

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The Summer is short but life is eternal

Everything has its season. And this is especially true for Sweden and other Nordic countries. The short summer in Sweden with its constant light is always the same beautiful experience with Nature exploding of life and dressing up in thousands of colors. And most Swedish people will do the same. We are full of life and will spend as much time as we can in nature, hiking, bicycling, swimming, fishing, going to our summer house or sail away in our boats.

But the summer is short. Our ancestors had to gather enough food during these few months to survive the long cold winter. Now we can buy apples from New Zealand or China, grapes from Argentina or Italy all year around. But still most Swedes like to grow their own plants or search for berries & other fruit. That is why most Swedes have their own land or use our unique “peoples rights” to harvest wild berries and mushrooms from our many forests. So this is what we do when summer changes to fall. But due to the long “dark season” many Swedes nowadays go on vacation abroad. And so do we and this year we had a special reason to see my grandson. Just born in Austin, Texas as an American citizen.

Now about global warming – the big threat unfolding in front of us & because of us. Burning of fossil fuel including oil for our car, ships and airplanes is the main reason, since this will emit carbon dioxide (CO₂). This is why we are trying everything we can do reduce our own consumption of everything and especially oil. So we drive an ethanol car and use bio fuel combined with a heat pump for our house. Our CO₂ budget will permit us to travel by air to USA and Brazil this year. But this may change in the future since we will be forced to further reduce consumption. So how can we drastically change our life style to achieve this?

USA and Canada has the worlds largest fossil fuel consumption per capita – about four (4) times higher than Sweden and more than 20 times India! Texas has twice the US average consumption or eight times Sweden!! Now Texas is using more gas so the CO₂ emission is less per ton, but...still the emission is 28.4 ton per capita – for every man, woman and child living in Texas compared to “only” 13.8 ton in Washington state. The per capita emission in Texas with 28.4 tons is still more than five (5) times compared to Sweden with 5.6 tons.

As comparison India has 1 ton per capita and the world average is 4 ton per capita. In order to stabilize global warming within reasonable limits we need to reduce this world average by at least 50%. So we all in the rich excess consumption world have a BIG challenge. And especially USA has a VERY long way to go to reach a sustainable level and time is running out. Unfortunately the US fossil consumption continues to increase. And unfortunately this is not the BIG issue discussed in the present election. Energy “security” is being discussed and this may mean drilling more oil in Alaska. We probably need many more Katrinas and Gustavs as well as more Al Gores and Michael Mores to get this deadly threat in every ones mind and soul. Because we have to start acting NOW! It is already too late! We are living today as there is no tomorrow. What will this wonderful planet be like for our grandchildren?

