

For Immediate Release

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Green Jobs and Sustainable Living Training for Southern California Youth provides Permaculture Design Certification, Introductions to Renewable Energy and Green Building

Quail Springs, Growing Green Energy, Ojai Solar Electric, Ecostructures, Inc., and local foundations and green businesses partner to provide training, with scholarships for low income youth

Santa Barbara and Ventura County, CA (April 15, 2009) - While the green jobs movement gains momentum at the state and federal level, a partnership of local organizations has developed a sustainable living and green jobs preparation training for Southern California youth.

Sustainable Vocations is an innovative program that prepares youth ages 15 to 24 for diverse leadership roles that integrate sustainability into their communities and provides a hands-on introduction to the growing green jobs market. Developed and hosted by Quail Springs Permaculture Farm, a nonprofit sustainability demonstration and education center in the mountains near Santa Barbara and Ventura, the program is accepting applications for its first intensive session this August, and provides scholarships for low-income youth.

At the heart of Sustainable Vocations is the power of the up and coming generations to positively impact their communities and society at large. In the words of students in introductory sessions earlier this year: "I plan

on spreading what I know and making my future career one that can help the green cause. We have the power to change the future!"

Sustainable Vocations' students will earn a Permaculture Design Certification, receive introductions to renewable energy and green building, with the developing option of gaining college credits. According to Warren Brush, program co-director and lead permaculture instructor, "Permaculture is an integrated design system being utilized in over 135 countries, in hundreds of thousands of projects, and increasingly being taught in colleges and universities because of its successful approach to creating productive human habitats while reducing our ecological footprint."

Each session of Sustainable Vocations is a three-week intensive residential training at Quail Springs' site, with field trips to area green industries and businesses. Transportation is provided from Santa Barbara. Information for families is provided in Spanish and English. Upcoming intensives are August 4-24, 2009, March 7-27, 2010, and June 20-July 10, 2010.

"People are our greatest resource and the earth is our greatest teacher," says Selim Sandoval of Growing Green Energy, a Ventura-based renewable energy installation and green workforce development company, and one of Sustainable Vocation's educational partners. Educational partners also include: Christopher Blunt of Ojai Solar Electric, a NABCEP certified renewable energy installer; Mike Lillis of Ecostructures, Inc., a LEED Accredited Professional; and local colleges who are assisting in developing accreditation of the program.

Scholarships are provided for low-income youth through the generosity of the Hutton Foundation and Towbes Foundation, and green business sponsors including Island Seed and Feed, Mike Lillis of Ecostructures, Inc., Ojai Solar Electric, and Growing Green Energy. Sustainable Vocations is growing a community network of referral, educational and sponsoring partners.

Kolmi Majumdar, program co-director, says "Sustainable Vocations aligns with the deepest purpose of the green jobs movement by investing in training young people with the critical thinking skills, stewardship ethics, and practical know how that will empower them to implement solutions and create new approaches to the social and ecological problems and opportunities we face as a society."

For more about Sustainable Vocations, visit:

www.quailsprings.org/SustainableVocations/brochure.pdf