

• Self-Reliance

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Neighborhood Energy Audits

Conservation Strategies That Do More Than Save Energy

As we enter our sixth heating season since energy prices hit the ceiling like so many lost BTUs, activity in conservation and energy alternatives indicates that local initiatives are the key to energy policies that make sense. Turning around decades of extravagant energy consumption is a task well-suited to neighborhood-level organization, because strategies for conservation and alternatives are varied and are almost always site-specific. A neighborhood organization knows best what works, what local resources are available, and what are the most cost-effective strategies. It can also best motivate citizen participation.

In the Anacostia area of Washington DC, the federally funded Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) helps people arrange home financing and, at the same time, evaluates conservation measures which will lower the cost of home-ownership. Their knowledge and experience with homes typical to Anacostia often suggest strategies that would not work for other parts of the city. For example, many homes in Anacostia have inaccessible attic spaces, but high ceilings. Here, board insulation above dropped ceilings is more cost-effective than is blown-in insulation. NHS also has a tool loan program that aides the do-it-yourselfers, and their experience with local contractors helps those who wish to package their home improvements.

Like Anacostia, many other neighborhoods around the country are beginning to look carefully at their energy use. Energy has become as much a part of local planning as zoning, housing and commercial development. In fact, it is an integral part of all of these issues.

The first step

The first step in any energy study is a *neighborhood energy audit*. An audit involves people working and learning together about the specific characteristics of energy use in a given neighborhood. In Minneapolis, residents organized a neighborhood audit that started with local resources and did not import outside "experts." Within six months, about half of the residents in a four block area were regularly monitoring their electric, gas, and water consumption; source separating and weighing their garbage; weatherstripping and caulking leaky windows; and implementing site specific conservation measures (for more information on this project, contact Mary Kumpula, 2929 Bloomington Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55407).

One way to organize a neighborhood audit team is to sponsor a workshop on energy conservation and alternatives. There are many state and local organizations that regularly run such workshops, including state energy offices, community action agencies, university cooperative extension services and the League of Women Voters. In Northfield, Minnesota, the League organized block parties to demonstrate home energy savings techniques. "The most effective

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Notes

A new alternative technology and community development group has formed in Atlanta, Georgia. The Southern Unity Network-Renewable Energy Project (SUN-REP) will be an information clearinghouse and source for assistance in locating funds for alternative technology projects in the Southeastern United States. Its organizers include Merle Lefkoff, of SAVE (Save America's Vital Environment) and the Georgia Conservancy; Ron Mitchell, an environmentalist and lobbyist for a Georgia bottle bill law; and Len Levine, a community and political organizer for Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson. The group can be contacted at: 3110 Maple Drive, NE, Suite 412, Atlanta GA 30307.

A good information source for neighborhood cultural and arts events is *Intercom*, published by the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. For a free subscription to this monthly, eight-page newsletter, write: Virginia Cassiano, NCUEA, 1521 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20036.

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Various tips for cutting down on utility bills have been published in a number of different places, but now a handy booklet brings many of them together. "Utility Bills Can Cost Less" emphasizes simple conservation measures for water, electricity, gas, oil and telephone—not technical design or structural changes. Most of the hints require little time or money to implement. For a copy, send \$3.25 to: **Utility Book, Box 39161, Redford MI 48239.**

A resource list on employee and community ownership is available from the Center for Economic Studies. The list includes addresses of organizations, colleges and individuals in the US, Canada and Great Britain, as well as manuals and films on employee and community ownership. Copies are available for 75 cents from: **Center for Economic Studies, P.O. Box 3736, Stanford CA 94305.**

The March of "Progress" . . .

Sun Sets on Solar Program: One of the country's first local government solar energy programs closed this summer in Mohave County, Arizona, due to budget cuts. Rapid growth in the county, a state limitation on increased taxes, and the county board of supervisor's decision to free the money for other services all contributed to the Mohave County Solar Energy Program's (MCSEP) premature death.

Located in one of the poorest counties in the state, the program had increased its funding from seven to thirty thousand dollars in its first two years of operation. Although the main source of funding was from county government, MCSEP had also received money from the Department of Energy and the State of Arizona.

Twila de Vries, director of the program, explained that funds had been cut just as they had begun receiving positive response to their projects. These included: a prison equipped with wind energy for electrical power, a solar hot water heating system display at the county fairgrounds, solar greenhouses for mobile homes and low-income housing for the elderly, and a touring mobile energy education display.

Although the program may have been "a bit before its time," Ms. deVries hasn't given up hope. Along with solar experts Susan and Bill Yanda, she is starting a new publication called *Solar Greenhouse Digest*, which will include information on solar greenhouse applications, solar heating, solar cooking, and general solar energy news.

Sewage Solutions That Won't Wash: Way back in April 1976 *Self-Reliance* warned that the \$82 million water treatment plant at Occoquan, Virginia might be a disaster. But we didn't expect what happened in nearby Manassas Park. There, dozens of residents resorted to filling bathtubs and storage drums and moving outhouses onto their front lawns when the city shut off their water. The residents refused to pay overdue water bills when the sewer rate for a typical family of four jumped from \$11 to \$75 a month, a direct result of the expensive Occoquan treatment plant. Residents vow they will withhold payments until a proposed federal bailout reduces the monthly charge. In the meantime, the city is keeping the taps shut.

In nearby suburban Maryland, county officials took measures almost as drastic in response to another sewer crisis. According to a report in the *Washington Post*, a Prince George's County sanitation commissioner was deliberately prevented from attending a meeting where he intended to vote on a sewer rate increase before an election. The county politicians who arranged for the commissioner to miss the meeting had good reason to be worried. The new rate to connect to the water and sewage system is scheduled to jump from \$1,095 to \$4,150—an increase of almost 400 percent.

More sensible solutions to sewage problems can be found in Chicago (*Self-Reliance*, July-August) Plains, Missouri (*Progress Report*, September-October) and in Eugene, Oregon (*Progress Report*, this issue).

Whatever Happened to Neighborhood Health Centers?

In the early 1960's, the government "War on Poverty" at first gave low priority to health care. But as the prevalence of malnutrition and other health deficiencies was recognized among children participating in Health Start programs and teenagers entering the Job Corps, improved health care for the poor became a major battle in the War. The focus was comprehensive community-based preventative care, delivered by a new institution—the government-sponsored neighborhood health center.

One of the first centers to be funded—five were funded as demonstration projects by early 1966—was in a low-income housing project at Columbia Point in Boston. Other early projects were in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in the Watts section of Los Angeles, in Denver and in New York. In 1966, an appropriation of \$50 million from Congress spurred rapid growth. By the end of 1968, OEO had committed funds for 52 centers, all but ten of which were already operational. By 1971, there were about 100 OEO Neighborhood Health Centers and another 50 that were sponsored by the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Comprehensive Community Health Care

Neighborhood Health Centers now provide a wide range of family-oriented, walk-in health care services to about 1.5 million low-income people. Most of the centers are located in urban areas. The primary users of the centers are children between the ages of 5 and 14 and women of child-bearing age. According to the National Association of Community Health Centers, all of the centers offer basic medical and laboratory services; 94 percent offer pharmacy and 90 percent offer X-ray. Almost all clinics provide dental services and four out of five provide home health services.

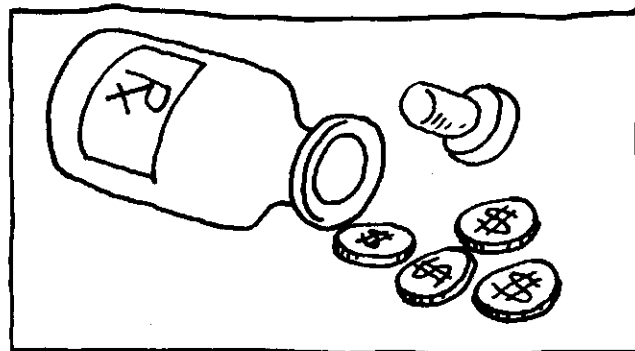
Neighborhood Health Clinics are *not* simply small hospitals. They attempt to provide health care services that the poor *can* and *will* use. A board member of a center in Louisville explained, "Here is a way for them to go to a place that is accessible and make contact with someone who will screen them, take them by the hand, and lead them into the system."

