



SustainAbility

A joint publication from Audubon Lifestyles and The International Sustainability Council

The American Society of Golf Course Architects throw their support behind Audubon Lifestyles

Audubon Lifestyles is delighted to have gained the support of the **American Society of Golf Course Architects**, for the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facilities Program (SGFP). Erik Larsen, President of the ASGCA wrote in a letter of support; “The ASGCA’s 185 members look forward to seeing how the Sustainable Golf Facilities Program develops. The program certainly falls in line with the work of ASGCA members and the ASGCA pledges to communicate your results to our members, so they may continue this dialogue with their clients.”

The SGFP is a sustainability rating program that includes an audit component that focuses on economic, environmental and social sustainability at golf facilities. The program was designed with the help of the Golf Advisory Group, which included experts in sustainability and in golf course design, construction and management issues.



“We wanted to make certain that the SGFP was designed in such a way that golf courses who have participated in existing programs, and have already focused on environmental stewardship and other related topics got credit for what they have already accomplished,” said Eric Dodson, CEO of Audubon Lifestyles, “and I cannot express enough how grateful we are to have gained the support of the ASGCA to help us in that endeavor.”

To view the ASGCA’s letter of support in its entirety visit:

www.audubonlifestyles.org/programs/golf.html

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The US Department of Energy halts sales of Inefficient Heat Pumps and Air Conditioners

The US Department of Energy has ordered three manufacturers to stop distributing 61 models of heat pumps and one air conditioner model that do not comply with federal energy conservation standards. On June 3, DOE ordered Aspen Manufacturing, Inc.; Summit Manufacturing; and Advanced Distributor Products to halt the distribution of the noncompliant models and to notify all previous buyers of the noncompliant models.

Under federal law, manufacturers of certain products covered by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act must certify with DOE that their models meet the applicable minimum energy conservation standards.

10 Fast Facts About Solar Energy

Why not switch to solar energy? Whether you install PV panels, thermal panels, or merely use smaller solar-powered devices to charge appliance batteries, you'll be reducing your carbon footprint.

When considering renewable energy options, there is so much information out there. How can you know what is true and what's not? Here are 10 fast facts about solar energy, including why we need it!

Read and consider whether you are doing enough to conserve energy and reduce use of fossil fuels:

1. Each hour, of each day, more energy from the sun reaches our planet than is used by the entire global population in an entire year.
2. The projected annual growth rate for renewable energy sources is 7.2%, the fastest rate.
3. Over 3,500 square miles of federal land are currently awaiting permits for solar power development.
4. The U.S. ranks 5th in the world among nations producing the most CO2 home emissions (behind Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and Estonia).
5. Use of electric lights results in 1/2 the pollution of all the cars on the road. Switching to LED lights use 75% less energy.
6. Solar PV is rated number 1 in growth for energy technologies.
7. MIT scientists have discovered a way to store solar power after the sun goes down (how cool is that?).
8. Every 2 months, a typical U.S. home uses one ton of coal to generate electricity.
9. Switching to a solar hot water heater (using solar thermal panels) can drastically reduce fossil fuel use. The typical 50 gallon electric water heater uses 11.1 barrels of oil a year, which translates into the same amount oil used by a typical 4 door sedan driven by the average consumer.
10. Between lower costs and tax incentives/rebates, PV solar panels are a viable option for just about any homeowner with a south-facing roof. Payback on investment, through energy savings, is about 7-9 years.



Double Oaks – Recycling a Neighborhood

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership (CMHP) is literally and figuratively recycling the Double Oaks Community Neighborhood, a 45 acre re-development project that is part of the Statesville Avenue Corridor region of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The CMHP's mission is not only to clean up and rehabilitate stressed neighborhoods, but to foster more sustainable lifestyles for the people that will live in those neighborhoods. A partnership was born between the CMHP and Audubon Lifestyles when they registered the Double Oaks Community Neighborhood in the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Development Program.

One result of the partnership between Audubon Lifestyles and the CMHP which is founded in the Principles of Sustainability, was the decision to undertake the organization's first ever **Construction Materials Recycling Program**, and to reuse that recycled material directly back into the redevelopment of the Double Oaks Neighborhood.



“So far the project has recycled approximately 29,000 tons of material and much more is available for the future.”

