

Marin Community Benefit Cooperative

Proposal for Marin County



August 3, 2015, San Rafael, CA – We in Marin are some of the healthiest people in the world, yet our global footprint is five times our planet's sustainable capacity. No one should need to tell us that this type of excessive lifestyle is having a devastating and unhealthy impact on others around the world and planet.

Today our world is consuming well beyond its capacity to sustain the health and lives of all people everywhere. We are among the most consuming and therefore the most unsustainable people in the world. Yes, we have our sights on achieving Zero Waste but this goal has little to nothing to do with the massive amount we consume. Over the next 30 years world population will grow from 7.2 billion today to more than 9 billion. Additionally, during this time global consumption will grow from 1.5 times our planet's capacity today to 2 times or more with 3 billion more global consumers emerging in developing nations.

With all this additional growth we should be asking ourselves what more can we do beyond what many are now doing: driving low emission vehicles, equipping one's home with solar panels, adding double and triple pane windows and insulation, purchasing energy efficient devices, shopping local farmers markets, purchasing alternative green energy, purchasing carbon credits, joining community support and action groups to explore and promote greater awareness and education. While all of these are important and valuable they fall far short of being enough to reduce our consumption to a level that's sustainable and healthy.

We need to live and work considerably more responsibly, locally and globally, consuming less, putting our so called waste to work while setting a better example for the rest of the world. To help all residents, businesses, institutions, government and community organizations OHIAS (Our Health Is At Stake) is proposing the creation of the Marin Community Benefit Cooperative. The cooperative will begin by taking donations of our so called solid waste by way of our built environment and our urban forest and transform all into high quality reuse materials for new construction, restorations, repairs and local manufacturing. Initially, the cooperative will work to partner with Marin's many construction and deconstruction contractors, builders, architects, tree and yard care professionals and local haulers to acquire reuse materials and provide a tax deductible receipt where applicable. This financial incentive will mark the beginning of many benefits designed to help improve community partners triple bottom lines.

OHIAS anticipates reuse activities to generate upward of \$82 million dollars annually here in Marin, in community benefits: new jobs, new business opportunities, reduced business expenses, increased profits, increased efficiency, reduced waste, reduced emissions and most importantly improved health here and around the world. San Diego recently published its ZERO Waste Plan and states, "The benefits of minimizing what we discard in the landfill are economic (\$54 million) in addition to environmental."

OHIAS's goal for the Marin Community Benefit Cooperative is more than economic. We are equally motivated to help improve livability in our community by helping address socioeconomic issues such as, helping the many needy and disadvantaged people find wholesome uplifting community benefit work and providing many more an opportunity to earn extra cash.

OHIAS is seeking to identify individuals and businesses who feel this community effort and benefits are worth our time and effort. You can agree with our work by selecting AGREE on our web site (www.ohias.org).

Bill Callahan is founder of OHIAS who's mission is to educate and empower people, community and planet to be more responsible and sustainable global citizens. OHIAS is located in San Rafael, 844 B Street. 415-454-9948