When a center is adequately funded, the effect can be profound. Although the poor traditionally underuse available health care services, data from medical records at the Columbia Point center revealed that, in its third year, 75 percent of the total neighborhood population visited the center for care at least once. The health center was the regular source of care for about 97 percent of the neighborhood's children.

Dr. R. Samuel Johnson, former director of the Denver Health Center, described the immediate impact that a Neighborhood Health Center can have. "We opened the center and, within three months, the pediatrics out-patient clinic (at the local hospital) was just dropping off." Moreover, the infant mortality rate in the areas serviced by the center dropped 28

percent in its first few years.

Other studies have shown similar improvements in community health after the opening of a neighborhood center. Give people access to Neighborhood Health Centers and they will be less likely to need or use more expensive hospital health services. In Rochester, a 50 percent reduction in the number of days children spent in hospitals was recorded in neighborhoods served by community health centers. In Chicago, people enrolled in the Mile Square Neighborhood Health Center experienced a reduction in hospital days per 1000 people of 25 percent in three years. In Baltimore, where there are three centers, there has been a 60 percent drop in the inci-



Coby Everdell in Working Papers

dence of rheumatic fever among children aged 5 to 14.

Health center registrants also begin to break from the previous dependence upon emergency room services as a result of their participation. A study conducted in Boston in 1972 showed that health center registrants who did use the emergency room were more likely to have been referred by a physician, to have a regular source of primary medical care and to be using the emergency room as back-up for regular care than those not registered.

One last—but important—effect deserves mention. Six thousand people work in Neighborhood Health Centers across the country. Most of these people live in the neighborhoods being served. Many are being trained as paraprofessional health care workers. For residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods, these centers can provide the possibility of employment and employment training, a rare opportunity in all too many of those communities.

The Seventies: The Momentum Halted

Given the positive potential and impact of these centers, one question looms large: If these centers are so successful, why are there now only 157 instead of the 1500 that the government once estimated were necessary? Not surprisingly, the real stumbling-block is money (which, on the federal level, is another way of saying "politics").

During the thirteen year history of Neighborhood Health Centers, there have been serious problems with the model as developed. The government mandated community involvement in the administration and provision of health care at each center. This meant pitting ghetto residents against local medical center representatives from the outset. Each group had different needs and priorities and pushed for its own self-interest.

The centers also incurred the wrath of the medical industry which saw the centers as a potential threat. Ruth Hanft, who was with OEO in the early years, told an interviewer, "We were operating out of politics to some extent. Such as, we did not want to have open opposition from the medical society." A cooperative pharmacy project set up at a community health center in an upstate New York housing project was vigorously opposed by local pharmacists. They feared the competition and forced the center to drop some of its more innovative consumer-oriented services. By the time the pharmacy opened, still without the support of the local pharmacists, the services offered were too limited to attract enough customers—and the pharmacy failed due to lack of participation.

These problems—and others associated with training, bureaucratic lethargy, administration, and outreach—were real. Their impact was felt in the early 1970's whenever the issue of continued funding was addressed.

In 1970, Neighborhood Health Centers were transferred from OEO to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). At that time, during the administration of President Nixon, a decision was made to push the centers toward financial self-sufficiency. Government grants would decrease until they stopped and the centers would have to pay their own way through patient payments, Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance reimbursements, and any other way they could find. From 1971 to 1973, funding levels remained the same, despite rising costs and patient use. In 1974, appro-

priations were cut \$5.1 million.

The results of HEW's decision are unfortunate. Since many of the services available at Neighborhood Health Centers are not reimbursable by Medicaid or other insurance programs, and since many patients have no money to pay for services, centers are being forced to drop whole departments, to cut staff drastically, and to compete against both small and large

"They are killing the part of the program with the best health care results for low-income people."

hospitals for a piece of the shrinking pie. Marketing has become the name of the game, but marketing health care in poor communities is rarely a winning proposition. Some centers have closed completely. Others, like the Community Group Health Foundation in Washington DC, have had to curtail some of their most effective services (See below).

The funding cutbacks make comprehensive care impossible. Often, the first service to go is community outreach. This then limits the center to servicing those people who walk in on their own. The goal of "continuous and comprehensive family-oriented care" becomes wishful thinking. Dr. Johnson, former director of the Denver Health Center, lamented, "If you will look at it now compared to what we said it was going to be, it's just a bunch of facilities with people coming in and punching the clock and taking care of people who happen to drop in."

Mike Clark, a member of the Health Policy Advisory Center (Health-PAC) in New York, explained further: "They are killing the part of the program with the best health care results for low-income people—the family health workers, the outreach, the prenatal care, the nutritional counseling. They are shifting the program priority to the 'lean model of mandatory care.' No

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A Case Study: Community Health Foundation, Washington DC

Dr. Camille Lee Young is the director of the dental clinic at Washington DC's largest and most well-equipped Neighborhood Health Center. Born and raised in the Upper Cardozo area where the center is located, she has been involved in the planning, design and operation of the dental clinic since it opened ten years ago. Today, the clinic has eight operator rooms, two dental hygienist's rooms, three X-ray units, a patient education center, a dental lab and two emergency operatories. But, besides Dr. Young, there are only two full-time dentists and one hygienist on staff at the clinic.

Despite its \$2 million building and its \$3 million in equipment, Community Group Health Foundation, which opened its new building in 1975, has never had enough money to operate at capacity. The emergency dental rooms have never been used. Neither has the dental lab. Most of the other dental facilities are woefully underused.

The story repeats itself in almost every department at the health center. Last year, there were 160 people on staff. This year, there are only 100. The ophthalmology clinic has been closed. The physical therapy unit never was open. Even though the office space and the equipment are there, ready to be used, but the center is in debt, has suffered

from several years of bad management, and is now unable to operate as the comprehensive health care facility that a group of mothers on Morton Street dreamed of when they began meeting about health care problems in their neighborhood, more than fifteen years ago.

There are currently only about 9000 people enrolled in the health center. When finances got tight, the first service to go was patient and community outreach. Now, the center is not attracting enough new patients. And many of the patients who do use the clinic cannot afford to pay and are also not eligible for third-party insurance reimbursements. Caught between a dependence on HEW grants and the knowledge that those grants will only get smaller over time, the Upper Cardozo center faces an uncertain future. Buttock, newly-elected chairperson of the board, lamented that "We've been this far from being broke several times, but we've never made it." In the meantime, HEW is entertaining applications from other health care providers who might be interested in taking over some part of the center. The Community Group Health Foundation, which rose symbolically from the ashes of a burning 10th Street hot corridor, now has to face bankruptcy.

Moving Cities Towards Energy Self-Reliance

To what extent can a large American city become energy independent? During the summer, the Institute began an extensive study of this question, using Washington DC as a model. At this point, we have carefully traced the flow of energy dollars in and out of the city. The figures show a startling dependence on outside sources for the city's energy supply. Currently, we are studying ways in which this dependence can be reduced. Over the next six months, the project will evaluate the practicality of achieving 50 percent energy self-reliance in Washington DC by the year 2000, through a judicious mix of conservation and solar energy. The following article outlines the reasoning behind the study and summarizes its methodology.

Last year, our nation's capital, excluding federal government operations, spent more than \$580 million on energy. But less than \$80 million of this amount remained in the city's economy. That means that for every energy dollar spent, about 85 cents was lost. This kind of trade deficit would drain the economy of even the wealthiest community.

Because of rising costs, Washington's energy trade deficit will probably grow worse. In 1972, for example, the city's energy expenditures were equal to 34 percent of its budget. By 1980, the percentage will climb to over 40 percent. By 1985, District residents may find that the amount they pay for energy is equal to the cost of all local government services.* It is unlikely that costs will accelerate at current rates, but they have far from peaked. PEPCO, the city's utility, has already asked for a rate increase of 15.6 percent. And Washington Gas and Light is asking for an increase of 11 percent.

Rising energy prices affect District of Columbia residents in many ways. As the percentage of the city budget for energy increases, less money is available for other necessities. If landlords include the cost of energy in rent, housing costs go up. In manufacturing and transportation, higher energy costs contribute to a rise in consumer prices.

