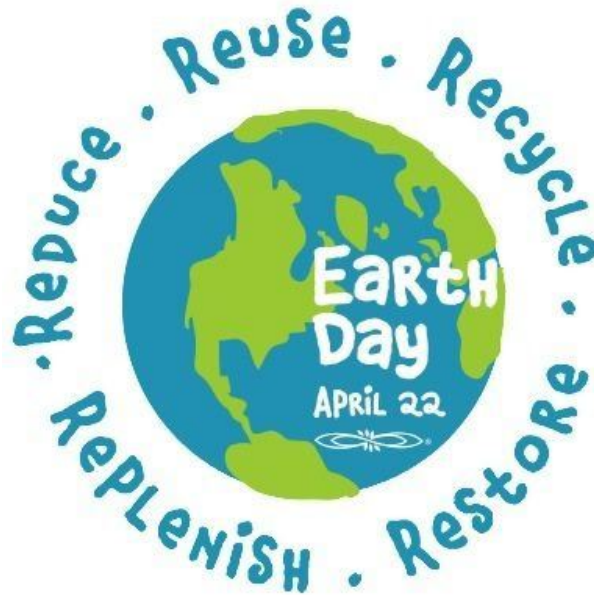




NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021



President's Message

Ah, the joys of Spring!

Just a year ago most of us missed enjoying the wonders of Spring. Instead, we found ourselves trapped inside, under lockdown and afraid to go to the grocery store. Things look different now, and while we are not out of the woods yet, we can see the return to a somewhat normal way of life. It's great to be able to enjoy the beauty of the season, and I feel more hopeful than I have in years.

On April 29, EFM will be hosting a timely webinar [Green Jobs](#). We look forward to the [Annual Meeting on May 23](#) — mark your calendars! Also, we are in the process of planning for fall 2021, working on programs that have flexibility and address current issues.

EFM needs your help

Our Secretary, Carolyn Losee, has recently retired from the Board. She was a wonderful Secretary and continues to be an [EFM business supporter](#). I am asking all members (or potential members) for help in filling this position. If you are interested, please contact me at susan@rusche.com.

We are also seeking an individual to be our Assistant Program Director. This position comes with a stipend, and if you are interested, please contact Kim Rago (kim@marinefm.org).

Remembering Shirley Bogardus

Former EFM President Shirley Bogardus (MC 8) passed away on February 26, at the age of 91. Shirley was EFM President in 1984, and served on the Board of Directors for five years. She was also on the Boards of Audubon Canyon Ranch and the California Parks Foundation. Shirley was always a positive presence at our events and she will be sorely missed. [Here is the link to her obituary.](#)

Facebook change

Over the next few months EFM will be migrating to a new Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Environmental.Forum.Of.Marin Please "like" and "follow" us at this new address. This Facebook page will be linked to our website and all other EFM materials.

Our long time Social Media Director Tamela Fish has retired (scroll down to see our tribute to her). Our new SM Director is Leah Faw. We welcome Leah to the EFM, and you'll be learning more about her in the next newsletter.

Susan Rusche, *President*

Up next: Forum 2021 virtual event on April 29



Jennifer Green from **MCE (Marin Clean Energy)**, who will focus on



Green jobs are on the rise, so let's talk about how to get one. To set the stage, **Justine Burt (author of "The Great Pivot: Creating Meaningful Work to Build a Sustainable Future")** will provide an overview of the five major "green" job sectors.

Then we'll get granular with the panel discussion about opportunities for Marin and Bay Area residents.

Chris Yalonis, president and co-founder of VenturePad, will moderate a discussion and Q&A with a panel comprising:

clean energy," who will focus on training and jobs for all in energy-related fields.

Cyane Dandridge from **SEI (Strategic Energy Innovations)**, who will talk about opportunities for college grads to start a career in sustainability.

With so many perspectives and so much expertise on offer, we will likely run out of time long before we run out of questions.

We will have a noon lunch hour Zoom the following day and participants can choose from virtual rooms and can attend the discussion that is most relevant to them.

