

## Allison Quaid

**From:** Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities [infoBAA@bayareaalliance.org]  
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**Subject:** Sustainability Wire, Issue #1

# Sustainability Wire

Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities



Welcome to the premier newsletter of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities.

Together we are making the San Francisco Bay Area a more sustainable place, from building transit villages, serving organic food in the cafeteria, to operating hybrid solar ferries to Alcatraz. This newsletter will inform you of sustainability actions that businesses, local governments and non-profit organizations are taking around the Bay. We hope you are inspired to follow their lead!

Summer 2006, Issue #1

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Please tell us about your sustainability actions so that we can highlight them by emailing them to: [infobaa@bayareaalliance.org](mailto:infobaa@bayareaalliance.org). We encourage you to send this newsletter to others by clicking the "forward to a friend" link below. Lastly, we are holding a contest for the name of this newsletter, so please submit your suggestions by August 31, 2006.

- **Allison Quaid**, Executive Director, Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities (BAASC)

## Announcements



**SAVE THE DATE:** September 21st, Thursday, 8am to Noon. BAASC quarterly meeting, "On the Frontlines of Regional Growth", co-sponsored by California Center for Regional Livability, CAL TRANS and Bank of America. Location: 50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco. More information to be posted at [www.bayareaalliance.org](http://www.bayareaalliance.org)

## Google's Cafeteria Dishes Up Local, Organic Food



The Internet giant Google pioneered the world's most popular search engine and is now leading the way in offering organic food at the workplace. Its new "Cafe 150", located on its Mountain View campus provides locally grown food. The '150' in the name indicates that the ingredients are all grown within 150 miles of Google. Besides providing healthy food to their employees, buying locally supports regional farmers and reduces energy consumption.

On average, food travels 1200 to 2500 miles from pasture to plate. Eating locally grown food means less fossil fuel is used in freezing, refrigerating and transporting food. Local food is often safer to consume, because small farms tend to use less chemicals on their produce.

**Take Action:** Ask your cafeteria's food manager to source local, organic produce. More info: [SF Gate article on Google's Cafe 150](#) ; [Bon Appetit Management Company](#)

## UC Berkeley Tackles Climate Change



UC Berkeley has launched the Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP), a student initiated effort to reduce climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions from its campus. It will establish targets and implement measures that reduce the University's consumption of natural resources. Measures include designing new buildings to exceed state energy efficiency standards and achieve LEED certification, procuring 20% of campus electricity needs from renewable sources by 2017, purchasing alternative fuel fleet vehicles and implementing the EcoPass program that provides free public transit for employees. Go CAL!

Contact: Sam Arons at [sarons@berkeley.edu](mailto:sarons@berkeley.edu) or visit [sustainability.berkeley.edu/calcap.html](http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/calcap.html)

## Hercules Transit Village



The town of Hercules in western Contra Costa County is embarking on a bold urban design project that will provide a mix of housing, convenient transit and pedestrian shopping. A 426-acre brownfield site in the downtown is set to be converted into a transit village, which will include a compact mixed-use development of live-work units and waterfront promenades. Residents will have several public transportation modes to choose from: train, ferry, bus, and a potential light-rail BART. With more than half of the \$28 million of necessary funding already secured, the transit village is expected to open as soon as 2008.

Contact: Steve Lawton at (510) 799-8233 and [www.lgc.org/freepub/land\\_use/models/hercules.html](http://www.lgc.org/freepub/land_use/models/hercules.html)

## Get Involved: Net Impact

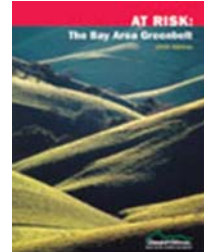
Net Impact's mission is grow and strengthen a network of new leaders who use the power of business to make a positive net social, environmental and economic impact. Its membership includes graduate students and professionals ranging from renewable energy experts to socially responsible investors.

Check out their local events and programs at [www.netimpact.org](http://www.netimpact.org)

## Regional News and Reports

### **Greenbelt Alliance Report on Bay Area Land at Risk**

The Bay Area Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's land conservation and urban planning organization, analyzed the state of the region's landscapes in 2005. This landmark study determined that today, there are 401,500 acres of greenbelt lands at risk of sprawl. If current development patterns continue, roughly one out of every 10 acres in the entire Bay Area could be paved over in the next thirty years. To obtain a free copy of the report, [click here](#).



### **Hybrid Solar Ferries for Alcatraz Tours**


Two hybrid ferries powered by the wind and sun will carry visitors to Alcatraz, according to a new 10-year contract between the National Park Service and Hornblower Cruises. A large, rigid wing covered with solar panels on the ferry will capture sun and wind power and power it across the Bay. Even in bad weather, the vessel is eco-friendly, diesel generators that run on biofuels and air pollution controls will reduce standard emissions by 70 to 90 percent.

Contact: Teri Shore at (415) 544-0790 (ext. 20)

## Credits

Special thanks to Sharada Machiroutu for her assistance with this newsletter.

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