In a more indirect way, investments required to find new energy supplies and build new generating facilities affect urban dwellers as well. According to some estimates, the energy industry may tie up almost 60 percent of domestic capital for mines and new energy plants. That is capital not going to urban needs like housing or employment. In fact, it costs \$108,000 to create one job in the petroleum industry, more than five times the cost of the average manufacturing job, and more than 10 times an average job in the service sector.

In cities like Washington, reducing the amount of money exported for energy could have multiple local benefits. Not only do investments in conservation and solar energy have a

high yield in jobs per dollar, these jobs provide greater opportunities for semi-skilled and skilled workers than do new coal or nuclear power plants. And the businesses created and benefiting from conservation and solar energy investment tend to be small, locally-based enterprises. In Washington, where half of teenage blacks are unemployed, these assets are greatly in need.

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Energy self-reliance offers social benefits as well. By looking at communities as small nations and examining the energy balance of payments, one can see the consequences of individual actions more clearly. Past efforts at conservation education, for example, have largely failed because they stressed world-wide energy shortages. People cannot easily relate their individual actions to global disaster. But put a solar collector on a rooftop, and the owner suddenly understands what a BTU is, and how many BTUs it takes for a hot shower. Put a wind generator in the backyard, and one knows the difference in electrical consumption between a frostfree refrigerator and a conventional one. In each case, a BTU saved moves a community one BTU further towards energy self-reliance.

Documenting the flow

Because most city planners and officials do not look at energy consumption in terms of a balance of trade, documenting the flow of energy dollars in and out of a city can be a difficult task. Where exact figures are not compiled or available to the public, estimates must be made according to certain assumptions.

The Institute's study of Washington began by breaking down the four types of energy consumed in the city: electricity (which accounts for almost half the total), gasoline (one quarter of the total), and natural gas and fuel oil (which together account for the remaining quarter of energy consumption).

Figures from electricity and gas utilities, which are the sole distributors of these energy supplies in the city, were relatively easy to obtain and compile in usable form. Fuel oil and gasoline distribution, however, is a much more competitive field. In 1976, for example, there were 33 fuel oil firms and 240 gas stations doing business in Washington. Much data on these energy forms was obtained through contact with local dealers, trade associations and national business surveys. Local tax authorities and a survey of DC and Maryland retailers provided additional information.

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*Interestingly, the District government itself has a favorable balance sheet with respect to energy. In 1977, it paid out \$34 million for energy and received \$53 million on taxes on energy. These ranged from excise and sales taxes to income and payroll taxes.

An Alternative Plan for Failing British Industry

The troubled British economy is sometimes regarded as a warning of what our own economy may look like in ten or fifteen years. If so, Americans may soon pick up on activity now building in Britain around alternative industrial and technical systems. The British aerospace industry, perhaps hardest hit of all the country's industries, has been the center of this creative activity. Four years ago, rank and file members of aerospace unions presented an "Alternative Corporate Plan" to Lucas Aerospace, the largest company in the field. The plan describes about 150 products—technically-feasible and socially-useful—which could be produced at Lucas to prevent layoffs and revive a steadily declining business. A spokesperson for the Plan, Michael George, recently visited the United States to publicize his work and to develop ties with American union members. In the following interview, Mike George explains the Corporate Plan and describes the work which is being done to implement it.

Self-Reliance: What has happened to the Corporate Plan since it was proposed?

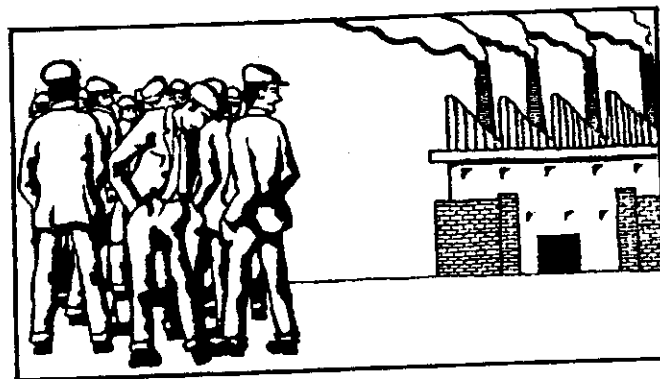
Mike George: Management rejected it outright. The Combine Shop Stewards, the group which wrote the plan, then engaged in a great deal of government lobbying. There are a couple of prototypes for heat pumps in the Plan, for example, and this fall we will know whether we're getting a grant from the British Department of Energy to engage in a much larger research and development program for these heat pumps.

In January, the Combine Shop Stewards formed the Center for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems (CAITS), allowing us to research in greater depth some of the economic implications of the Plan. At this point, many people regard the proposals as a luxury. We're saying that the production of useful goods and services is in fact cheaper than unemployment. Getting a number of the Corporate Plan products to the prototype stage will demonstrate that the Plan is not simply paper or ideas, but concrete products. It's both a political and a technical campaign.

Self-Reliance: What are some of the other products proposed in the Corporate Plan?

Mike George: We're just about to start work on what we call a hybrid car pack. This is a diesel/electric unit for city cars. Basically, it runs the internal combustion engine at a constant optimum speed. Using this to generate electricity to run car motors means you've got the good torque characteristics of an electric motor, and gases are burned relatively completely. There is also very little vibration or noise. Our indications are that fuel consumption per ton of vehicle per mile is reduced 50 percent. We've got one prototype made and we expect to have a working model within a year.

The second prototype is a hybrid roadrail vehicle which, as its name implies, runs on both railroad lines and on roads. There have been spin-off discussions with the Tanzanian



government over applications of this principle. One advantage is that it can go up steep inclines. It also means that, in Third World countries, you can build a transport system piecemeal. Rather than build a complete and expensive rail system, you can use existing roads, because the vehicles can come right off the rail. Other projects include a sub-sea electric generator unit, which is basically wave power. We're also working on a campaign to increase research and development on kidney machines in Lucas Aerospace, as well as other work on medical equipment in general. (Ed. note: Lucas already makes a limited number of kidney machines, but not enough to meet the demand).

Self-Reliance: How have workers and the general public reacted to the Corporate Plan?

Mike George: I don't pretend to speak for the British public, but my experience has been that people who learn about the plan are not skeptical. They are generally enthusiastic. The problem comes in trying to translate it into their own work situation. The Lucas Corporate Plan rode on the back of a very good rank and file union organization. In other places where the Plan is being developed, there is also a relatively advanced level of union organization. An individual who does not have that finds it difficult to see how he or she could work in that way. Fortunately, there's a strong tradition of rank and file union activity in Britain, and this new activity is right in that tradition. Change tends to come from the rank and file, with the official trade union organization picking up wherever they can or feel they have to.

The Plan has also received considerable media attention. Now, whenever somebody in the media talks about unemployment, somewhere you'll find the Lucas Corporate Plan mentioned. In September, there was a one-hour film documentary on the Plan aired on prime time national TV, followed by an hour-long studio discussion with government ministers and members of the Combine Shop Stewards.

Self-Reliance: What led to the formation of the Center for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems?

Mike George: About 18 months ago, when the company man-

agement said "no" to the Plan and the Combine started getting the runaround from government officials, we came to the conclusion that we needed some ongoing independent organization or network to keep the Plan alive. The Combine contacted a number of academics and others for ideas. One was Richard Fletcher, a principal lecturer in engineering design at the Northeast Polytechnic in London, where CAITS is now located.

Fletcher had already worked for six years on the hybrid car pack design and was very interested in our work. Through him, the Polytechnic offered us some facilities. We wanted to avoid being simply an academic exercise in the worst sense, so we conceived a structure whereby the center is jointly run by the Combine Shop Steward Committee and the Polytechnic. The Center is in the engineering faculty, so we have access to a lot of engineering work, computers and technicians and so on, which is very important in trying to develop some of the corporate plan products.

Self-Reliance: *So you're going to become a center for evaluating a lot of alternative technologies.*

Mike George: Yes, either directly at CAITS or by farming out work to friends and neighbors who are willing to assist us. We have an advisory committee of about two dozen people, each of whom is doing something concrete on the plan. So now the Center provides a channel for assistance. We get letters every week from people who want to help. Now we have a number of project areas, and it's possible to plug these people in.

