

“LIFE2 – For a More Sustainable Leavenworth”

January 27, 2009

“The Mission of LIFE2 is to educate, inspire, and mobilize the citizens of the greater Leavenworth community to take responsibility to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of the present while improving the ability of future generations to meet their needs.”

**Community meetings held at 6 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
in the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve, 347 Division Street, Leavenworth, Washington**

“LIFE2, For a More Sustainable Leavenworth,” began when interested citizens of Leavenworth responded to an invitation to come to the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve to discuss the concept of a sustainable community at a meeting held on October 29, 2008, initiating what has become an on-going series of discussions about the future of the greater Leavenworth area.

Thus far, we have had 4 meetings and have been very gratified with the enthusiastic response of the community. We have averaged over 30 people in attendance at each meeting. Meetings generally take place at 6 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve. **The next meeting will take place Tuesday, February 17, at 6 PM in the Barn at Barn Beach Reserve.** All LIFE2 meetings are open to the public. People who wish to attend are encouraged to contact Jeff Parsons by email at jparsons@nwi.net or by phone at (509) 548-0181.

Participants in these sustainable community discussions decided to call the effort, “LIFE2 – For a More Sustainable Leavenworth” as a way to acknowledge and honor the people on whose shoulders we stand. In the 1960s, when the Leavenworth was experiencing tough times, local citizens organized an effort that became known as "Leavenworth Improvement For Everyone" or "LIFE." This effort resulted in the adoption of the Bavarian theme to help market Leavenworth as a tourist destination.

As our LIFE2 discussions have proceeded, participants have discovered they share the intent for this effort to be inclusive, with a goal of engaging as much of the greater Leavenworth community as possible in developing and implementing a vision of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the community.

The outcomes of these discussions have not been predetermined. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Participants are engaging in open discussions. There are no “bad ideas.” The intent is to find common ground and identify ways to move forward together as a community.

At our most recent meeting, we adopted vision and mission statements and formed a number of committees, including steering, education and outreach, building and affordable housing, business practices, food and agriculture, energy and transportation, recreation and health, and wildlife and native plants.

We also set the afternoon of Sunday, April 26, as the date for an Earth Day event and established a planning committee to prepare for the event.

At our next meeting on February 17, people new to LIFE2 are encouraged to arrive a 5:45 PM for an orientation. Starting at 6 PM, we will do our welcome and introductions, then immediately break out into committees for the first hour, then reconvene with everybody together for the second hour.

The following is an "**Overview of Sustainability Concepts**" that was presented as a PowerPoint presentation at the first sustainable community discussion.

- 1) "Sustainability" means "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- 2) The "Triple Bottom Line" – In his book, "Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business," John Elkington argues that future market success will often depend upon a company's ability to satisfy the "triple bottom-line" of:
 - a) Economic prosperity,
 - b) Environmental quality, and
 - c) Social justice.
- 3) "Natural Step" – The Natural Step is a nonprofit organization founded in Sweden in 1989 by Swedish scientist, Karl-Henrik Robert. The Natural Step Framework is a proven, scientifically robust model that helps organizations make pragmatic decisions to move toward sustainability. Communities such as Whistler, British Columbia, Canada and corporations such as IKEA and NIKE have adopted the Natural Step and become more sustainable (hence more profitable) as a result.
(<http://www.naturalstep.org/>) In the sustainable society, people...
 - a) Avoid impairment of nature's functions and diversity resulting from increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust, such as fossil fuels, scarce metals and minerals;
 - b) Avoid impairment of nature's functions and diversity resulting from increasing concentrations of substances produced by society, such as chemicals and synthetic substances;
 - c) Avoid impairment of nature's functions and diversity resulting from physical displacement, over-harvesting and other forms of ecosystem manipulation; and
 - d) Avoid subjecting people to conditions that undermine their capacity to meet their needs.

For further information about "LIFE2, For a More Sustainable Leavenworth," please contact Jeff Parsons, Executive Director, Barn Beach Trust, at jparsons@nwi.net or at (509) 548-0181
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