**WHAT CAN WE DONE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?
Primož Jovanovič
Ekonomska šola Celje**

I cannot define what sustainable living means to me because I fear I do not understand the complete meaning of it. But I assume it has something to do with making our lives as simple as possible, taking care of nature so nature can take care of us and stop polluting the nature or it will cause our extinction. The Earth is our home. The more we keep destroying the less we are going to have to offerto the next generation. People spend more and more time thinking what's going to happen in the future like how stressful and hard it is going to be for the next generation when we spend no time facing the present. The present, the things we do now will have consequences in the future. If we keep using natural resources more and more, it's going to cause chaos. The situation is already serious. We intend to damage the environment and really do nothing good for it. We were given a wonderful chance which we just don't appreciate. If we really care about the next generations we must stop damaging the environmental, economic or social resources or there will be no good future for them at all.

**SUSAINABLE LIVING (2)
Aljoša Pučoč
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We create all these things so that they bring us happiness. But ask yourself this, is it worth it? We spend days, weeks, months, years trying to achieve something that will make us happy. And it's a nice feeling when you achieve it. After the feeling fades away, though, we start searching for a new goal to make us happy. Happiness doesn't last forever, and neither do our Earth's resources. They are not infinite, but finite, and once we use up all of them our 'happiness' is going to be gone with them. We will be forced to switch to renewable and cleaner energy, if we want for our race to continue to exist.

We're already using some of them, solar and wind power, for example. But they aren't our main focus; fossil fuels are. Which, we by now all know, aren't the cleanest type of energy source. They leave behind toxic fumes that don't really do much good, if all. Which is why we need to start investing in renewable, ‘green’ energy. Contrary to the popular belief, we can still achieve a level of luxury we’re used to.

We could start using organic matter and burn it for fuel. Bagasse, biogas, manure, stover, straw, used vegetable oil, wood can all be used for this. Materials such as waste sludge can be digested to release methane gas that can then be burnt to produce electricity. Methane gas is also a natural by-product of landfills, full of decomposing waste, and can be harnessed here to produce electricity as well. The advantage in burning methane gas is that it prevents the methane from being released into the atmosphere, exacerbating the greenhouse effect. Although this method of biomass energy production is typically large scale (done in landfills), it can be done on a smaller individual or community scale as well.

Methane is a chemical compound with the chemical formula CH4. It is the simplest and first alkane and the main component of natural gas. The relative abundance of methane makes it an attractive fuel. However, because it is a gas at normal conditions, methane is difficult to transport from its source.

So to shorten things, we have plenty of cleaner resources, and we’re going to have to start focusing on them now, not later, because ‘later’ will be too late. We shape our future ourselves, and it’s up to us if we want our race to continue to exist.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING
Anže Razboršek
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The term means to live your life in a way that is friendly to the Earth. We can do that in many ways, one of the most popular is recycling. However, it is not the most efficient one. Well, there are others, but they are only sufficient if done in big enough groups of people (for some it would need entire countries). In my opinion we should promote green technology more and raise the funding and attention paid to the scientists trying to save our planet. We already have some incredible technology that can help us save Earth, however it’s not properly advertised, it still has some flaws needed to be improved and it’s out of the price range of most people. However, with more research and development in that field, green technology can become the norm and affordable for most people. There are many good examples of the same happening with other technology, the best one would be the computer: "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." -- Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943. And now the computer is the most used piece of technology ever to be invented.

Of course green technology is not the only thing we should focus on, we should focus on spending time in nature, just a quick walk in the woods or just watching the stars before sleep can make somebody’s day better, we should preserve nature, it’s beauty, it’s diversity and most of all its complexity that is the result of billions of years of successful evolution. As we are also the result of it, so we should better start acting as it and stop the pointless self-destruction of ourselves and other species.