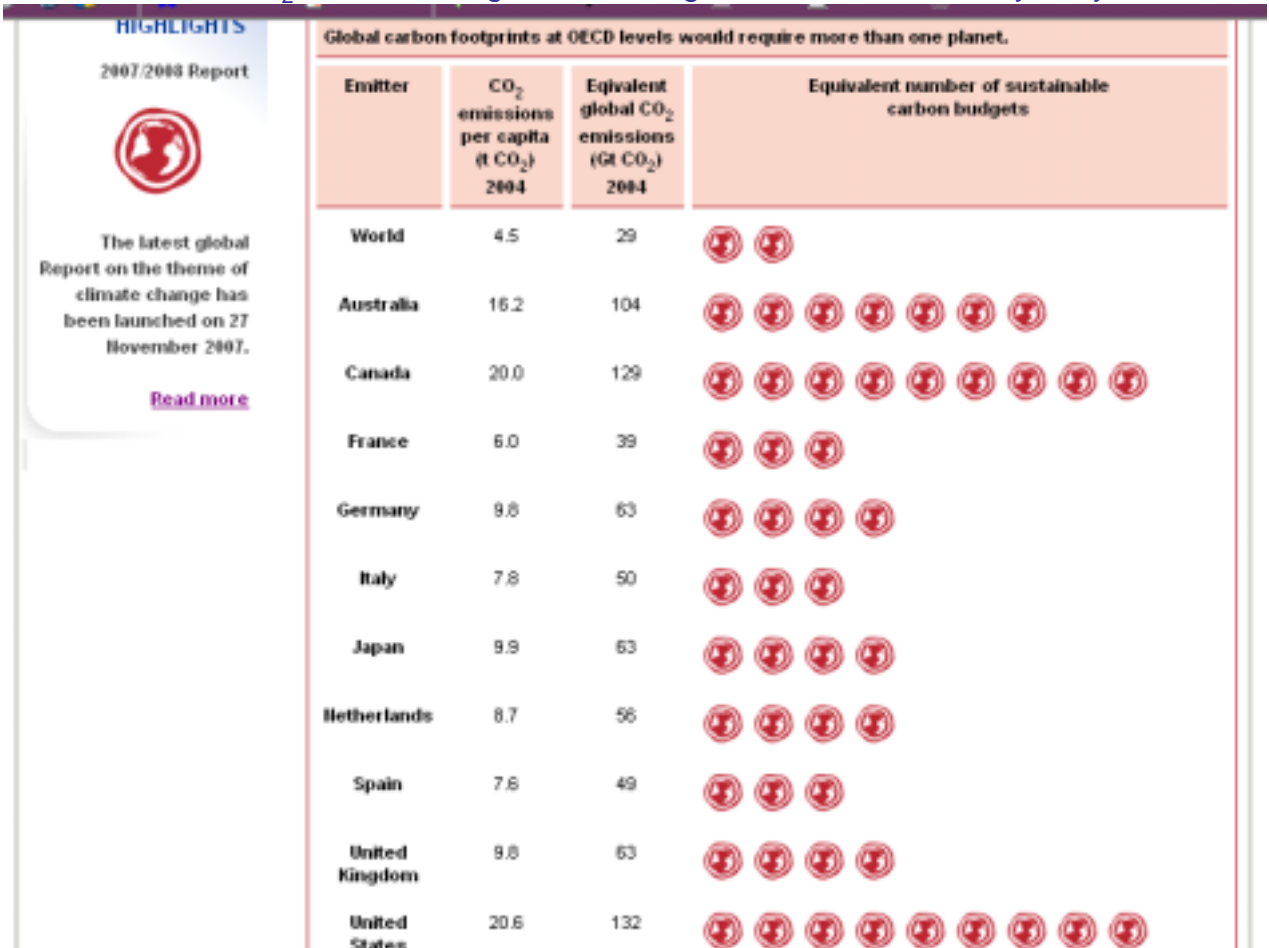
GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Life is eternal but time is very short

We are right now consuming two times what the earth can withstand. And we are the rich 20% of the world. USA and Canada consume nine times the maximum sustainable level. All according to the UN report published 2007. This is what is now causing the ecological disaster from global warming, acid rain, dying sea and reefs, extinction of species in a rate 1000 times faster than previous history. All because of us – the greedy generation in a few over consuming countries with USA, Canada and Australia in the lead.

The emission of CO₂ is one of the main problems. About half of the emission will stay in the atmosphere for many years to come. So the concentration is constantly increasing and this is causing global warming. Right now we are lucky that the sun is shining with lower intensity but in a few years this will increase again in the solar 11 year cycle. We have now also passed over the tipping point and entered what is called a positive feedback. The warming is melting ice and tundra reducing reflection of heat and emitting more green house gases. The warmer sea and slower growth of rain forest will reduce the ability of nature to absorb CO₂. All this feed global warming. The time to act is very, very short.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

A new life has started

We just visited the son of my son – Christopher Charles Ohlen living since a few weeks in Austin Texas with his father James and mother Judy. I wonder how the world will look like when he is as old as me – 2067? I wonder what he and his generation will think about me and my generation who has burned up our earth in an unprecedented consumption spree to fill our abnormal appetite compared to all previous generations.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The great mystery

The great mystery is how USA can consume so much fossil fuel even compared to other industrialized countries like Sweden with an even colder climate and an equally high economical living standard and even higher rating on UN life quality index. This is a big concern since USA has not accepted the international agreements to reduce CO₂ emission and that the US life style now is becoming the goal for the huge populations in China and India. The US Energy Information Administration has just published new figures on US energy production and consumption. This is measured in something called Quadrillion Btu.