Industrial Conversion in the United States

The idea of industrial conversion from military to "appropriate" technologies is much more advanced in Great Britain than it is in this country. Here, most organizing around industrial conversion is related to the Conversion Planning Bill proposed by Senators George McGovern and Charles Mathias. The bill would create a central Defense Economic Adjustment Council to coordinate alternative employment plans for communities hurt by cutbacks in military spending. The Council would work with a network of local Alternative Use Committees at businesses receiving substantial amounts of military contracts. The planning would be financed with a surcharge on military contract revenues, creating a fund estimated at \$500 million a year.

The McGovern/Mathias bill was introduced in Congress about a year ago, but has sat in committee ever since. It has now been redrafted, and, according to groups working for its passage, the bill has also been improved. David Cortright, director of the national arms control group SANE, says coverage under the bill is now broader, notification of defense cutbacks is now required, and penalties have been increased for those businesses which fail to draft alternative plans. The new version of the bill is expected to be re-introduced to Congress in January. Its supporters, however, continue to be primarily those organized around disarmament, along with a number of union officials. In Britain, the industrial conversion issue is part and parcel of the alternative technology movement. Perhaps industrial conversion would become more of a grass-roots issue if a similar link were made in the United States.

Self-Reliance: *What have been the biggest problems in advancing the Corporate Plan?*

Mike George: Ironically, the most important part of the Plan is also its most vulnerable part. When management rejected it, they quite clearly and correctly saw it as a threat to managerial prerogatives and a shift in power and control. The very process whereby these proposals are occurring have an effect on the balance of power in the corporation. The Corporate Plan was originally proposed with a collective bargaining framework, which is where people still want it to be. The last thing we want is industrial conversion through some private government, management and official trade union arrangement. We feel that people who work in industry should have some say over product policy and a range of other decisions. You might say there's five times more employment in heat pumps or solar energy, but if a multi-national corporation picks it up, the jobs are likely not to be in your country anyway. We're not talking employment in just quantitative terms. One has to look at where it's located and who controls it. What is an alternative technology? The term becomes meaningless if one leaves out the real politics. This point is our biggest stumbling block, but also our strongest point in terms of the rank and file movement.

Self-Reliance: *What do you think is the potential for industrial conversion in the United States?*

Mike George: I haven't met enough people here to know if there is an interest in this sort of thing at the grassroots level. But there is a difference in trade unionism between the two countries. America does lack an equivalent rank and file movement. And there's still a sort of optimism here, that even if military bases close, or even if contracts are cut short or corporations move from the North to the South, there's somehow going to be enough employment. The McGovern/Mathias bill for industrial conversion seems to me essentially centralist and administrative, which I think will not actually tap the interests and activity of those actually affected by military base closings.

Self-Reliance: *Where does the Corporate Plan go from here?*

Mike George: I'm not sure. There is certainly a lot of work ahead. But the basic problems which led to the Corporate Plan are not going to go away. Two hundred thousand people have left British aerospace in the last decade. In Lucas, there's been a 33 percent drop in employment in seven or eight years, and two thousand of the remaining twelve thousand workers there are threatened with losing their jobs over the next two years.

The Plan's advantage is that nobody can see where employment is going to be created in Great Britain to bring us back to what used to be called full employment, which is half a million out of work. We need within the next three years to create two million new jobs. So where are they going to come from? There are still conventional calls for massive reflation of the economy, but that sounds hollow because of our bad experiences with inflation.

If we do not succeed, the political climate will be changing, making things more difficult. We've got this North Sea oil now, which will run out about 1990. But with the way things are going, we'll just enter into a deep recession afterwards. If a conservative government comes in, we'll gain a lot more union support. If threatened layoffs go through, there will be strikes, factory occupations and work-ins on one or two of the

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Progress Reports

Recycling Offered A Real Test

Seattle has begun what is probably the most extensive recycling program in the country. Ten thousand families in the city have been offered home collection of glass, newspaper, and tin and aluminum cans for recycling. The service, called *Separate Our Recyclables From Trash (SORT)* will continue for 16 months on an experimental basis.

SORT got started because of a problem common to many cities: Seattle's landfills are expected to be full by 1981. City officials have talked about a facility for turning some of its garbage into fuel. But citizen pressure forced officials to consider the alternative of reducing the city's waste flow.

As a result, the city agreed to spend \$185,000 on a recycling project. Some of the money has gone to a public education program, but most will go to Seattle Recycling, Inc. (SRI), a two-year-old recycling business which is doing the actual collection work. SRI expects that at least \$40,000 will be returned to the city from the sale of the recycled material.

Home pick-up of recyclable materials will help Seattle reduce its landfill costs. But half of the ten thousand test homes have been given another incentive to recycle. If families in this group reduce the amount of non-recyclable material they set out to one garbage can a week, their collection fee is lowered \$1.20 per month. Homeowners who recycle to the point that they have no garbage cans at all save \$4.20 a month.

With the program already operating for a few months, SRI manager Don Kneass reports that just over one-fourth of the

test homes are recycling regularly. Kneass says he expects that half the homes will be taking advantage of the program by the time the experiment is over. At that time, city officials will evaluate recycling as part of an overall waste management plan.

Kneass describes the program as "a giant step forward" for the city and for recycling, but he also expresses caution about its long-term impact. Kneass says city officials have yet to define what they would consider a successful experiment. In the past, he notes, the city's economic studies of recycling have not included the savings gained by diverting waste from the overall flow. Kneass also says that many officials still operate under traditional biases. "When it comes to waste management," he says, "the only thing they know is bigger and 'better' methods of disposal." Kneass hopes that the city's long-term garbage problem will be tackled through a combination of recycling, composting and a small-scale solid waste plant.

For more information on SORT, contact: **Seattle Recycling Inc., 5718 Empire Way South, Seattle WA 98118.**

Co-op Housing Grows in Detroit

The first thing that impresses you about **Cooperative Services, Inc., in Detroit** is that it has weathered the stormy history of housing cooperatives—it is large and it is successful. Begun in 1942 as a dairy and grocery co-op, CSI has changed into a multi-service, non-profit membership corporation, managing 2500 apartments in Michigan and Florida, providing optical services for 30,000 members, and providing such unique services as a dental co-op, a car pool, and an investment and savings program for its members.

Most of the housing units are built specifically for the elderly poor, the group usually hardest hit by rising housing costs. Rents averaging \$84 for an efficiency and \$99 for a one-bedroom apartment are kept below those for comparable apartments in the area partly



through the volunteer labor of co-op residents. This can involve insulation work, general building repair, landscaping, hall cleanup or building security.

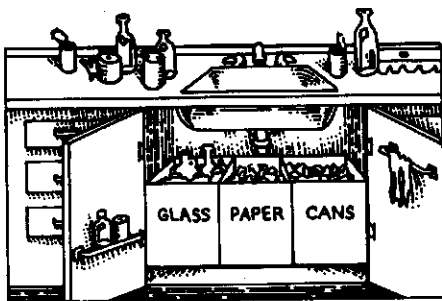
Overhead on building construction has been significantly lowered because CSI uses its own staff architects and civil engineers to plan and design buildings. In addition, CSI is the only co-op in the country that builds new housing with its own construction company.

Most housing co-ops have a hard time cultivating and maintaining active members and CSI is no exception. The co-op attempts to overcome this, however, through special awards to active tenants.

More frustrating are relations with the federal government. Because CSI obtains all of its financing through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, co-op managers are often caught in a web of bureaucratic regulations administered by government officials uneasy about dealing with cooperatives.

CSI has other problems as well. While 65 percent of the Detroit metropolitan area is black, only one of CSI's seven co-op buildings is integrated. There is some concern, too, that CSI may be growing too large, and too quickly, with the result being the separation of its administration from its membership.

Nevertheless, with four new housing cooperatives near Detroit and one in Maryland planned for the next two years, CSI is doing something right. The co-op is also talking about rehabilitating an entire Detroit city block and developing bank services, food stores, and more comprehensive health services for its members. For more information, contact: **Fred and Virginia Thornthwaite, 7404 Woodward Avenue, Detroit MI 48202.**

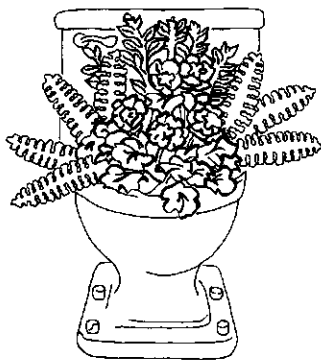


Serious Talk about Sewage Alternatives

Until now, alternative sewage treatment has been an isolated affair—a compost toilet here, a greywater filtering system there. But in Eugene, Oregon, people are talking seriously about an alternative sewage system for a neighborhood of 27,000 residents.

