



ozone

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ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • ENVIRONMENTAL • SURVEY



A large archaeological excavation site on BLM land in Nevada

PROJECTS

DIGGING UP THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

The physical record of the past is a non-renewable cultural resource that can reveal not only how ancient people lived in their environment but maybe also provide clues for how we can best treat the environment today. For Otak's Carbondale, CO, office, a site near Las Vegas has been the proving grounds for gathering and studying evidence of the past. In 2005, Otak conducted a Phase 1 cultural resources excavation and inventory of Oliver Ranch, a historic ranch on 320 acres of Bureau of Land Management property four miles north of Blue Diamond, NV, south of Las Vegas. The study exposed significantly larger and more complex historic structures along Mormon Green Spring Creek. Since then, 18 archaeological sites have been identified on the property, seven of which are recommended as significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Otak team, which includes the [Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies](#) at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, is now conducting Phase II of the inventory, including: data recovery that incorporates mapping, drawing, photography, sample collection, and archaeological excavation; lab analysis of recovered artifacts and complete archival research; preparation of micro-botanical and historic bottle residue scientific samples; and preparation of all recovered artifacts for permanent storage and curation. To contact Otak's Carbondale office, call 970-963-1971 or visit 36 N. Fourth St., Carbondale, CO.



Artifacts are cleaned and catalogued in the lab

OTAK COOKS, COOK FOR A BOOK



To all you cooks and chefs, a new fabulous cookbook was published by Otak. From Otak's international staff, recipes abound from all over the world. To save paper, Otak designer [Katie Kersten](#) created the cookbook as an all-electronic pdf version. If you'd like a copy, [email us](#).

EVENTS

TOUR AN ULTRA-GREEN HOME IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA



[Going Green at the Beach](#) is a sustainable demonstration home in Stanwood, WA, that will carry up to six different green home certifications. Beginning in October, it will be open for tours so anyone can see just what makes an ultra-green home, including the sustainable landscape design by Otak landscape designer, [Tom Early](#). The home will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays on the following weekends: Oct. 27-28, Nov. 3-4 and Nov. 10-11. See website for [directions](#). Private tours are also available for groups of ten or more and can be arranged by contacting Pam Worner of Green Dog Enterprises [via email](#) or (206) 883-6688.

ENERGY FAIR & SOLAR TOUR IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WA



Everett, WA, will be the host city for the [Sustainable Energy Fair plus Solar & Green Building Tour](#) on Saturday, October 6 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in Snohomish County. The fair will be at the PUD headquarters in Everett at 2320 California Street and is designed as a hands-on, family oriented event that promises to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about sustainable living practices and renewable energy. The solar tour is self-guided and is part of the [12th annual National Solar Tour](#) that features tours in 46 states. It is also part of the statewide [Solar Washington Tour](#). For more information visit the [Sustainable Everett](#) website.

KIRKLAND, WA, INVITES RESIDENTS TO HELP PLAN THE FUTURE



The [City of Kirkland](#), WA, and the [Cascade Land Conservancy](#) are inviting residents to participate in the [Green Kirkland Partnership](#) that will help create strategies to guide restoration and management of Kirkland's forested natural areas over the next 20 years. There will be a public meeting October 17 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Heritage Hall in Heritage Park on Market Street in downtown, where residents will have the opportunity to help shape development of a 20-year strategic plan for the city. A city interested in protecting its natural environment is just one of the many reasons that Otak enjoys its [Kirkland office](#) that overlooks adjacent wetlands near this urban village on the waterfront, where eagles soar and herons fish.

Credit: City of Kirkland Photo

PEOPLE

ECO-VOLUNTEERING



Last month, Mandy Flett, a project coordinator in Otak's Lake Oswego, OR, office worked at the [Livin' Green Community EcoFair](#) in Hillsboro, OR, where she volunteered at the booth for [SOLV](#), an organization devoted to improving Oregon's communities and environment. If you're interested in becoming involved in sustainability events, too, you can check out Sustainable Oregon's [calendar of events](#), or in other states where Otak has offices, see [Sustainable Arizona](#) and [Colorado Alliance of Sustainable Business Associations](#).



Hillsboro, OR's 2007 Livin' Green EcoFair



[Jeff Frye](#), CAD manager in Otak's Kirkland, WA, office, is serving the community as a Planning Commissioner in the City of Monroe. He was recently appointed by the mayor and city council - maybe they heard that Jeff had hired goats to clear his property instead of using machinery or harmful chemicals and appreciated his concern for the environment. Or maybe they knew he had been on the Monroe, WA, city council for six years and enjoys serving the public. Either way, Jeff says he enjoys being able to participate and exchange ideas and thoughts with peers. Plus, this year's agenda includes forest management practices and critical areas - both areas of interest for Jeff.

VIEWING

GLOBAL STORMING

A [slide show](#) of extreme weather from this year so far, provides a look at the forces of nature.

RESOURCES

ONLINE LEED REFERENCE GUIDE FOR USGBC MEMBERS

The U.S. [Green Building Council](#) has placed its reference guide online for members, thereby reducing the amount of paper used.



WHAT MAKES IT GREEN?

GREEN WEDDINGS

By *Christina Congdon, Intern Architect, Seattle*

Anyone who has planned a wedding, or knows someone who has, is well aware of the magnitude and sometimes ridiculousness of the multi-million dollar wedding industry. Today many couples are opting for an alternative solution to weddings, one that reflects not only who they are but what they care about. According to the [TheKnot.com](#) (the web portal of everything bridal) green weddings are the new "hottest thing." One can now easily find stores, web sites, and services offering couples everything from biodegradable plates made of sugar cane to wedding dresses made of hemp.