US Consumption	Fossil	Nuclear	Hydro	Geo, solar, wind	Biomass	Total
1990 Total	72,3	6,1	3,0	0,4	2,7	84,6
1995 Total	77,3	7,1	3,2	0,4	3,1	91,0
2000 Total	84,7	7,9	2,8	0,4	3,0	98,9
2005 Total	85,8	8,2	2,7	0,6	3,2	100,4
2006 Total	84,7	8,2	2,9	0,7	3,4	99,8
2007 Total	86,2	8,4	2,5	0,8	3,6	101,5
2007 % of total	85,0%	8,3%	2,4%	0,7%	3,6%	100,0%
% Change 1990 to 2007	119,2%	137,9%	80,9%	177,2%	132,3%	119,9%
Btu Change 1990 to 2007	13,9	2,3	-0,6	0,3	0,9	16,8

The US consumption of energy (own production and imported) in Btu has increased with 20% since 1990. And the absolute largest part is fossil fuel. The alternative energy sources wind, solar and geothermal is less than 1 percent of the total while fossil fuel is 85%! The increase of fossil fuel consumption since 1990 is 13.9 Btu and forty two (42) times the increase of the sustainable resources from geothermal, wind and solar – combined = 0.3 Btu. And since the hydro power decreased with 0.6 Btu the total renewable energy actually decreased!! Biomass did increase – but there is also a sustainable limit there. This just published EIA statistics shows the catastrophically situation and another mystery that no-one is reacting! And although the US oil import now is decreasing a little this alarming trend continues the first five month in 2008 with increased US fossil fuel production.

So now when we were spending our vacation in US I had another chance to investigate this “mystery”. What is the difference between the Swedish and American life styles, mentality, climate, industry, resources or any other factor that would result in such a big difference in fossil fuel consumption and consequently CO₂ emission per capita?

US Production	Fossil	Nuclear	Hydro	Biomass	Wind, solar, geo	TOTAL
2006 Jan -May	23,1	3,3	1,4	1,3	0,3	29,4
2007 Jan -May	23,3	3,4	1,2	1,4	0,3	29,6
2008 Jan -May	24,2	3,4	1,1	1,6	0,4	30,7
Percent 2006	78,6%	11,3%	4,6%	4,6%	1,0%	100,0%
Percent 2007	78,6%	11,5%	4,0%	4,9%	1,1%	100,0%
Percent 2008	79,1%	10,9%	3,7%	5,1%	1,2%	100,0%

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

In Sweden with uncle Josef 1927 - 2008

My Uncle Josef was a fire fighter and active in wrestling – first as a wrestler and then as a coach and leader. On each birthday he was showing off standing on his head. The highlight was when his club got to arrange the world championship in Greece-Roman wrestling. Josef was also a magician. He could do everything and create everything from almost nothing. From repairing any old car so it looked brand new to build a complete mountain cottage using just old material and with the help of other fire fighters. His garden and green house was full of flowers, fruit and vegetables. He chopped his own wood and smoked his own herring and salmon. He never throw away anything. He lived a sustainable life with re-cycling and organic food long before these words were invented. Most of us in the near family has something crafted by Josef, a chair, a wooden bowl but especially wonderful memories from a great man with a great family. And I had the great privilege to grow up with this family.