Like hundreds of communities across the country, the River Road-Santa Clara area north of Eugene is feeling the strain of suburban sprawl. Although it retains many orchards, farms and streets without sidewalks, it is now the most densely-populated unincorporated area in Oregon. There is concern that the area's septic tanks, now numbering 8500 may be contaminating ground water.

The city of Eugene will extend its sewer lines to the area, but not unless it can also annex River Road-Santa Clara for tax purposes. Many residents in the area fear that annexation and sewer lines will bring a glut of new development.



The sewers will also be expensive. According to a report by the Lane Economic Development Council (LEDC), a private, non-profit agency headquartered in Eugene, a traditional sewer system will cost the average household \$4430 during a 10-year period.

The LEDC report says that there is a better way. An alternative system using compost toilets, stepped-up septic tank maintenance, recirculating sand filters and greywater filters would cost only \$335 to \$710 per household during the same period, according to the report.

Moreover, the alternative system may be eligible for 85 percent reimbursement from the federal government.

LEDC staff members admit that many local residents are skeptical of the alternative plan. "Most people associate compost toilets with the Stone Age," says LEDC member Ken Miller. But sentiment against annexation and increased development is strong. And the economic argument has been persuasive. Of the nine-member task force created to study the sewage problem, Miller says that two support the alternative plan, two are against it, and the five others are unsure.

For more information, contact: Lane Economic Development Council, P.O. Box 1573, 99 West 10th Avenue, Suite 214, Eugene OR 97401.

Weatherizing 1500 Homes a Month

Weatherization programs, in their short history, have often had problems adequately training personnel and becoming cost-effective. Pennsylvania's Department of Community Affairs (DCA), however, runs a home weatherization program that avoids these problems and serves as a model for similar programs across the nation.

Started four years ago with federal and state funds, the DCA program has weatherized over 35,000 homes in Pennsylvania and trained over 800 people in skills ranging from basic construction to energy auditing. According to DCA, between 2500 and 3000 homes are now being weatherized each month. All of the homeowners, who save an average of \$100 a year in fuel bills, are low-income residents. Most of those who have acquired job skills through the program were previously unemployed.

This month, DCA plans to start a pilot program weatherizing mobile homes. It has also begun offering technical assistance to small communities that want to run their own weatherization programs. Contact, James Jumak, Office of Community Energy, Room 716, Executive House, 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg PA 17120.

Gardens Make "Philly Green"

Philadelphia boasts one of the country's most comprehensive urban agriculture programs, thanks to help from a 150-year-old institution in the state, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Starting with a children's garden and senior citizen's lot five years ago, *Philadelphia Green*, as the program is known, took off this year with a \$250,000 grant from the Philadelphia Office of Housing and Community Development and a supplementary \$100,000 grant from the Horticultural Society. Funds bought permanent equipment such as vans for transporting community groups to different sites, tools for lending, roto-tillers, concrete saws for ground-clearing, seeds and topsoil.

There are now over 200 community vegetable gardens in the city, where nearby residents clear the lots and tend to the planning. Philadelphia Green provides fencing, top soil, the first year's seeds and plants, and gardening advice.

New projects, such as city trees and sitting parks, have been introduced. By this fall, over 25 blocks of street trees will have been planted. Philadelphia Green cuts the concrete and provides the trees, while residents dig the holes and do the planting.

The program has won strong community support. Before any site is developed, nearby residents are consulted and invited to participate in the planning. Modest registration fees also increase community commitment. The real success of the program was evident at a harvest party this fall, where prizes were awarded to the best of over 700 entries of urban-grown produce and flowers.

For more information, contact: Jane Lennon, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19106.

When writing to any of the contacts mentioned in SELF-RELIANCE, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. It will speed the reply and will save these folks some money.

Health centers effective but underfunded

Continued from p. 4

prevention, no real health centers. They are abandoning the successful 'medical police model' where you send non-physicians out in favor of a return to the 'professional/client model' where a few doctors set up a storefront in a low-income area."

Looking Ahead

It is a frustrating time for proponents of Neighborhood Health Centers. Comprehensive health care for the poor has been proven effective. They use it, their general health improves, their ability to maintain their health increases. But, even though it is cost-effective when compared with health care in urban low-income areas not served by centers, the cost of the quality health care provided by good centers is high. And the government is not willing to foot the bill for providing for the health needs of an estimated 49 million "medically underserved" Americans. Neighborhood Health Centers pointed the way forward; whether the government and the medical industry follow the lead depends upon the amount of pressure

put on them by the poor themselves and by their advocates.

The experiment is now stalled. As Mike Clark says, "the dynamic is playing itself out." But Neighborhood Health Centers, in one form or another, remain the best hope for the urban poor. Sanford Kravitz, former director of Research and Development on the centers at OEO, explained a few years ago. "We are building the most expensive hospital in the US right across the street from here [in New York state]. It will do fantastic heart by-pass operations. Whether it is going to help that single mother who has three sick kids and doesn't know what to do when the kid wakes up with a sore throat and she doesn't have a pediatrician, I don't think it is going to help." He concluded: "I am still promoting Neighborhood Health Centers because I don't see any alternative for poor folks around here."

—Richard Kazis

This article, in a slightly different form, was originally written for Span magazine, published in New Delhi, India.

Tracing the flow of energy dollars

Continued from p. 5

Energy dollars retained by the city were broken down into two categories: money retained by the DC government in the form of taxes, and money retained by DC residents in the form of wages and goods and services. Calculating the dollars retained by residents relied on a number of key assumptions. But this category represents only 22 percent of the total dollars retained. City taxes account for 75 percent of the dollars retained.

Now that figures are available on the flow on energy dollars through a local economy, the Institute intends to break down the cost of energy consumption by sector (e.g. government, commercial, residential, transportation) and by end use (air conditioning, space heating, water heating, etc.).

The next step will evaluate the potential for energy conservation based on three scenarios: a) assuming business as usual, the acceptance of minimal federal regulations, and gradual turnover of capital stock, b) introduction of the best legislation (e.g. building codes) in the country adapted to Washington DC, and c) aggressive intervention by the city government coupled with maximum technically feasible conservation efforts which are socially beneficial.

The study will also look at five other areas of energy self-reliance. They include:

- solar energy for the city. As with energy conservation, three degrees of effort at implementation will be outlined.
- the relationship of utilities to energy conservation and solar energy, using load curves, rate structures and research from other areas of the country.
- the job potential for an aggressive energy conservation and solar energy program in the city, evaluating the scale economies of different businesses related to energy and training programs that could be established.
- municipal legislation and energy self-reliance
- the potential for a neighborhood-based energy extension service, using the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington as a model.

—David Morris

Flow of Energy Dollars				
Washington DC, excluding the US Government, 1977				
	Electricity	Natural Gas	Fuel Oil	Gasoline
Amount Spent	\$288,958,000	\$77,852,914	\$40,000,000	\$158,791,000
Amount Retained in Government Taxes	21,106,288	4,926,400	1,953,967	25,215,464
Amount Retained in DC Wages	6,507,513	5,902,763	453,669	7,401,268
Dividend	1,471,057	385,518	—	—
Goods and Service	1,739,600	705,000	insignificant	—
Proprietors Net Income	—	—	502,967	1,306,455
Total Retained	31,043,872	12,060,657	2,939,931	34,126,062

Mike George

Continued from p. 7

corporate plan products. We've already made contact with medical people, so that even if it is for a very short time, we will make those kidney machines at Lucas and given them to hospitals. I would like to see a government minister of health try to stop the production of those machines.

We are also building a new relationship between industrial workers and resources which have previously been unavailable. The Polytechnic, for example, has for years been working with Ford management in their plant three miles away. Now the school has made contact with shop stewards and workers in the plant. This is a unique venture, and we'd like to develop another four or five like this around the country.

