



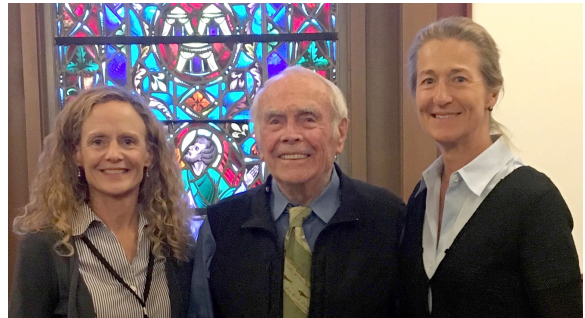
October 2017

Marin Makes Green Energy History Again: Forum Master Class Students Drive Major Initiative

President's Message

The recent catastrophic fires in Sonoma, Napa, and Lake Counties, not to mention elsewhere in the state have left us heartsick and stunned by the magnitude of the devastation. It will be many years before all the rebuilding is complete. It gives us pause to think about the vulnerability of Marin County and just how lucky we were this time around. How heartwarming it has been to see the outpouring of help, support, and donations flowing in to our neighbors to the north. The part that climate change has played in the state's fires and the recent hurricanes has not gone unnoticed by us, and we are more compelled than ever to reach a broader audience to encourage action and advocacy.

by Susan Rusche



History Made

In these times of ever increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) levels and the dangerous impact of climate change visible in a myriad of ways, the urgency to get to net zero emissions is imperative. Marin County is leading the way and this month became the first county where all local governments enrolled in 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations*!

As their Forum Master Class 43 project, Helene Marsh and Sarah Loughran led a

Join us for our next Forum event:

October 24, 2017

Climate Change—Six Easy Ways You Can Make a Difference

Membership Update

As we reach the end of 2017, the Forum Board has been assessing the value we provide to the community. Our recent member survey showed that 65% of those surveyed enjoyed being around like-minded people and enjoyed reading our newsletter and website. 90% of our members surveyed attended one or more of our lecture and workshop series. Those surveyed reported that advantages of membership are "a focus on Marin County issues," and "educational opportunities for environmental leadership development."

One person wrote that they thought our membership was "too affordable" at the Advocate level, and asked us to consider raising membership dues. This is one option to ensure the continuation of Master Class, however, our focus is to create value not barriers.

For those of you who wish to make a more substantial gift to Environmental Forum, please write to veda@marinefm.org or to susan@marinefm.org if you wish to learn about legacy gifts, developing a Master Class Scholarship to honor an individual. Our goal is to create an inclusive Forum to broaden our reach and ensure growth and value for the next 50-years with the continued development of Master Class graduates who will drive our track record of success.

Our membership drive begins this month.

community-wide effort to urge 8 Marin jurisdictions to purchase 100% renewable electricity for municipal accounts.

Today all municipal accounts in Marin are powered by MCE Deep Green, 100% GHG free renewable energy.

As a result, annual GHG emissions in Marin have been reduced by 3,900 metric tons (8,598,028 lbs)*. This is comparable to taking **835** passenger vehicles off the road for one year.

This GHG reduction was accomplished with tremendous support from many environmental groups and elected officials who voted unanimously to opt up to Deep Green. Their leadership will significantly reduce the Marin GHG emissions that cause climate change and serve as an example to others.

Helene and Sarah's Master Class project has generated significant momentum in Marin County and other MCE service areas as a number of environmental groups are working with renewed vigor to urge residents, businesses, and schools to opt up to Deep Green. The number of MCE accounts enrolled in Deep Green increased by **39%** between March and September of this year, and has risen more since. In addition, 6 municipalities in MCE's service area outside of Marin have also opted up to Deep Green.

Environmental Forum of Marin Master Class students and members have a long history of promoting clean electricity in Marin and this project was one more step along the way to net zero. Congratulations to the Marin community for making history by establishing the first CCA in California and being the first county in the country to use 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations.

Kudos to all EFM's Master Class students and members who have helped make these

Please expect to see your annual renewal email in your inbox. Membership runs the calendar cycle from January to December. Each year, you will be asked to renew your commitment to the Environmental Forum of Marin. As members and supporters, you are the Forum's most valuable asset.

by Veda Florez



Photo by Veda Florez

Elaine Petrocelli suggested books with environmental topics at our annual Book Passage event on October 15.

