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PLAN-Boulder County

Newsletter

March 2011

Annual Dinner



At the 2011 PLAN-Boulder County Annual Dinner on March 2, Van Jones told a packed banquet hall at the Hotel Boulderado that the most dire threat facing America right now is not climate change, but increased diversity coupled with decreased prosperity. However, he hastened to add that diversity at all levels is not something the

Upcoming Fora

Please visit the [PLAN-Boulder County website](#) for updates to the forum schedule.

Join us

PLAN-Boulder County is on the Web at [www.planbouldercounty.org](#). To become a member, please join via our [website](#) or send your check to P.O. Box 4682, Boulder, CO 80306. Our regular dues are \$25 a year, \$35 for a household and \$15 for a student or someone on limited income. Please include your e-mail address and phone number.

PLAN-Boulder County Board

Board meetings are open to members and are usually the first Monday of the month. Please call to confirm, 303-473-9979.

Board members

Pat Shanks, Co-chair
Ruth Blackmore, Co-chair
Liz Payton, Vice-chair

country should fear, but rather embrace and regard as a unique source of strength. He claimed that prosperity could be restored, at least in part, by expanding renewable energy industries.

Jones declared that coal mining now provides 80,000 jobs. While hailing coal miners as "heroes who keep our lights on," he also predicted that the number of coal mining jobs will drop to 40,000 in the foreseeable future. In contrast, he contended that the solar energy industry now also provides 80,000 jobs, but that that number could be quintupled in the next few years. He also forecast that the number of jobs in the wind energy business could be quintupled in the near future. He commented that, unlike the oil and coal industries, the solar and wind industries do not cause oil spills or destroy mountain tops or valleys. Jones called upon Americans to "look up into the sky," not "down into a hole," for their energy future.

Jones remarked that liberals need to assert their love of the United States as vigorously as do conservatives. He also implored liberals not to demonize or attack the right-wing, but to seek energetically areas of cooperation.

He praised the City of Boulder for its energy tax and climate action program. In contrast, he criticized the United States Congress for its unwillingness to curtail greenhouse gas emissions through either regulations, a cap-and-trade program, or a carbon tax, and observed that it has been "missing in action." Jones also commended the city for its current efforts to obtain a much higher percentage of its electricity from renewable sources than Xcel has in the past provided.

Jones is a globally recognized, award-winning pioneer in human rights and the clean energy economy and the best selling author of the definitive book on green jobs, *The Green-Collar Economy: How One Solution Can Fix Our Two Biggest Problems*. Although best known for his promotion of green jobs, Jones has spent nearly two decades as a civil rights activist, community organizer, and lawyer working to improve urban America. He is the co-founder of three successful, non-profit corporations: [Color of Change](#), the [Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#), and [Green for All](#), the national organization working to increase green jobs in disadvantaged communities.

At the Annual Dinner the PLAN-Boulder County membership elected the current members of the Board of Directors and officers to a term of another year. The following awards were also made:

Boulder City Manager Jane Brautigam received the PLAN-Boulder Award for extraordinary leadership in the city's climate action program, evolving relationship with Xcel, the passage of the Utility Occupation Tax last fall, and the passage of the SmartRegs ordinance.

Allyn Feinberg, who has served on the Boulder City Council and numerous City of Boulder and non-profit boards, received the Jim Crain Award for her work over the years in advancing the causes of

John Spitzer, Treasurer

Alan Boles, Secretary, forums, newsletter editor

Ray Bridge

Dick Harris

Suzanne Jones

Eric Karnes

Scott McCarey

Leonard May

Susan Peterson

Morgan Rogers

Max Taffet

Molly Tayer

Archivist: Bruce Bland

Off-Board Resource: Gwen Dooley

environmental preservation.

Clean Energy Action co-founder Leslie Glustom received the Gilbert White Award for her dedicated effort to use scientific information to alert the public to the dangers of natural hazards and a changing environment.

For the first time in recorded memory, PLAN-Boulder solicited sponsors for the Annual Dinner. Roche Colorado was the most generous sponsor. Namaste Solar and Independent Power Systems also provided major support. PLAN-Boulder is also grateful to Clean Energy Action, RenewablesYes.org, the Hotel Boulderado, the Boulder Book Store, Renewable Choice Energy, and a number of friends and board members for their financial assistance.

Forum Summary

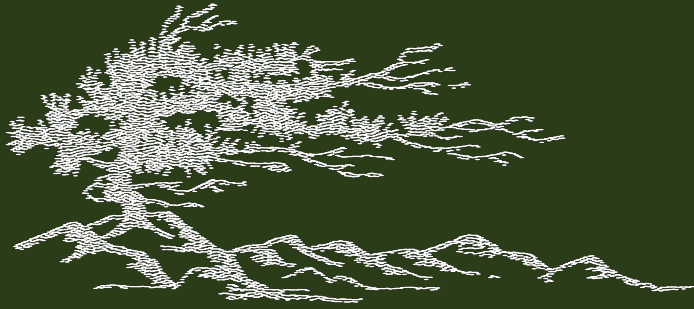
The Boulder Protocols Go to Kyoto, February 21



Japan, Germany, and Sweden rely heavily on nuclear power for their electricity supplies, Mayor Susan Osborne pointed out in reporting on her February 11 talk to the Low-Carbon Cities Conference in Kyoto, Japan at a PLAN-Boulder evening forum on February 21. Osborne was invited by the Japanese government to participate in the conference, along with representatives of Freiburg, Germany, Vaxjo (with umlauts over the "a" and the "o" and pronounced "vec-wa"), Sweden, and about a dozen Japanese cities, as well as Japanese academics and officials of the national government. The conference was first held last year and is expected to become an annual event. It is intended to stimulate efforts by Japanese and other cities to reduce greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions. [Read more . . .](#)

Advocacy

At its February 7 meeting the Board decided to co-sign [a letter](#) written by several environmental groups supporting the staff's recommendations on the West TSA. PBC co-chair Pat Shanks also testified on behalf of PLAN-Boulder before the Open Space Board of Trustees on February 9, 2011. His remarks were taken from [a PBC letter](#) sent to the OSBT in January.



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