The year 1959 my own family - my dad, mum and myself living and running the old general store that my dad inherited from his grandparents - went on our first vacation to the Swedish mountains. We still had no car and no TV. But Josef had a red Volvo P 444 and a radio. So in the winter of 1959 Josef, his wife and two children, my parents and me, skis, sleeping bags and food for one week was packed into this Volvo for an eight hour drive. 1959 there were no motels and no freeways. We stayed in two rooms in the house belonging to one farmer near the Norwegian border. No water and an outhouse. We got fresh milk from their cows. And we had an absolute wonderful winter vacation. Josef and his family always lived a sustainable, creative, rich and loving life. And with an energy consumption most probably just a fraction of an average “modern” citizen in Europe and especially America.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The life in Sweden today

We have been building on our house since many years. It is located by a forest and near lake Mälaren. So we basically live in the Nature and can harvest both wood for fuel, berries and mushrooms as well as water and fish from the lake. My father and my late uncle helped me to increase the thickness and insulation of the walls. I have installed a ceramic furnace with water expansion combined with a heat pump for heating. And I have three glass layer windows. All to minimize the energy consumption. During the last three month this has been 1 kWh/hour. The weekend before living Darren from Australia helped me to prepare the ground around the house and Noemia harvested our lingon-berries, apples, tomatoes, cucumber and mushrooms ...and when we got back we did the same – Natural magic!

So we live very much still like in the old time with one big difference. We do not have to do this – we like to do this. It is peaceful, creative and healthy. And at the same time it is a more sustainable life style. So yes it is possible to significantly reduce our consumption and at the same time achieve a higher life quality. But if you are addicted to an over consuming life style and have lost the appreciation of Nature it may still be difficult to change.



Myrskären, Sweden

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

From one world to another

So in 12 hours we went from our small home by the lake Mälaren in Sweden to a large home by the swimming pool in George W Bush old home town in Texas. There were however similarities. The sunrise through the oak trees and the deer passing by. But the differences are much bigger. Bigger houses, bigger cars, bigger free ways and bigger energy consumption. I also know this from living in a big house by a big free way in Los Angeles for three years. The energy consumption with full air conditioning on is 8 times higher for this American house in present Texas compared to my own in Sweden. 8 kWh/h in consumption to keep it cool. And then the stove is using gas. The design of American homes has always astonished me since I lived in California. Basically no insulation and plain windows with aluminum frame. I would be easy to reduce energy consumption with at least 50%. So how can US be motivated to at least meet European standards? Because today nothing is really changing. We just missed Hurricane Gustav and Ike. More super storms is a result of global warming. Maybe this will make us think. Now we hide our heads in oil sand.



Austin, Texas

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The wonder of life

Even though I am an engineer working with scientific data and formulas I also believe there is something much bigger behind all of this. The beauty of life can not be just a happening between one Big Bang and a black hole. When a new child is born it is a proof of this wonder and meaning of life. A creation of love. And as humans we have a big responsibility. Because we have been given the intelligence and soul to be able to experience this beauty, truth and goodness. Not to destroy it. There I fully agree with Al Gore that the environmental crisis we now have is not just a question of replacing oil with something else. It is a spiritual journey to once again find the true meaning of life and our role in the whole.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The wonder of a supermarket

Our modern world with supermarkets and free ways are “made in America”. But no longer what we buy – even in America. Wall-Mart and other huge shopping malls are full of stuff made in China, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia – everywhere where there are cheap labor who will make a shirt for 40 cents or a DVD player for 8 dollars. Fruit is imported from all over the world, Chile, New Zealand, Peru when the US season is over, treated to last for ever. Gene manipulated plants will create big and sweet onions and corn as well as purple cauliflower and force fed meat. Beer and wine from every corner from the world can be purchased. So what is wrong with free trade helping growth in poor countries and increasing gen manipulated crop growing on irrigated and fertilized soil ? What is wrong is that instead of a world where each part is tuned to live according to the local resources, culture and traditions we are now creating a uniform mono culture where everyone, everywhere shall be able to consume everything. And that everything is controlled by a very few and very big corporations. All interlinked with an enormous transport system of cars, ships and airplanes so An American man can eat apples and drink beer from New Zealand while a man on New Zealand can eat apples and drink beer from America. All this will naturally give economic growth because we need a lot of services to handle this. Free trade has basically resulted in a constant decrease of the price paid to the producer and an increasing part paid to transport, sales and brokers. This is what we call a “service society”.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Our friends by the sea