—Interview conducted by David Macgregor and Richard Kazis

Resources

Neighborhood Health Centers:

H. Wechsler and A. Zuvelas

Abstracted Bibliography for Community Health Centers
National Association of Community Health Centers, 1625 I Street NW, Washington DC. 1978.

Prepared under contract for the Bureau of Community Health Services of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, this updated bibliography was completed in August of this year. Each entry is abstracted and its availability and source are noted. The bibliographic search used the Medline computer for articles in professional journals, NTIS for government contractor's reports, the University of Michigan Dissertation Service and a manual search of entries from social science journals. Copies may not be available to the general public, but write the National Association for details.

R.M. Hollister, B.M. Kramer and S.S. Bellin

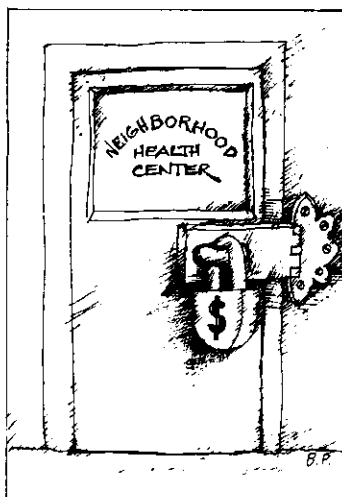
Neighborhood Health Centers
Lexington Books, Lexington MA, 1974. 349 pages.

The best single source of information on neighborhood health centers, this book is a collection of articles and research reports from the early 1970's. Articles cover the history and politics of NHCs, their development and problems as seen from the vantage of 1974. The authors consider such issues as community control, financing, quality of care and health centers as potential and actual instruments of change. A wide range of opinions are represented, but most articles are grounded in facts and research findings. A good resource with a fine bibliography.

The Neighborhood Health Center Program

National Association of Community Health Centers, 1625 I Street NW, Washington DC. 1975. 118 pages.

Although one would expect a puff piece, since this is a book on NHCs published by the national trade association, this book is surprisingly informative and realistic. Much of the text is based on interviews with practitioners involved with neighborhood health centers. There are chapters on the role of the director, the dilemmas involved in community participation, and the critical problem of funding. The book was a joint project of the National Association and the National Urban Coalition. The goal was to show the "growth and problems." The book succeeds fairly well in reaching that goal.



Health Advocate/cpf

Terry Mizrahi Madoon

Organizing for Better Community Health

Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, 116-B Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston WV. 1976. 110 pages.

In this book, the focus is on organizing. The author is concerned with concrete programs and strategies for consumer health groups. The book is divided into several sections: strategies for confronting existing health services and holding health care providers accountable; short-term programs to involve health care consumers in planning their own care; and long-term projects aimed at establishing community-based health services. A clear and helpful guide.

Review of Federally-Supported Neighborhood Health Centers

U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Bureau of Community Health Services. Washington DC. 87 pages.

This is the final report, prepared by the evaluation unit at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Department of Community Health, on the development of neighborhood health centers between 1968 and 1976. Researchers and clinicians visited many centers and conducted lengthy surveys and interviews. The results are reported on here. The report is enthusiastic about the progress being made by neighborhood health centers and the significant impact that centers can have on the health of the medically underserved. The authors argue that federal guidelines and the drive to standardize all centers into a common mold "is having destructive effects."

Health/PAC Bulletin

Health Policy Advisory Center, 17 Murray Street, New York NY 10007. Bi-monthly. \$10/yr., Individuals; \$20/yr., Institutions.

Health/PAC Bulletin has been in existence for quite a few years and has consistently published fine critical pieces on health care and health planning in America. *Health/PAC* is concerned with organizing and planning for an equitable health care system that will provide adequate primary care for all Americans. The organization has written two fine books, *The American Health Empire* and *Prognosis Negative*, both available from Vintage Books.

Journal of Community Health

Human Sciences Press, 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. Quarterly, \$15/year.

This is a fairly technical professional journal. Many of the research reports deal with specific medical problems. Generally, though, there are one or two articles in each issue that discuss topics that are important for anyone interested in community health planning, such as financing, patient satisfaction and participation, health education, etc. A useful resource to know about, but only community health professionals should subscribe.

The best energy audits are custom-designed Continued from p. 1

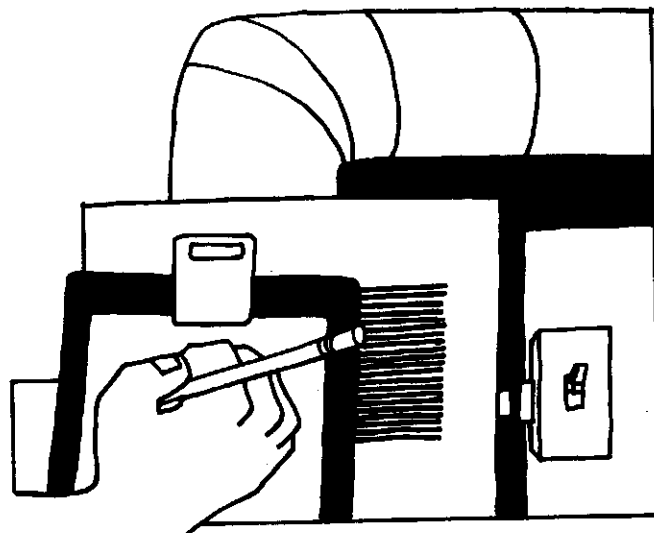
means of getting people involved," said League member Susan Gove, "was to have members and friends contact the neighbors on their block about the workshop. We stressed the social aspects of these meetings; it was more like a neighborhood get-together." The workshops also served as a base of contact for interested people (for more information on this project, contact Ms. Gove at LWV of Northfield, 320 N. Linden, Northfield MN 55057).

Which audit is best?

Once a neighborhood energy team is formed, the group can begin brainstorming methods for compiling data and educational outreach. There are a number of established energy audits to consider. Many utilities now conduct various audits free of charge* or for a fee. These audits are classified as "Class A," an onsite survey conducted by the company; "Class B," conducted by the resident and then analyzed by computer; and "Class C," walkthroughs conducted by residents with the help of standardized audit procedures such as those outlined in the publication *In the Bank... or Up the Chimney?* (to order, write HUD, 451 7th Street, SW, Rm. 8126, Washington DC 20410). A point to consider is that most of these audits only look at the building "envelope" and do not take into account the potential of altering appliance use or other consumer usage patterns. Also, many of the standardized audit forms rely on averages for temperatures and energy savings. Specific situations may be quite different.

The neighborhood audit should include more than building characteristics. In fact, measuring the type of appliance use in a residence is an activity that involves the user and immediately indicates what kinds of savings are possible. A good source for recording electric end-use and looking for energy efficient appliances, complete with audit forms and savings strategies, is George B. Roscoe's *200 Ways to Save Energy in the Home*, (available from Acropolis Books Ltd., Colortone Building, 2400 17th St. NW, Washington DC 20009. \$4.95).

Another area normally neglected by standardized audits is the potential for solar energy usage. A simple, non-technical way of evaluating the home's solar potential is presented in Malcolm Well's and Irwin Spetgang's *How to Buy Solar... Without Getting Burnt!* (Rodale Press, Organic Park, Emmaus PA 18049. \$6.95). Taking compass in hand and locating true south, one can look for the side of the building that has the fullest and longest exposure to sunshine, while taking into consideration shading from trees and buildings, orientation, pitch and available square footage of the roof area, and the potential for south-facing windows. Many people will be surprised how much the sun already contributes to home space heating needs. Another graphic way of determining how the sun's arc affects the home is to build a solar sighter, technically referred to as a heliodon. This device can be built from plywood and it will model the different angles of insolation for various seasons and times of the day. (Plans for the solar sighter are available from Total Environmental Action, Church



Hill, Harrisville NH 03450. \$4.95.)

The neighborhood can also aggregate its solar potential. The audit can estimate the available square footage that receives sunlight and, by using National Weather Service climatological data, estimate the amount of additional sunlight that could be used for heating and cooling each year.

Designing the custom audit

Neighborhood groups have found the best audits are the ones they design themselves. Mary Kumpula, a housewife who took part in the Minneapolis neighborhood audit, said, "Brainstorming with the neighbors produced the type of audit and involvement we were looking for. We were able to modify it as necessary." Some ideas might include:

- develop an easy to use chart to record electric consumption every two days.
- identify the wattage household appliances use
- use an aerial map of the neighborhood to determine the solar potential, the percentages of land used for transportation, and the percent used for open space.