**EKOLOGIJA KOT NAČIN ŽIVLJENJA
Barbara Golavšek
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Okoljski problem, onesnaženost tal in zraka, okoljske rešitve, ponovna uporaba, recikliranje, …. Vse to so izrazi sodobnega sveta, ki jih človek preprosto nebi smel prezreti. Vsako leto znova lahko vidimo, kako človek s svojim ravnanjem drastično spreminja svoje okolje ter ga uničuje, za svoje potrebe. Vemo da moramo spremeniti odnos do narave in jo zavarovati, pa kljub temu ne storimo veliko. Vse več ljudi pa je takih ljudi, ki prav v tem vidijo poslovno priložnost, ki jo znajo še kako dobro izkoristiti. Tudi savinjska in Celjska regija nista izjemi. Onesnaženost okolja ne pomeni samo višje temperature, daljša in bolj vroča poletja, manj snežnih padavin vsako leto in več neurij, ampak tudi onesnaženost, ki je ne vidimo ali slišimo. Govorim seveda o onesnaženosti tal in zraka v Savinjski in Celjski regiji. Ta onesnaženost je na prvi pogled povsem nedolžna in brez pomena, ampak sčasoma pa mnogi ljudje ugotovijo, da je prav to krivo za njihove bolezni v jeseni življenja in preprosto krajše življenje. Marsikdo ob pogledu na vročinske valove poleti in žled pozimi ter na vse izmerjene statistike samo zavzdihne in reče, da ne more storiti veliko za naravo. Pa je res tako? Še zdaleč ni tako, saj je veliko ljudi prav v ekologiji našlo smisel življenja in tako s svojim načinom življenja skrbijo za okolje v katerem živijo. Prav v Celjski regiji natančneje v Rogaški Slatini je Center ponovne uporabe, kamor lahko kdorkoli pripelje odvečne kose pohištva, gospodinjskih aparatov, oblačil, posode, itd. Ti navidezno odvečni kosi, ki bi jih lastnik vrgel v smeti, lahko nekomu predstavljajo nov in uporaben izdelek za vsakdanje življenje. Center ponovne uporabe se torej ukvarja preprosto s prodajo rabljenih izdelkov, ki bi drugače pristali na smetišču. T.i. zelena cena pa prikazuje dejanske prihranke na račun okolja in ima okoljsko-ozaveščevalni pomen. Tudi Mestna občina Celje ni ostala križem rok, ampak je zgradila čistilne naprave za odpadne vode Celja in okoliških naselij. Ta čistilna naprava ima pomembno vlogo pri čistosti rek in podzemne vode v Celjski regiji, saj so prav po uporabi te čistilne naprave zaznali očitne pozitivne znake v okolju. Reke in potoki so bolj čisti in manj onesnaženi. Tako tudi Mestna občina pripomore k boljšemu in lepšemu jutri. Zahrbtna in na prvi pogled nedolžna onesnaženost tal in zraka, je lahko velik problem, če živimo na takem območju vse življenje, saj pomembno vpliva na naše zdravje. S to onesnaženostjo pa se ukvarjajo v Civilni iniciativi Celje, kjer so ugotovili, da je v Celjski regiji kar 7000 hektarjev prekomerno onesnažene zemlje. Posledično tudi voda ni čista tako kot bi morala biti, saj vsebuje nitrate in druge strupe, ki so za človeka lahko nevarni. Nadpovprečna vrednost je tudi kadmija, ki je eden najhujših strupov za človeško telo. Da pa bi preprečili nadaljnjo onesnaževanje ter uničevanje okolja se v podjetjih in zavodih trudijo čim manj onesnaževati okolje in gradijo mnoge čistilne naprave ter sodelujejo v mnogih programih, katerih namen je ozaveščanje ljudi o okoljskih problemih. Naj zaključim z mislijo, ki sem jo nekje slišala: »Zemlja bo preživela, v nevarnosti smo mi – ljudje!« . Zato naj ekologija postane naš način življenja že danes.