Most Swedes who emigrated to America came to the northern parts from Minnesota to Washington since the nature and climate was very similar to Scandinavia. Because of this I have also always felt at home here including Canada. So after Texas we continued to Washington state and to our friends who have moved from San Francisco in California to Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington. Their big project is to complete their large log house on top of a hill overlooking the strait of Juan de Fuca of the Pacific Ocean between USA and Vancouver Island of Canada in one direction and the Olympic Mountain national park in the other direction.

Their house built of timber is just ready so there is no record of energy consumption. It is heated by a combination of wood burning and heat pump. (Like my own) But the size and conventional North American insulation and windows probably mean a relative large consumption. A normal house in Port Angeles consumed this time of the year around 2 kWh/hour in electricity. This is 25% of Texas but twice of Sweden.

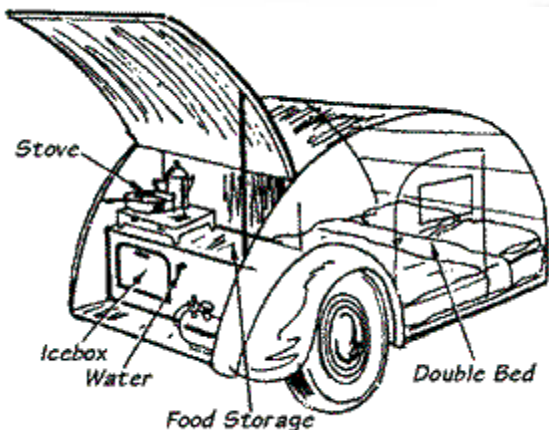


GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

What is a teardrop?

Our friends in Port Angeles has a restored Austin (One of the worlds smallest cars from the 1950s) and a “teardrop”. In the most general terms, a teardrop trailer is a comfortable, convenient, and compact (read VERY small) CAMPING TRAILER! Most often, it has a streamlined “teardrop” shape, especially the original types from the '30s, '40s, and early '50s. There is room for two people to sleep comfortably inside. And there is an area for cooking outside under the rear “hatch” or “galley lid“. This includes even a wine cellar“. Our friends is frequently camping out in any of the wonderful locations on the Olympic penninsula. A very nice way to enjoy nature save energy and minimize pollution.



And the "modern" trailer consuming >10 times more energy

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The Pudget Sound and Olympic Peninsula

1792 captain Vancouver sailed into Puget Sound to map the territory now being British Columbia to claim this for Britain. 1805 two American discoverers Lewis and Clark explored the Colombia River and claimed this part for USA: *And so this beautiful area of the country with its unimaginable rich resources was finally “discovered. Thus began the destruction of the indigenous Native culture”.* (A quote from the book “The world of chef Seattle.)

Because the fact is that what we call “Indians” had lived in this area for more than 10 000 years. Not not as “savages”. This Pacific region with it's unique northern rain forests, rivers and islands was extremely rich of fish, animals, plants and berries. The culture that evolved included sophisticated long houses built from wooden planks, large sea going canoes and various tools made by wood, stone and plants.