Of course, many other ideas are possible. The important point is developing projects that involve the user with conservation.

Another method of planning for neighborhood energy audits is to train local people to become the experts. In Washington DC the Institute for Local Self-Reliance is about to train ten residents of the Anacostia neighborhood to conduct a door-to-door survey of approximately 500 dwellings. The auditors will look at not only the thermal characteristics of the buildings, but also the appliance usage and personal consumption habits. The audit will also incorporate the local commercial sector and overall land use for the area. Feedback about the information gathered will be presented in booklets and slide shows for local organizations to use in energy planning.

The Energy Task Force in New York has run an intensive twelve week course for members of neighborhood organizations. The course trained the participants in energy concepts,

continued on p. 14

* These utility audits are almost never "free." Their costs are incorporated into the utility's overall rate structure, which means customers pay for them, whether they get one or not. A new federal law will soon require all private utilities to conduct some form of audit at their own expense.

• Santa Barbara Group Squeezes Dollars Out of Garbage

This *Profile* focuses on the Santa Barbara Resource Recovery Program, sponsored by the City and County of Santa Barbara and operated by the Community Environmental Council, Inc. (CEC). CEC is a private, non-profit educational organization whose projects include: the Resource Recovery Program, Community Urban Allotment Gardens, the Center for Bio-Intensive Agriculture, the Ecology Center and Ecology Center Lending Library, and a planned Urban Village, which will demonstrate conservation technologies. The *Profile* is excerpted and adapted from a report on the Resource Recovery Program written and distributed by CEC staff. For more information on Community Environmental Council and their programs, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (and perhaps a small donation) to: CEC, 924 Anacapa Street, Suite B4A, Santa Barbara CA 93101.

• Santa Barbara is a community of approximately 140,000 people. Last year, residents there threw away over 200,000 tons of garbage. It now costs Santa Barbarans about \$15 a ton to landfill their garbage. At the current rate of disposal, landfills in the country are expected to last until 1999.

In June 1974, the City Council responded to the growing garbage crisis by appointing a City Resource Recovery Committee to study the feasibility of recycling in Santa Barbara. The committee completed its study but did not stop there: the city proceeded to develop a recycling program that would operate as a business. The goal was to demonstrate that, at no added cost to the community, resources could be recovered and the resulting monies put back into the local economy.

As the first step in developing a comprehensive system, the county began a metal recovery project. County residents were requested to leave their scrap metal at the entrance to the dump—anything from tin cans to old washing machines. Local dealers purchased the scrap and hauled it away. In the first year, the project netted the Santa Barbara community over \$25,000 and saved the taxpayers the additional cost of transporting the metal to the landfill.

Santa Barbara Recycling Center

• In November 1974, the Recycling Center was opened in its present downtown location. Before the center opened, the Resource Recovery Committee was able to use the City's bargaining power to negotiate marketing contracts that guaranteed a minimum price for recovered materials, regardless of market fluctuations. Because of these contracts, the Center was able to survive the crash in the recyclables market that occurred during the recession of 1974-5. The Center emerged from the recession as the only game in town and, since then, has had a secure grip on the recycling market in the Santa Barbara area.

The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday for seven hours each day. Residents bring newspapers, aluminum, glass, mixed metal, office waste paper, computer cards and paper and telephone books for recycling. Paper is sold to Garden State Paper Company and the Allen Company and is picked up at the central downtown location. Glass is color-sorted but not crushed, and is collected by Browning-Ferris and sold to the Madera Glass Company in Fresno. Other recyclables are sold to local dealers.

The Center has developed a labor-intensive approach to recycling, one that relies on minimum capital investment. Six

The Santa Barbara recycling program estimates that it will be paying out over \$100,000 to more than 200 participating groups

employees work four ten-hour days at the Center, helping the public with their recycling and collecting papers from bins, residences, businesses and schools. Some volunteer labor is used, but most of the load is carried by the regular employees, who are paid \$4.25 an hour.

The system is labor-intensive, but, as the staff is quick to add, "We strive to get the job done without breaking our backs." The Center is equipped with a 2400-pound forklift truck (on loan from the county), a stake-bed pickup truck and a two-ton covered van (both donated by the Santa Barbara Foundation), several metal strappers, a hand truck, and a small 3000-pound scale.

Cash for Trash Program

One of the innovative aspects of the Santa Barbara program is a buy-back system that creates funding opportunities for local community groups. It works like this: the recycling program pays for newspaper and computer paper brought to the center. But instead of paying cash to the individual who brings in the paper, the money is paid to a local charity or community organization designated by the recycler. This year, the Santa Barbara Resource Recovery Program estimates that it will be paying out over \$100,000 to more than 200 participating groups.

The Santa Barbara Program not only operates a drop-off center, it also collects newspaper from 23 neighborhoods in the Santa Barbara area. Before the program began, leaflets were delivered to all residents on the routes, with information about the program and how to participate. The routes are re-leafleted annually to inform new residents and to remind regular participants of their collection days. Papers are collected on each route once a month, and crews work from 10 a.m. until dark. The staff estimates that participation rates are as low as 25 percent and as high as 80 percent, depending

upon the neighborhood. As revenues allow the program to expand both staff and vehicles, the number of neighborhoods offered curbside newspaper collection will be increased.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that every office worker throws away one pound of recyclable paper daily. In March 1977, the Santa Barbara Resource Recovery Program decided to try to cut down on office waste through an office paper recycling program. A model program was begun in 80 buildings at Vandenberg Air Force Base. This program now recovers 80 percent of Vandenberg's high grade paper and has reduced the need for dumpsters by 50 percent. One year later, buoyed by the success of the pilot program, a white office paper recycling program was initiated in three city buildings: City Hall, Public Works, and the Recreation Department. Each desk in each building has a recycling tray—and clear instructions on how and what to recycle. Full trays are taken to bins located in the buildings and exchanged for empty ones. The Resource Recovery Program, encouraged by the success, is now looking into expansion to County offices.

Vandenberg Air Force Base

When CEC launched the office paper recycling program at Vandenberg, that was only a small part of a unique larger program, a comprehensive office and residential waste paper recovery program. It includes: a recycling center at the base; collection bins in major traffic areas; curbside collection of newspaper, aluminum and cardboard from the base's 2000 homes; and office paper recovery involving 4000 people in 80 buildings.

Each month, the Vandenberg Center collects 40 tons of high grade paper (office and computer waste), 10 tons of newsprint, 30 tons of cardboard, 35 tons of mixed metals, and 1500 pounds of aluminum. The program is now cost effective after a year and a half.

The Vandenberg Center is operated by four full-time and two part-time employees. Special employment training programs have been coordinated with CETA and the State Department of Rehabilitation.

Gift subscriptions to Self-Reliance

The Institute has put together a gift subscription packet which you can give to friends or relatives during the holidays. The packet includes a card acknowledging the year's subscription, a copy of issue #16, a brochure explaining the work of the Institute, and an index to back issues of *Self-Reliance*. We will mail the packet to you or, if you prefer, send it directly to the gift recipient (include name and address). Send \$8 for each subscription to:

Institute for Local Self-Reliance
1717 18th Street NW
Washington DC 20009

Community Recycling Fund

The Santa Barbara recycling program has been so successful that it has been able to establish a Community Recycling Fund. Every month, \$200 from recycling proceeds are channeled into this special fund which provides grants for beautification, recreation and environmental enhancement projects in the city. Grants can be for as much as \$600 and are reviewed and awarded quarterly. To date, \$8000 has been disbursed from the fund for garden programs, tree plantings, and nature trails. Both the city and the Community Environmental Council are happy to see such direct and visible improvements resulting from the introduction of recycling in Santa Barbara.

The Santa Barbara Resource Recovery Program is now recovering 125 tons of recyclables each week. When the program began in 1974, it was recovering only 5 percent of the newspaper that was being used in the Santa Barbara area. Today, the program recovers 70 percent, making Santa Barbara one of the largest per capita recycling operations in California—and the country.