2017-2018 Board Members & Staff

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Veda Florez, *Membership Director*

Our Community is Environmentally Active

and members who have helped make these steps forward a reality!

*information provided by MCE, 10/17

Master Class 44 Update

The Forum's 44th Master Class Program of Education for Environmental Action was brought Face to Face with Climate Change by Mark Hertsgaard, Environmental Correspondent for The Nation, and keynote speaker for that Master Class on September 9, 2017.

Echoing his September 6, 2017 article for The Nation "Climate Denialism is Literally Killing Us" he stated, "We've known for decades that global warming would make extreme weather worse, but climate deniers have blocked solutions. It's past time to call climate denial what it is: pre-meditated murder." Hertsgaard further commented on hurricane Harvey; and catastrophic flooding in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, where— although the news coverage has been a fraction of Harvey's — a staggering 16 million children "are in urgent need of life-saving support" after "torrential monsoon rains and catastrophic flooding," as reported by UNICEF.

Mark's assessment of our predicament is sobering and recognizes that the impacts of climate change are a crime against humanity, effecting the world's most vulnerable populations disproportionately. An inspirational speaker, Hertsgaard wrapped up with why we must join the Freedom Struggle. "Living in Hope.. you join the struggle (for freedom/justice) not because you know it is going to succeed, but because you know it is right and you hope it will succeed. You know that if there aren't people like you that get into that struggle, it will not succeed...Living in Hope"

Chad Frischmann, lead researcher and

Member Veda Florez leads — Highway 37, Planning for the future:

October 21, 2017

Novato City Council Chambers
901 Sherman Ave

9:30 Registration, Refreshments
10:00 - 1:00 Event

The event is free to the public and all fees collected will go to the Firestorm efforts to our North. More information here!

The Forum was a community outreach partner of the 40th Mill Valley Film Festival presented by the California Film Institute.

Robert Redford narrates the latest edition of an Emmy award-winning series — an annual tribute to six passionate environmental heroes from around the world who share a common goal of safeguarding the Earth's natural resources. All are winners of the 2017 Goldman Prize.

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**Marin Conservation League**

November 3 — Business-Environment Breakfast: NRDC - A Year of Litigation and a Legacy of Impact

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One Tam

October 26 — Mt. Tam Wildlife Symposium, followed by the annual Tam Talk, recapping One Tam's progress and a look ahead to their 2018 Proposed Work Plan. More details on these and other One Tam events and volunteer opportunities: <http://www.onetam.org/calendar>

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principal architect of the methodology and models used in Drawdown, edited by Paul Hawken, also spoke to the Class. Project Drawdown identified 100 substantive solutions that, implemented collectively, could realistically keep us from catastrophe. The team of over 70 researchers carefully measured the 80 solutions already up and running around the world and modeled how they might be scaled up over the next 30 years to stop global warming.

On October 17, 2017, Chris Choo reviewed the County's updated Vulnerability Assessment, for sea level rise; and we then played the "Game of Floods" led by Roger Leventhal.

**Drawdown Marin**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marin County launched a campaign to achieve measurable reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere, by asking us to focus on at least five priority areas. **County Supervisors, Damon Connolly and Kate Sears**, opened and wrapped up the evening, with strong exhortations to the 400 in attendance—and all of the community—to step up, figure out your role, and help in the critical goal of reducing our carbon footprint. This campaign seeks to **make Marin the first "Net Zero Carbon" County** in the state. The five initiatives:

1. Switching to 100% Renewable Energy
2. Low Carbon Transportation
3. Energy Efficiency in all residences and buildings
4. Local food production, plant-rich diets, and reduction of food waste
5. Creating climate-resilient communities

**Dana Armanino, County Sr. Planner and Sustainability Team Leader**, previewed her **EFM talk coming up on**

Oct 24th outlining our progress towards

[www.MarinEFM.org](http://www.MarinEFM.org)

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup>**, outlining progress towards meeting carbon-reduction goals, and the challenges remaining. The highlight of the evening was when **High School students Cameron Evans** and **Milo Wetherall** challenged the audience, so eloquently—as they have city councils in Marin—to ***do the right thing for their future.***

When someone asked Paul Hawken: “What do you hope we will do?” he immediately said, “I don’t ‘hope’. Hope is the mask of fear. ***We need to be Fearless***; to stand up, do more of what we do best, and ***make it matter.***”

*by David Kunhardt*

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