My husband and I were recently married in Seattle. Our goal for the wedding was to do things our way and not get caught up in everything we "had to have," and of course to have fun. As it turns out many of the solutions could also

be considered green. With help from Portovert.com, a green wedding resource, following are our six simple solutions toward a green wedding:

Spare a tree -- Any opportunity to reduce paper is important; our invitations were hand made on environmentally-friendly paper and we also used a website for other detailed information such as directions and itineraries. Other ideas might include eliminating paper altogether by using website invitations and registering with a charity instead of receiving material goods as gifts.

Dress creatively -- My wedding ring, gown, and attendant's attire were vintage. Other ideas might include hand sewn garments, using environmentally-friendly fabrics, or buying something you'll wear again.

Think local -- The flowers were purchased from Pike Place Market, we served pizza from a neighborhood restaurant and the reception was held at our neighborhood tavern.

Simplicity is key -- Editing out excessive decorations and wedding-related accessories is important to green weddings (I mean, who really needs monogrammed toilet paper for their special day?). We selected a venue with an atmosphere that made it easy to minimize the need for extra decorations. Other ideas might be to have the wedding outdoors and use the natural setting as decoration.

Culturally inspired -- My husband and his groomsmen wore kilts in honor of his family's Scottish heritage. One could also incorporate ceremonial traditions and food to pay tribute to the different cultures in the family.

Grand exits -- Instead of a gas-guzzling limousine as our get away vehicle, we chose to ride away on our bicycles. Other ideas might include renting hybrid vehicles, walking, or taking mass transit (it could be a great setting for photos!).

For more green wedding ideas visit the websites for PortoVert and Sierra Club.



Otak intern architect Christina Congdon and her new husband incorporate bicycles into their green wedding in Seattle.

Photo Credit: [Laurence Kim](#)

NEWS

[WHAT'S NEWSWORTHY @ OTAK](#)

GOATS, WORMS, AND WETLANDS CONTRIBUTE TO GREENER COLLEGE CAMPUS

Cascadia Community College is greening its campus in several big ways. The Center for Global Learning and the Arts, scheduled for occupancy in the fall of 2009, will become the first LEED green building on campus - and Otak is helping. Read the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce [article](#). In addition, [CCC](#) has developed a new degree program called Environmental Technology and Sustainable Practices that focuses on the emerging field of energy

management and development of alternative and renewable energy resources such as solar, geothermal, and wind power.

SEATTLE ADDRESSES CLIMATE ACTION NOW



Mayor Greg Nickels launched a [website](#) to encourage Seattle residents to reduce global warming pollution at home, on the road, and in their neighborhoods. It's part of a new campaign called Climate Action Now, and the site allows visitors to compute their carbon footprint, learn about environmental issues and educates about how they can help.

DRIVE-BY POLLUTER ALERT



Drivers in California won't have to wait until their autos' annual checkups due to a novel pilot program that targets potential polluters. The South Coast Air Quality Management District has a mobile emissions check van that evaluates cars remotely as they drive by. The infrared and ultraviolet sensor-equipped van parks on on-ramps and takes a picture of polluting cars as they pass by. A letter is then sent to the vehicle owner suggesting either repair or scrapping the car. According to the LA Times, ten percent of vehicles produce over half of the pollution, and when emissions control systems fail, emissions skyrocket. Read the LA Times [article](#). *Photo Credit: LA Times*

SOCIAL EQUITY



Social equity is often considered to be the third component of the three-legged stool of sustainability (in addition to environment and economics). And because sustainability affects the world on a global scale, there is at least one non-profit that provides an opportunity for ordinary people to lend money to a specific entrepreneur in a developing country. The organization, [Kiva.org](#), provides connections with existing financial institutions so that an individual in one area of the world can provide affordable working capital for poor people in another part of the world-money to buy a sewing machine or livestock, for example. Anyone can make a small zero-percent loan to these low income entrepreneurs, in a process known as microfinance, to help empower them to rise out of poverty. To read stories [click here](#).

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FROM THE EDITOR

TREE-SAVING DEVICE: GET RID OF UNSOLICITED MAIL

If your home is anything like ours, you are receiving a lot of the 62 billion pieces of unsolicited mail in the U.S. each year-or 5.8 million tons of catalogues and other direct mailings. According to [Natural Home](#) magazine, the act of sending this bulk mail has a high environmental cost-and 44 percent of the pieces are never even opened and end up in the trash. The [New American Dream](#) website reports that more than 100 million trees worth of bulk mail arrive in American mail boxes each year-the equivalent of deforesting Rocky Mountain National Park every four months.

Those 62 billions pieces of junk mail consume more energy in production and disposal than three million cars. Americans throw away enough paper each year to build a 12-foot high wall from New York to Los Angeles, but if 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, up to 150,000 trees could be saved annually. You can find more info at the [EcoFuture](#) website and the [Federal Citizen Information Center](#) website. For one dollar, you can remove your name from the [Direct Marketing Association](#) mail list. DMA can also help remove your name from telemarketing lists for five years-but that won't save paper.



Photo of recycled paper courtesy of [Waste Management](#)

[Robin Rogers](#)

Otak is a member of:



PARTING SHOT by Allisa Carlson



View of Skagit Valley from Mt.Sauk in the North Cascades, WA. Photo taken August 26, 2007