Although conditions and markets vary from state to state and from city to city, the Santa Barbara program is a good example of the potential benefits to the city, its neighborhoods, its businesses, and its citizens that can accrue from a well-planned and well-run recycling system. According to the project staff, "the program has become a state and national model for a community-based effort to successfully reduce solid waste, save valuable resources, produce jobs, and put money into the local economy." Solid waste planners and community-based recyclers in other cities would do well to study the Santa Barbara experience.

Energy audits Continued from p. 12

building systems, heat transfer, and urban alternatives. The energy team received hands-on experience ranging from calculating heat loss in multi-family dwellings to the installation of energy conserving technologies. One of the many interesting aspects of this training program is that the participants became technical resource people for their communities, with organizing and outreach skills. (For more information, contact the Energy Task Force at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10010.)

So we see a wide range of local activity in the area of neighborhood auditing. It can range from service programs like utility audits to intensive citizen training for community energy planning. These programs can produce a new way for the community to look at itself, as it did in the Minneapolis neighborhood. Here, people began to think in terms of an annual neighborhood utility bill of over \$60,000. Elsewhere in Minnesota, neighbors got a new perspective on energy through infrared aerial photos of heat pouring from their homes.

Energy audits can also produce a trained citizenry, as it did in Northfield, Minnesota, where residents now take part in official city and neighborhood energy planning. Finally, audits can serve as a training ground for new jobs, as in New York City, where the People's Development Corporation is using trained personnel from its audit program to create a boiler maintenance business.

—David Cawley

Off the Shelf

Received and Recommended:

Peter K. Hawley

Housing in the Public Domain: The Only Solution

Metropolitan Council on Housing, 24 West 30th Street, New York NY 10001, 1978. 131 pages. \$3.00

Housing in the Public Domain argues that the key to housing problems is the buying and selling of real estate. Through numerous examples of typical mortgaging, it shows that banks and real estate dealers, not landlords, are the big winners at the expense of tenants. The book presents an easy to understand section on the complexities of real estate depreciation, an explanation of how banks and real estate dealers profit from housing abandonment and arson, and a devastating account of how government housing programs work for banks and housing speculators.

Leopold Kohr

Overdeveloped Nations: The Diseconomies of Scale

Schocken Books, 1978. 184 pages. \$9.95

First published in Europe over 20 years ago, this book has been an important source for leading advocates of small-scale development, most notably E.F. Schumacher, who wrote "Small is Beautiful" in 1973. *Overdeveloped Nations* was published in the United States only this year, so Kohr, an Austrian who teaches political philosophy at University College in Wales, is still almost unknown here as one of the original thinkers in the decentralist and limited growth movements. Kohr's thesis in this book is simple: size is the key to a healthy society. As size increases, Kohr argues, survival requirements of a society increase at a faster rate than productivity. As a result, resources that could go for personal use

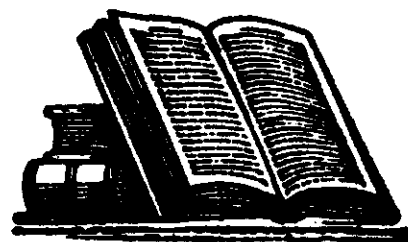
(food, housing, entertainment) must go for social use (crime control, traffic regulation, government bureaucracy). Kohr is not advocating only government decentralization. He is talking about economic and social decentralization as well. What Kohr leaves out—and what the "small is beautiful" movement lacks as well—is an analysis of why unhealthy growth occurs and sustains itself. It is one thing to advocate appropriate technology, for example, as promoting humanly-scaled activity. It is another to understand why certain existing technologies that might be considered appropriate are not now widely available—and how that can be changed.

David Kotz

Bank Control of Large Corporations in America

University of California Press, 1978. 217 pages. \$11.50

This book is a fitting tribute to the work of the late Wright Patman, the populist chairman of the House Banking Committee who was Congress' most influential critic of the Eastern banking establishment. An autocratic and cantankerous Texan, Patman was ousted from his chairmanship by liberals a year before he died in 1976. But his investigations into banking control of the American economy are still having an effect. In his preface, David Kotz says this book could not have been written were it not for Patman. Kotz's study, however, is not of personalities, but of institutions. He argues that economic power is not in the hands of the directors or managers of the country's largest corporations, but with banks that own or control capital. Data compiled by Kotz shows that almost a third of the top 200 American corporations, for example, are controlled by six banking groups—largely through the extension or withholding of credit. The book is a fascinating look at the structure of a largely secret financial network, and Kotz does not let criticism crowd out his facts. But it is depressing as well, because it shows that American economic power is more concentrated



than most people think. Basic economic decisions, such as whether a plant expands or shuts down, what kinds of products are made, or how work is organized, are shown to be far removed from the communities which bear their effect.

Perceptions of Risk— The Bankers' Myth

An Eight City Survey of Mortgage Disclosure Data

National Training and Information Center
1123 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60607
\$5 for non-profit groups, \$10 others

This 250-page book shows what can—and cannot—be determined about bank lending practices from the 1975 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. Survey results from these eight cities, and from more than a hundred similar surveys done by other groups around the country, clearly show little or no lending in large areas of almost all American cities. The reason for this lack of investment is the center of the redlining controversy. A separate section, comprising almost half the book, outlines the major arguments from both sides of the issue related to risk, demand and lender responsibility. Research and data are presented on the position that banks unfairly discriminate against certain low-income or ethnic neighborhoods in their lending practices. The book also includes a 20-page history of the battle against redlining, a critique of FHA housing, a comparison of disclosure requirements in several states, and a list of where to write for data on lending practices of banks in your area. This is an excellent companion publication to *How To Use the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act* (\$2 for non-profit groups, \$4 for others) also published by the National Training and Information Center.

Notes

A fund for financing democratically-managed or cooperative enterprises is being started by the Institute for Community Economics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It will include a mortgage fund for cooperative housing projects or cooperative farms, a small business fund and a third fund for investments not covered by the first two. The fund organizers are now looking for a manager with expertise in venture capital management and a commitment to the fund's social goals. For additional information, contact: **Nathan Gray, Institute for Community Economics, 639 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139.**

A week-long training session on community organizing will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, beginning January 8. The session will be run by the New England Training Center for Community Organizers. For more information, contact the Center at: **19 Davis Street, Providence RI 02908.**

Two newsletters for urban gardeners are now being published on the West Coast. *City Farmer* is published in Vancouver, Canada by a group of volunteers. A recent issue included articles on using city waste as topsoil, intensive gardening, growing mushrooms in city basements, and food preserving. You don't have to live in the area to benefit from this well-written publication. Write to **612 East Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**, for subscription information. A second urban gardening newsletter, called *California Green*, comes from the state Office of Appropriate Technology. Many of the articles are directed towards a state audience, but not all. One recent article listed 35 possibilities for free resources which any community gardener would find helpful. For subscription information, write to: **OAT, 1530 10th Street, Sacramento CA 95814.**

The Seattle Bulk Commodity Exchange noted in the July/August issue has a new contact person. People who want to find out more about this unique produce operation should get in touch with **Frankie Whitman at 85 Pike Street, Room 500, Seattle WA 98101.**

Savings and loans associations are getting a \$10 billion incentive to commit funds to low and moderate income urban communities. The money is in the form of loans at lower interest rates from the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The Board hopes that the loans will lead to the purchase and rehabilitation of 300,000 housing units over the next five years. To find out if savings and loans associations in your area have qualified, contact the Board at: **1700 G Street NW, Washington DC 20552.**

Workshops on community organizing have been planned by The Institute, a training and research center in Little Rock, Arkansas, affiliated with the ACORN community organizing network. The workshops include training for rural organizing, fighting utility rate hikes, research skills and grassroots fundraising. For a brochure detailing all the conferences, write to the Institute's new center at **628 Baronne Street, New Orleans LA 70113.**

Support Self-Reliance

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is a research and consulting organization that explores the potential for, and the implications of, high-density population areas becoming independent and self-reliant. The Institute, incorporated four years ago as a tax-exempt non-profit organization, conducts basic research; develops working demonstration models of new technologies, institutions and small-scale production systems; develops educational materials; and disseminates information.

The best way to keep up with developments at the Institute and around the country that are relevant to the movement toward urban decentralization is to subscribe to SELF-RELIANCE. The best way to support the Institute is to become an Associate Member.

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