Register today and tell anyone you know who is interested in making their next job a green one. As a public service we'll waive the registration fee for students and others who might have trouble paying it. We look forward to seeing you there!

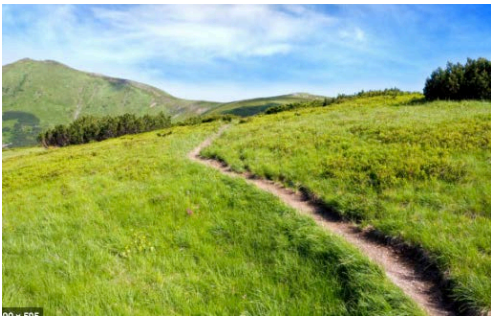
REGISTRATION

Recapping recent Forum 2021 events: "Decarbonization" and "Empty Trash Bins"

Pathways to Decarbonization: How we can get from here to there



Check out these [actions](#) from our event sponsors to reduce our carbon footprint. Think ahead and re-



Decarbonization is the journey to reposition ourselves away from fossil fuels to alternative fuels with net negative emissions. EFM partnered with Marin Conservation League for a February 2021 virtual event that presented the themes we considered important to share with our community.

Saul Griffith, visionary MacArthur fellow, enthusiastically spoke about his scientifically-mapped concept solutions to reach negative emissions providing a positive image for the future. Vicken Kasarjian, also presented about our local non-profit electric aggregator, MCE.

Kate Sears, our dedicated-just retired Marin County Supervisor, moderated a deep conversation with Saul and Vicken, discussing the ecosystem that will lead to consumer behavioral change within the largest greenhouse gas emissions categories, Transportation 52% and Residential Energy 22%, generated principally by households.

How and why to choose sustainable consumption over wasteful consumerism

Our March 2021 webinar focused on

energize by considering a preemptive replacement on your own terms. Take a "100% Clean Energy Power Opportunity" replacing gas while utilizing rebates, going electric with your car, water heater, heat pump for heat/ air conditioning and outside landscape equipment. This is not the wave of the future but present tense!

Take a look at Saul's advocacy organization "Rewiring America", www.rewiringamerica.org/household-savings-report including a "field guide" and "What you can do to make a difference" for everyone from lawyers to roofers to city planners.

*Contributed by Karen Mendelow,
EFM Vice President of Education*



Image by Cornell Frühauf from Pixabay

**EFM and MCL present:
Pathways to Decarbonization**



- how we handle waste in Marin
- how we can make adjustments to our lifestyles to avoid generating so much waste in the first place.



EFM presents:
Full Life, Empty Trash Bin
3/24/21
www.MarinEFM.org

We welcomed **Kimberly Scheibly**, an independent consultant helping waste industry companies, for a fact-filled dumpster dive. We emerged having learned the sobering truth: **recycling is not the answer**. Whether it's because we're confused, indifferent, or lack opportunity, most of us just don't consistently provide haulers with clean well-sorted material. Even if everyone did, recycling is at best an energy-intensive business that often makes no sense economically. Less than 10% of plastic is recycled.

Once we crawled out of that dumpster and faced the facts, it was time for fun. **Lily Cameron**, owner of the [Wild Minimalist](#) and author "Simply Sustainable," talked about her own family's journey to a zero-waste lifestyle. She offered advice on stopping waste before it starts, providing us all with a vision of a reduced-clutter life that could also reduce the burden on the environment.

We always have more questions than time to answer them during our webinars, so for this event, for the first time, we had a noon hour follow-up discussion the next day. Waste expert **Christienne de Tournay-Birkhann (MC 35)** answered questions and facilitated discussion. We look forward to adding next-day follow-up calls to other events in the future — it was a great opportunity both to learn more and to build community.

Contributed by Anne-Christine Strugnell, EFM Director of Communications





How is Forum 2021 like the butterfly?

EFM continues its **reinvention** of environmental education and advocacy training with Forum 2021. Well, not exactly like a caterpillar and the butterfly, but please read on!

