

October 26, 2008

Our next gathering will be Nov 23rd from 2:00 - 4:00PM at the KCLS Burien Library (doors open at 1:30pm). Please note - the start time has been moved from 2:30 to 2:00. It will now end at 4:00pm. **As always, it's the 4th Sunday of the month.**

At our October gathering we met at-large to brainstorm about the following topics:

2009 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL - There are lots of possibilities, some of the suggestions were:

Work with the Parks Dept. to increase recycling and composting at the event. Get high school age students or other volunteers to help monitor bins. The Parks Dept. is very interested in making this happen. We can also help them with ideas to encourage "green" vendors to participate, and to have all vendors use green materials as much as possible.

Work on grouping "like" booths together for synergy = interconnection

Some ideas for SuBu booth[s]: food/gardening, bees, a poster tying all the pods together

Work on having a booth where people can get an Undrivers License. This requires finding some sponsors.

Provide walking maps and storm water surface maps

Future Gatherings will start at 2:00 rather than 2:30 and will continue to be 2 hours.

We discussed having **Speakers** at some gatherings. Suggested topics included:

Energy Efficiency for Houses (January?)

SCALLOPS - defining sustainability

Solar Power (spring/summer?)

Sharon Nelson (State Leg - May or June after session)

Having the speaker on a different day is possible. It would be important to Market the event, most speakers won't want to show up if there aren't enough people to make it worth it to them. A member has a house with a projector and room for about 30 people that we may be able to use. Since projectors are very expensive [even to rent] this could be essential in some cases.

The group agreed that sending 2 emails out per month is ok - there would be a gathering recap and a gathering reminder. Ideally, we're still working on that.

At some gatherings we could start having Demonstrations from within the existing Pods.

Change the gathering notice from specific date to 4th Sunday of every month to save a tree. [Note: that's already on there, and we now list the next 2 dates so they're valid for longer. One problem is that people are less likely to put it on their calendar if they have to calculate it. And we have limited space on the form. We may be able to redesign the whole form though.]

The December gathering will probably be a dessert social and gathering with a limited agenda.

The Pods and their action items from the October gathering are (in alphabetical order):

1. Community: no Pod at Oct gathering

2. Energy: no Pod at Oct. gathering

3. Environment:

When dining out, bring your own "to-go" container from home, save some Styrofoam. This will also encourage more restaurants to start using green containers.

You can dispose of old prescription and non-prescription drugs (including pet medications) at Group Health and Bartells (free)

CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Bulbs) can be disposed of at Bartells (free, CFLs only)

Green cleaning products - most stores carry environmentally friendly products, many have whole sections of them now. You can check the Sustainability ratings of them and many other products at <http://www.goodguide.com/>

4. Food: see their blog at <http://sustainableburienfoodpod.blogspot.com/>

FYI - there was a recent article about Sustainable Burien and the Food Pod's gleaning work in the B-Town Blog. There's a link on the blog.

FYI - three SuBu folks gave an informational presentation to the Burien City Council regarding Sustainable Burien.

We're working on a Coupon Program. Please bring your coupons from the Sunday paper to the next gathering. They are used to buy food for the food bank. One of the Pod members has a blog about coupons too. <http://suzdeals.blogspot.com/>

We are looking for P-Patch land.

Gleaning continues - Check the blog for details. Locations are not posted for privacy reasons, so you'll need to contact Suzanne if you want to help.

Create a bartering/borrowing list. Bring food/excess produce to the gathering to swap with others, any extra can be taken to the food bank the next day.

Full Circle Farms has one pick up location in North Burien. The group wants to make sure the North location is solid with participants and then would like to establish a South Burien location too if there's enough interest. Information is on the SuBu website.

5. Transportation:

There's a Zip Car link on the Sustainable Burien website. This link is for people to use to request a Zip Car in Burien.

We are going to research the relative costs of different methods of transportation including the Zip Car, rentals, personal car, mass transit, bicycle, etc.

We are working on compiling maps of Burien - transportation and others such as storm water system locations.

We're going to look into the feasibility of getting a local Shuttle bus for Burien.

Research and provide information about Metro Bus routes

We hope to have a transportation questionnaire at 2009 Strawberry Festival as well as the Undriving Program or something similar.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone on November 23rd from 2:00 - 4:00pm
(doors open at 1:30pm).

See www.SustainableBurien.org or call 206.242.8378 if you have questions.