, <http://undriving.sustainableballard.org/>

Learn about Ballard Homes for All Coalition, [http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Ballard\\_Home-For-All\\_...](http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Ballard_Home-For-All_...)

Learn about Ballard Bike Rack Design Contest, <http://birdie.sustainableballard.org/>

Learn about Saturday House, [http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Saturday\\_House](http://sustainableballard.org/wiki/index.php?title=Saturday_House)

Learn about our 100 Mile Diet, <http://100milediet.sustainableballard.org/>

Sustainable Ballard Festival - Sept 26th & 27th, 2009,

#### KNOW THY CITY OFFICIALS

From the get-go, Sustainable Ballard has enjoyed excellent relationships with local officials, from spearheading the first sustainability sub-committee at the local Ballard Chamber of Commerce, to providing feedback to Governor Chris Gregoire when she spoke at the May 2008 NW Biodiesel Network, to direct input into the Seattle Mayor's office.

We are co-presenting a food security seminar with City Council President, Richard Conlin, at the Seattle Green Festival this Saturday, 2 PM.

At this weekend's Green Festival, SCALLOPS has the southwest corner of the Exhibition Hall reserved as a Community Action Center, to encourage free-wheeling exchange of ideas for the people of Puget Sound.

Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson works with Sustainable Ballard on homeless issues.

#### WHERE THE SMART GIRLS HANG OUT

Washington State sheds some light on the seemingly mysterious absence of female leadership in the sustainability movement. Whatever's in the water here has produced some strong-willed, passionate female leaders:

Vic Opperman, one of the original co-founders of Sustainable Ballard, was recently honored with a Green Trailblazer Award from the Greater Seattle's Business Association at its Business & Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

The president of Sustainable Ballard and organizer of the Seattle Green Festival is Jenny Heins.

The leader of the booming Garden Guild is Ingela Wanerstrand; the Urban Crop Circle leader is Rhonda Brown.

Local Food, now seemingly everywhere, still needs guidance from Food+Health Guild leader Jennifer Munde.

Former Home and Environment Guild leader Andrea Faste is a valuable liaison to Groundswell Northwest, our local parks preserver, while Julia Fields heads up the engagingly creative Undriving program to encourage people to try out a carless lifestyle.

Cathy Tuttle heads up not only Sustainable Wallingford but also Spokespeople, a local community group seeking to encourage newbies to take up bicycle riding.

Many of the leaders in the SCALLOPS towns are female, and Sustainable Ballard is in correspondence with both Sharon Astyk (upstate New York) and the lovely Crunchy Chicken (another Ballard-based resource), <http://www.thecrunchychicken.com/>.

Finally, your Oil Drum blogger, under the nom de Web of Sustainable Ballard, is a relocated Jersey Girl who still keeps a watchful eye on happenings back East.



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