Imagine that when my great grand father grew up in Sweden this was still native “Indian” land. This genocide of a whole people and a 10 000 old culture as well as an ancient Nature was done in a few years. Like the buffalo was hunted close to extinction on the plains so were the sea otter, bear and wolves on the west coasts. The white invaders brought diseases such as smallpox and cholera. Whole villages were wiped out. It is estimated that 90% of the native population died during the 19th century. The Suquamish tribe under chief Seattle had tried to live in peace the invaders. But the result was that of the original around 5000 natives only 441 remained 1909 – and their land was reduced to hardly nothing. Chief Seattle is said to have given a famous speech 1854 when he gave up his land for the white supremacy. his speech is however not directly recorded but interpret by different sources. One of the famous statements are “How can one sell the air” and another is “Every part of this country is sacred to my people.” <http://www.suquamish.nsn.us/>

The rivers that used to be full of salmon is gone. But one tribe the Makah (<http://www.makah.com/>) who traditionally has been fishing Salmon, Halibut and even hunting Whales at sea are still doing so with modern equipment. (But no more whales although it has been discussed). We visited their museum in Neah Bay on the most north-western part of mainland USA and an old Indian showed us around and told us their fascinating story. His mother and aunt had become over 100 years old and they were the last to speak the native language. But when the aunt died his mother soon followed because she had no other to speak to. A catastrophic mudslide buried and preserved the ancient village of Ozette in the early 1700s. With the consent of the Makah tribe, Richard Dougherty of Washington State University excavated archaeological test pits in 1966 and 1967 at Ozette near the mudslide and this is now shown in the museum. From the large long houses to different baskets, clothing, tools and even fishing net. So when visiting our friends and this Indian village we had the local food; fresh and smoked salmon, halibut, clam chowder and fresh crab. Do I have to say it was delicious. But our guide could not hide his anger when he pointed on the map on the very small area now left as Indian reservation compared to their original land. But at least the Makah have their fishing rights while most other tribes are surviving on welfare and casino gambling commissions.



The Native Nation

Bordered by the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Pacific ocean, pre-contact Makah held a vast area of inland and coastal territory. These richly forested lands and the seas which teemed with life offered early Makah a wealth of natural resources. The Makah skillfully utilized the bounty of the sea. From seals to salmon to whales, the sea was - and still is - a large part of the livelihood of the Makah. Makah lands also encompassed the islands of Waadah, Tatoosh, Ozette, Cannon Ball, the Bodeltas and the islands on Lake Ozette. Their inland holdings were equally vast and reached as far east as Lyre River and as far south as the lands they shared with the Quileute. Today the reservation is the small north western corner of the Olympic Peninsula from Neah Bay to Cape Flattery. Still they got more than Quileute Tribe in the south. In 1889, an executive order by President Grover Cleveland established a one mile square reservation a LaPush for this tribe – ONE square mile.

Within this territory, the Makah had many summer and permanent villages. The five permanent villages, the Waatch, Sooes, Deah, Ozette and Bahaada, were located along the shore of the northwestern-most point of the continental United States. In the early 1800s these villages were home to between two thousand and four thousand Makah. Each Village contained several longhouses composed of cedar planks and measuring approximately 30 feet wide and 70 feet long. The Makah and their extended family would share these structures and it was common to have several generations living in each of these massive structures. During the summer people traveled to various summer residences, such as Kidickabit, Archawat, Hoko, Tatoosh Island, Ozette River and Ozette Lake. These summer camps were closer to the traditional fishing, whaling and gathering areas of the Makah.

The early Makah had a keen understanding of their environment and a great respect for the plants and animals which sustained them through the cold, dark and stormy coastal winters. As people acclimated to the seasons, they knew when and where to hunt and gather food and materials in balance with their lifecycles. They observed the common indigenous cultural tradition of using nearly all they took from the land and sea.

In 1855, the Makah Tribe entered into a treaty with the United States wherein they ceded title to thousands of acres of land in exchange for the federal government's protection of their ancient whaling traditions. The Treaty of Neah Bay is the only treaty with such a clause explicitly written into it. On May 17, 1999 the Makah conducted the first successful whale hunt in more than 70 years. The Makah were forced to cease whaling practices in the 1920s due to the scarcity of gray whales caused by the commercial whaling industry. This event caused a confrontation with animal right activists. But it also demonstrated the conflict between the native sustainable Indian culture and "civilization". Because it was when the white man entered the American west coast looking for gold when the big genocide took place of animals, trees, whales and the native people. When everything was considered as "resources" to feed the immigrants to this pristine and unspoiled land and sea. And it is the continuation of this consumer life style we now see threatening the very fundamentals of life. The Ego trip to disaster.