COVID-19 posed challenges, but also has allowed us to reach an audience at new times and in new formats. The lunchtime Q&A discussions after a virtual session have been successful. Our larger scale events can include several experts on panel, allowing for broad, diverse views about issues, as well as Q&A.

Looking ahead, we would like to cover more topics that concern all of us, such as fire management, drinking water, and promises from our current administrations to protect 30% of our lands and oceans by 2030. A Climate 101 class would help newcomers get up to speed on what is happening in the world of climate science. We are organizing more classes on advocacy to guide participants on how to improve their communities and communicate with governments effectively for change

A work in progress? Definitely! More details will be coming out, and if you have any feedback — contact Programs@marinefm.org

Contributed by Leslie Gerstenfeld, EFM Program Director

Project Drawdown Webinar now available with Spanish translation

Climate change affects everyone, and this information should be available to all. For this reason, a webinar presented by Chrystal Chissel of Project Drawdown — the process by which greenhouse gases

El cambio climático afecta a todos y esta información debe estar disponible a todos. Por esta razón, Catchafire ha traducido al español un seminario web del Project Drawdown sobre el proceso por el

process by which greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere — has been translated into Spanish. Thumbs up to [Catchafire](#) who provided the translation!

Do you know any individuals or groups that would be interested in this knowledge? Pass this presentation on. Access to knowledge is a step toward change.

We are particularly interested in schools; it's important that climate change information be available to those who will inherit our planet. Additional webinars on climate change are available on the EFM website, and can be translated.

Contributed by Barbara Ball, EFM Treasurer

Drawdown sobre el proceso por el cual los gases de efecto invernadero se eliminan de la atmósfera.


¿Conoce a personas o grupos que estén interesados en este conocimiento? ¡Mándeles esta presentación! Tener acceso a información es un paso hacia el cambio.

Estamos particularmente interesados en las escuelas; es importante que la información sobre el cambio climático esté disponible para quienes heredarán nuestro planeta. Se encuentran disponibles seminarios web adicionales sobre el cambio climático en el sitio web de EFM y se pueden traducir.



EFM presents Project Drawdown w Spanish Subtitles (1)


from **Environmental Forum of Marin**



EFM presents: Crystal Chissell Project Drawdown

www.MarinEFM.org









[Renew your membership or Join us for 2021](#)

A heartfelt “**thank you**” to our new members and the stalwart members who continue to support EFM. With your help, EFM continues to be financially stable.

Join us for our virtual Annual Meeting

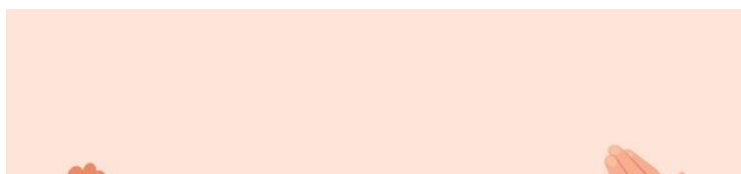
Sunday May 23, 2021 @ 4 pm

For more information and registration

<https://marinefm.org/event-4252149>

Tamela Fish

Thank you for all that you did for EFM for a decade





When EFM MC 39 began, little did we know that one individual would create such a lasting impact. In the early 2000's, social media was still in its infancy. **Tamela Fish** leaned into the movement, and made it her MC project to create a Facebook page for EFM.

She also added our presence on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Vimeo and Zoom, and got EFM involved with the Global Climate Summit. Tamela is a mom, a social justice advocate, a frequent marcher and has worked with the United Nations Group for Youth and Children, the Arab Youth Climate Movement, and the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network. She is actively involved in [The Tree Monkey Project](#).

During Forum 2020, EFM Lifetime Member, Tamela contributed to the success of the virtual EFM events. Having created a considerable following, Tamela will be moving forward with the platform she created on Facebook called **Environment FM**. Her site serves as an important nexus of communication among local environmental groups.

The EFM will host a new Facebook site called **Environmental Forum of Marin** (www.facebook.com/Environmental.Forum.Of.Marin). In addition to serving as a source of information about environmental issues of interest to Marin and beyond, the new site will feature news about EFM events and classes, as well as the EFM Notebook. EFM's other social media platforms will not change.

