

TGIF Taking Great Ideas Forward

Improving Northern Capital - Sustainable Development in the Northern Tier

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not reflect positions of organizations with which he is affiliated.

Herbster, WI, January 18th – Volume 4: Number 3 [Back Issues](#)

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.”

-John Muir-

MEETINGS and EVENTS:

Links will provide additional information. Dates for recent additions are in **bold**.

<i>What</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Biodiesel Study Group	Mondays (all)	7:00-8:30 PM	Washburn Library
Conservation Lobby Day	Jan. 30 th	9:00 am & On	Madison
National Entrepreneurship Week Feb 23 – Mar 1			
Superior Days	Feb. 26-27	All Day	Madison
Great Lakes Day	Feb. 28 th	All Day	Washington DC
Fusion 2008	March 5-6	All Day	Madison, Fluno Center
Sustainable Business Conference	April 24-25	All Day	Ashland
Business Development Conference	May 7 & 8	All Day	Cable, Lakewoods
Green By Design Conference	June 12-13	All Day	Washington DC area
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference	June 19 & 20	All Day	Cable, Telemark

Shift Happens!

[Shift Happens](#) is a marvelous presentation from **Karl Fisch** via **YouTube** that TGIF Readers MUST SEE! Consider:

- India and China both had more college graduates in 2006 than the US
- 100% of college graduates in India speak English
- China will be the largest English speaking country on earth in a decade.

No Child Left Behind attempted to shift education to make the US more competitive in the global economy. So far, not so good! The US could be left behind.

Despite the clever connotation of the headline, the presentation is suitable for all ages and any circumstance. Mr. Fisch, a teacher at **Arapahoe High School** in Littleton Colorado, has, through this presentation, ignited a conversation about global demographics that impact education reform. With some emphasis on the role of technologies that will both confront and enable schools, students, teachers (and their unions), school administrators and parents, the conversation should not be ignored locally.

Elizabeth Burmaster, Wisconsin's Superintendent of Public Instruction, just yesterday promoted publication of a [weekly eNewsletter](#), **SEAchange**, for educators, administrators, and "everyone interested in education." In addition to keeping readers up to date on education news from the DPI, funding opportunities, teaching resources and important education initiatives, "SEAchange" will feature submissions about promising practices and programs from around the state. Perhaps the content of this newsletter will also nudge the local conversations along a productive path.

After viewing the video, or if you are not able to view the video, take a look at the Wiki pages, shifthappens.wikispaces.com, that this video spawned.

It is probably not lost on many TGIF Readers that one of my frequent quips is "*Think Globally, Interact Regionally and Learn Locally*" (originally from **Bob Burkhardt**). Bob has become an advocate for communicating his thinking about the future through his Wiki [futureThought](#). When using Bob's prescient phrase, I almost always add; "*By Asking Questions!*"

Here are a few questions from the Shift Happens Wiki that may help start conversations about the global shift that is happening and the impact of this shift on our Northern Tier schools:

- How are global, earth-flattening changes manifesting themselves in your personal lives? professional lives?
- What do we think it means to prepare students for the 21st century? What skills do students need to survive and thrive in this new era?
- What implications does this have for our current way of doing things?
- Do we need to change? If so, how?
- How do we get from here to there?
- What challenges must we overcome as we move forward?
- What supports will we need as we move forward?
- What kind of training will we need to move forward?
- What kind of commitments will we need to make (with each other, our students, and our community) to move forward?

- Who's scared? Why?
- What will we do next? What are some concrete actions that we can take in the near future?
- Is it (still) possible for a teacher to be an excellent teacher if he/she does not use technology?

Questioning what we are doing on a local level is an important start for any change or reform that will make a better, more meaningful learning environment. Schools are, and perhaps should be, conservative; resisting change. A great deal that schools do is highly successful down the center. But at the edges of education there are a multitude of challenges and No Child Left Behind, for all of the good intentions of **President George Bush** and **Senator Ted Kennedy**, are still leaving kids and schools behind. One size fits all didn't fit very well at all.

We still have a lot to learn – locally!

LIGHTER SIDE:

As with most jokes the original author is unknown. Whoever you are; “Thanks!” Names, when added, are intended to tease the innocent.

-- **Stockbroker or Frog**

Jane Bucy and **Lydia Filonowich** were walking along Cornell Park near **Herbster** last summer when a frog called out to them and said: "Help me, ladies! I am a stockbroker who, through an evil witch's curse, has been transformed into a frog. If one of you will kiss me, I'll be returned to my former state!"

Jane took out her purse, grabbed the frog, and stuffed it inside her handbag. Lydia, aghast, screamed, "Didn't you hear him? If you kiss him, he'll turn into a stockbroker!"

Jane calmly replied, "Sure, but these days a talking frog is worth more than a stockbroker!"

Take care and enjoy a great weekend!

/BRUCE

© Bruce Lindgren 2008.

TGIF is distributed as both HTML and TEXT versions. The HTML version has graphics, formatted text and clickable hyperlinks. To receive the HTML version, your e-mail client must be set to accept HTML. [PDF versions are now available.](#)

TGIF is distributed each Friday. Subscriptions for TGIF are free and may be obtained by contacting Bruce Lindgren at bflind@cheqnet.net. You may UNSUBSCRIBE by sending an email to bflind@cheqnet.net with “UNSUBSCRIBE” in the subject line.

*IF you have not subscribed and YOU ARE RECEIVING TGIF FOR THE **FIRST TIME**, your address has been placed in a temporary distribution list to receive a few issues without subscription.*

Bruce Lindgren is Principal of [B.Lindgren CONSULTING](#). The consulting practice serves small business, local government, school districts and non-profits providing support for research, grant development, technical writing, marketing

support and project management. Bruce brings his background in biological sciences, education, small business and media technology to generate and implement ideas contributing solutions to mission critical challenges.

In addition Bruce maintains the following affiliations:

[Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation](#), (BCEDC) *Director*

[Inland Sea Society](#), (ISS) *Director*

[Lake Superior Binational Forum](#), (LSBF) *US Delegation Co-Chair*

[Raindrop Garden Gallery](#), (RGG) *Co-owner*

[IDEA Consortium LLC](#), *Owner*

[Chequamegon Institute, Inc.](#) *Initial Registered Agent*

[Coalition for Eco-Industrial Development](#), (CEID) *Work Group Member*

[Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board](#), (WIB) *Member*

The encircled fractal triangle represents an integrated cluster of seven ideas – economics, ecology, equity, ethics, experience, education and energy – that may be considered a core for sustainability studies. Bruce is available to present illustrated lectures and facilitate discussions about role of education in Industrial Ecology, Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Revolution.