

## **A Report on a recent Global Warming Café**

San Francisco Bay Area, December 10, 2006  
In the home of Nancy Margulies and Gary Warhaftig  
24 people attended

We followed the set-up suggestions in the Global Warming Café design closely. Luckily, Kevin Kelley was available to set up his “Home Planet” slide show in a room off the main Café space. As people entered, they were encouraged to step into the room and experience images of the earth taken from space with an instrumental sound track. I also painted a large canvas (4 X 5) that is inspired by the Velvet Revolution. We also had music playing in the main room with inspiring songs like John Lennon’s *Imagine*.

After people had a chance to leave their “snacks to share” on the counter and help themselves to drinks they were asked to be seated at the Café tables.

The introduction was made with the help of prepared “posters” of:

1. Overview: Global Warming is the new central project of humanity. The Global Warming Café is a grassroots attempt to help individuals rise to the occasion.

2. Purpose of the Global Warming Café:

To help you bear witness to the fact that life as we have known it on this planet has radically changed with global warming.

To begin to understand what this means for your future.

To learn how you can take personal action in your household and larger community to be part of the global warming solution.

The first two rounds were focused on the question, “Regarding global warming, what are your fears and hopes for yourself, your family/community and the planet’s future inhabitants?”

When the question was read I asked one person at each table to write the question on their table paper. Additionally, each table contained a one-sided newsletter called “Cool It, An Irregular Periodical” which contained a few hopeful news items from the last few days’ news. Participants were told that any ideas they wanted to take home could be noted on the back of the newsletter. This newsletter is by no means a necessary part of the event. It was done for fun and because the news was so GOOD.

# Cool It: an irregular periodical | 12.10.06

**GLOBAL WARMING Cafe** the first of its kind, held in Montara, CALIFORNIA

The Associated Press  
November 14, 2006  
Sen. Barbara Boxer, of Rancho Mirage, a Democrat and one of the biggest environmental advocates on Capitol Hill, was named today to chair the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

She replaces Oklahoma Republican James Inhofe, who says global warming is a hoax and wanted to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency established by President Richard Nixon.



## RAND FINDS U.S. CAN INCREASE USE OF RENEWABLES AT LOW COST

The RAND Corporation, a large government-funded think tank, released a report this week that finds that the United States could significantly increase its use of renewable energy at a low cost. "Renewable resources could produce 25 percent of the electricity and motor vehicle fuels used in the United States by 2025 at little or no additional cost if fossil fuel prices remain high enough and the cost of producing renewable energy continues falling in accord with historical trends," ...

## Sen. Boxer Promises New Agenda on Climate Change

excerpted from San Jose Mercury News

"...Sen. Barbara Boxer, the California Democrat who becomes chairman of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee next month, promised a new agenda to tackle climate change.... the Congress and the committee are about to undergo their own severe climate change, with Democrats taking over Jan. 4.

Boxer pledged in-depth hearings on global warming, and a push to restrict carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, with a focus on what California has done with its regulations.

## Bradbury tours Oregon with Al Gore's slide show

The Associated Press

EUGENE — Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury toured the state next week to present former Vice President Al Gore's slide show on global warming.

Gore, the star of a documentary derived from his slide show, has started training 1,000 "Climate Project" volunteers to help spread his environmental message around the globe.

Bradbury, a Democrat, received an invitation to join the project after he saw Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" in July and called Gore's chief of staff to ask whether he could help.

"Global warming isn't something we should be kind of a little bit worried about," Bradbury said. "It's a crisis."



Teams form to reduce carbon usage in homes & neighborhoods first!

Global Warming Intro:



NEW REALITY



Café Intro poster drawn in advance:



Notes from table top:



Notes from group sharing at end





The book by David Gershon -- *Low Carbon Diet: A Thirty-Day Program to Lose 5,000 Pounds* – was given to each participant.



Notes from sharing:



At the end of round three of conversation, the entire group listened as people shared what they heard that was a new idea, insight, or in other ways noteworthy.



### Insights from the Global Warming Café:

I asked everyone at the beginning to sit with eyes closed and notice the pattern of their own breathing. We focused upon ourselves as living systems connected to other living systems, within ever larger systems. Our breath can be equated to the need for the planet to breathe.

After round two, I again asked for silence and introduced the next question by asking people to spend a few minutes in silence asking themselves, “What am I called to do?” - not what should I do, or what must be done, but what am I called to do? This seemed to work well for people.

After the Café portion of the afternoon, we introduced the *Low Carbon Diet* and reviewed the main points. My original invitation was for a Café from 1-4 PM. In

order to include the segment at the end where we focus on the book and make specific plans, we needed another hour. Most people seemed ready to socialize after the Café portion and I cut the last segment short. I think inviting them to a four-hour workshop that includes a World Café would have set a different tone and enabled us to go deeper into forming teams.

Transcribing from some of the notes people made on the paper tablecloths. (Here is a sample of responses):

Fears:

What if it's too late?

What if we fail to act?

How would this impact our grandchildren? What if we let them down?

Hopes/Ideas:

Let's look at what it means to impact seven generations in the future.

What is happening NOW that we can link to actions taken seven generations from now?

Explore modern hand mowers and other energy savers then share info with each other.

Let's carpool to grocery store and see how that works.

Is this Global Warming the natural evolution to rid the Earth of our invasive species?

We need a magazine of global awareness, like *YES!* magazine, that focuses on what can be done and is being done regarding GW.

We must step over the line to take action and commit to making a difference. Good actions are contagious.

We can see this crisis as an opportunity for human beings to work together in an unprecedented way.

We are much more aware now than we were in generations past regarding environmental issues.

We can really feel the interconnectedness of all life.

We did not take the next 60 minutes to do as follows, but more informally asked people to decide what next steps they would take and to form small teams. It was agreed that another GW Café for the same group would be useful, so that is one of our next steps. In that café, the questions will focus more on learning from one another, sharing news, progress reports and making clear action plans.

I plan to spend more time on this phase for my next group of people who experience the GW Café for the first time.