During demolition of the existing dilapidated single story housing structures at Double Oaks, the developers were left with a significant amount of foundation slabs, concrete sidewalks, and asphalt roadways and parking areas. In an effort to minimize all the material from simply going to construction waste landfills, the CMHP instituted a recycling effort to grind the material into a gravel-like substance and then to utilize that recycled material as a substitute for the gravel materials required for under surface stabilization for new parking, and roadway paving.

In the past, gravel was simply purchased for new development projects. This new endeavor marks the first time that this construction waste recycling approach has been taken by the CMHP. By recycling the materials found on-site, the CMHP financially saved by not having to purchase materials for new pavement, saved on transport costs, and saved on tipping fees that they would have paid for disposal of the old material.

Orlando Badillo, the Housing Development Officer at the CMHP stated it best when he said “It is personally satisfying to know that these previous structures where reused back into the redevelopment process, and didn't simply end up as waste in a landfill somewhere. At the end of the day there is an enormous feeling of accomplishment when you see the final product, and it makes it all worth it!”

Flowers Make It Rain

The Amazon rainforest—with its millions of creaking, chirping and buzzing insects, sticky frogs, vibrant birds, and unique fish—may owe its diversity primarily to flowers, said researchers from the University of Chicago. And, they say, just as flowering plants formed the building block of biodiversity in this region, their removal could result in a cascade of declining diversity.

According to authors Kevin Boyce and Jung-Eun Lee of a study published online in *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences*, if flowering plants in tropical South America were replaced with non-flowering vegetation, the rainy conditions of the forest would be reduced by 20 percent.

To review the research report [click here:](#)



New Species of Frogs Disappearing as Fast as They're Found

New species of frogs in Panama are being lost nearly as fast as they are being found to a deadly fungal disease that is sweeping through the region.

In an effort to document the diversity of frogs in Central America before the disease sweeps through the entire region, scientists are discovering new species, some of which are going extinct, and some of which are surviving.

Researchers are searching for ways to avert the loss of more species.

[Read more by clicking here](#)

Waste Prevention

The critical first step of waste prevention has been overshadowed by a focus on recycling. Please help to promote a greater awareness of the importance of the "Reduce" part of the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle mantra.

Simplify : Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis.

Reduce Purchases: In general, think before you buy any product - do you really need it? How did the production of this product impact the environment and what further impacts will there be with the disposal of the product (and associated packaging materials)?

Replace Disposables: Wherever possible, replace disposable products with reusable ones (i.e., razor, food storage, batteries, ink cartridges (buy refill ink), coffee filters, furnace or air conditioner filters, etc.).

Buy Used : Buy used products whenever possible.

The Reserve at Lake Keowee to Set the Bar for Sustainability on the Golf Course with Audubon Lifestyles

The Reserve at Lake Keowee, located in Sunset, South Carolina, has recently become a Pilot Member in the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program.

The Reserve at Lake Keowee is home to a par-72, 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course that opened in 2002 and offers five sets of tees extending to 7,112 yards. Three of the course's eighteen holes play along Lake Keowee, with two additional holes offering lake views.

R. Eric Dodson, CEO and Executive Director for Audubon Lifestyles said, "We are excited to welcome the Reserve at Lake Keowee into the Sustainable Golf Facility Program. By participating as a Pilot Member, The Reserve has set itself on a path to lead by example, and their commitment and efforts toward sustainable golf course management should be commended."



"Our commitment to becoming certified as a sustainable golf facility is one we feel is not only important, but reflective of our community's overall efforts to conserve and protect the natural beauty that surrounds us," stated Sam Crowe, golf course superintendent at The Reserve at Lake Keowee.

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Additional Resources & Sources

Audubon Lifestyles

www.audubonlifestyles.org

The International Sustainability Council

www.thesustainabilitycouncil.org

The Reserve at Lake Keowee

www.thereserveatlakekeowee.com

Sustainability Campaign

sustainabilitycampaign.blogspot.com

Energy Star

www.energystar.gov

American Society of Golf Course Architects

www.asgca.org

National Geographic

www.nationalgeographic.org

Double Oaks

www.doubleoakscharlotte.com

Global Stewards

www.globalstewards.org

The US Department of Energy

www.energy.gov

The Royal Society of Biological Sciences

www.royalsocietypublishing.org