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Chief Seattle

Chief Seattle was an ancestral leader of the Suquamish Tribe born in 1786 at the Old-Man-House village in Suquamish. His father was Schweabe, a Suquamish Chief, and his mother Scholitz, a Duwamish from a village near present Kent. Seattle was a six years old when Captain George Vancouver anchored in Suquamish waters off Bainbridge Island in 1792. Chief Seattle witnessed the transition of his people from their ancient aboriginal life ways to a new one brought by the arrival on non-natives and imposed on them by the United States Government. The Suquamish had to adapt their culture based on fishing, hunting, berry and root gathering and traveling by canoe to accept a new economy and lifestyle forced upon them by religious, social and political institutions. Missionaries, fur traders and finally, permanent settlers brought new technology, a currency system, disease and the concept of private property to the Puget Sound.

The change was destructive and disruptive. The United States had already freed land up for settlers by allowing non-natives to claim Indian lands under the Donation Land Claim Act, angering many of the Tribes. The United States wanted to clear the land of Indian title to allow for settlement via a new transcontinental railroad. The federal government accomplished this by signing Treaties with the Indian tribes. Fearing a military conflict that could not be won in the long term, Chief Seattle signed the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott with the U.S., agreeing to live on the Port Madison Indian Reservation and give up title to the remainder of Suquamish lands. The U.S., led by Governor Isaac Stevens, agreed to provide health care, education and recognize fishing and hunting rights.

Some of the Tribes, such as the Puyallup and Muckleshoot who signed the Treaty of Medicine Creek, were angered by the Treaty and their reservations, and took up arms against the settlers and the military. The Indian forces eventually attacked the settlement on Elliott Bay. Chief Seattle kept his forces out of the battle and remained at Suquamish. For this action, other acts of kindness and long friendships with early Seattle residents, the founders of the city named the settlement after Chief Seattle.

Seattle remained on the reservation but continued to travel to the City he was named for intertribal meetings and other business. It was in Seattle that he had his only known picture taken and he gave his famous speech. Chief Seattle died in 1866 in Suquamish. Seattle died before the federal government enacted "Americanization" policies intended to assimilate the Suquamish into the larger society and eliminate tribal governance thereby relieving the U.S. of their treaty commitments. These policies included: 1) allotment of Indian reservation lands to individual families to scatter the Tribe away from their concentrated winter villages 2) forced attendance of Suquamish children at off-reservation boarding schools where use of tribal language and culture was prohibited and punished and 3) the federally sponsored sale of reservation lands to non-natives that has resulted in the loss of 14 miles of reservation waterfront and over 5,000 acres of Suquamish landholdings. The assimilation policy failed and Chief Seattle's people, the Suquamish Tribe, continue to persevere by honoring their ancestral ways and preserving their culture.