Keeping up with MC graduates:

Giving back to our communities in many ways

Terri Thomas (MC 43): providing monthly updates from Environmental Roundtable

Terri Thomas, our Director of Ecology, represents EFM at the **Marin County Parks and Open Spaces Environmental Roundtable**. Environmental groups

...and open space environmental stewardship. Environmental groups provides MCPOSD with information to make projects more ecologically beneficial, prior to the projects going to the public for review. Briefings on biodiversity monitoring of everything from bats and badgers to frogs and monarchs are shared, as well as identifying current rare plant and bird locations.

Recent projects reviewed by the Environmental Roundtable have included Cascad Canyon Bridge Replacement, Stafford Lake Pump Track planning, Ring Mountain Trails, goat grazing areas, and areas where pile burning occurs. Vegetation management is now a focus because fuels reduction funding from Measure C has created the need to understand how best to retain Marin's ecological values while reducing wildfire risk.

A good 9-minute listen: TedX talk by Wilford Welch (MC 45).



"To solve the climate crisis, we face only two major obstacles, both created by humans and thus can be changed by humans. Find out more in my latest TEDx talk, ["You, Corporate America and the Climate crisis."](https://www.ted.com/talks/wilford_welch_you_corporate_america_and_the_climate_crisis) link (below)

You have far more power to influence corporate actions on this issue than you may realize. In this talk, I lay out ways you can influence corporations to become a part of the climate solution. We have momentum on our side, and now is the time for you to step forward even more than you may already have."

www.ted.com/talks/wilford_welch_you_corporate_america_and_the_climate_crisis



Deborah Coburn (MC 21)

Deborah teaches thru the PRNSA (Point Reyes National Seashore Association):

"Learn the shapes, patterns and color strategies found in Nature. There is genius everywhere! Discover the Life Strategies of Biomimicry and discuss why Nature designs the way she does. We'll look at photos and examples of her success stories. Then the class will go on a treasure hunt for these shapes, patterns, colors and strategies."

Next date: Saturday, May 1, 2021

www.ptreyes.org/camps-classes-programs/prnsa-field-institute

Anne-Christine Strugnell (MC 46), EFM Director of Communications, is an accomplished author:

"I thought you all might enjoy reading my latest article in Marin Magazine. They approached me to ask if I could write about the impact of the pandemic on the environment, and after I made it clear to them that it would not be all good news, I took on the challenge."



<https://marinmagazine.com/community/how-covid-19-has-changed-the-environment-and-what-weve-learned>

Introducing Gayle Marsh (MC39), EFM Staff
Graphic Design and Website





This newsletter, the graphics on our website, and many, many other visible and invisible elements, are due to Gayle (our wizard).

Without her work, we would not look professional or personable!

Growing up in rural Nebraska I was a lover of the outdoors as a child. Life was simple and based on family and community. In my mid-twenties I moved to San Francisco, falling in love with the place and a young man from South Dakota. After many years working in graphic design, my focus turned to living more aligned with my values. I completed the Sustainable Practices program at Dominican and found a home with EFM. I served on their board and now help with graphics.

To be closer to family and fulfill our dream of building a log cabin in the Black Hills of South Dakota, my husband and I left California. First, we needed another permanent home. Santa Fe was the perfect fit; outdoor beauty, great food, and cultures that were new to us. Bonus...the sunsets over the Jemez mountains are stunning!

Two years later, the log cabin is finished and soon we'll be gathering with our families. The Ponderosa Pine's are whispering to us "welcome home".

Living in Marin and now Santa Fe, it's easy to find like-minded people. I'm up for the challenge of picking up my environmental work here in the Black Hills.

Thank you for being a Business Supporter for EFM

"Sunrun is proud to work with organizations like EFM who are working to educate, inspire, and activate communities to tackle our generation's most pressing challenges. Join us in our mission to create a plant run by the sun here."

Regan Keller

www.sunrun.com/