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se



Puget Sound view over Seattle



La Push reservation
home to the Quileute Tribe



Noemia & Judy



Cape Flattery



Neah Bay Makah harbor



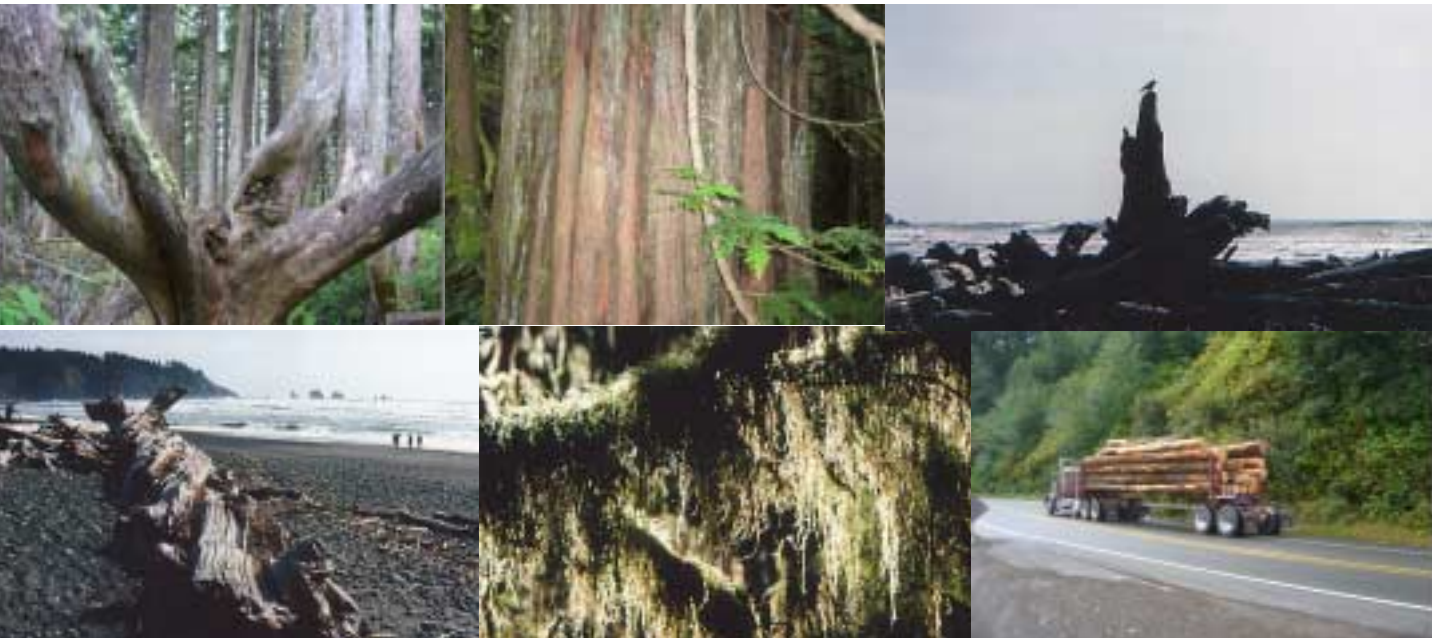
Makah long house

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The people of the red cedar

The Indian reservations are less than one percent of their original land. The largest area on The Olympic peninsula was created for many different tribes who lost their land. The Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) consists of the Quinault and Queets tribes and descendants of five other coastal tribes: Quileute, Hoh, Chehalis, Chinook, and Cowlitz. Walking through these remaining forests with their enormous trees; Fir, Cedar, Spruce and Hemlock. *“A great store of knowledge about plants and their uses helped provide for our people. The western red cedar, the “tree of life,” provided logs for canoes, bark for clothing, split boards for houses, and more. We are the Canoe People, the people of the cedar tree.”* Although Olympic National Park now protect some areas a lot has been cut down and is cut down.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Crescent Lake



Our rented Toyoya hybrid
(gas/electrical 50 miles/gallon)
0.5 l/10 km

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Blue Mountains, Olympic Peninsula



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Small is beautiful

Victoria is the capital of British Columbia. We love this city. Number one because it's beautiful location by the sea and the snow covered mountains in the background. But also because of the buildings, the streets, the parks and the harbour. Flowers everywhere. The city is very different from cities in United States. One reason is naturally the size. It is smaller. Not big free ways or rows of shopping malls, motels and fast food restaurants. It is another life style. This was our third visit and we always have stayed at a local bed and breakfast. Often it is old ladies and widows who are renting out a couple of rooms and then give you a home made breakfast in the morning. Also this time we stayed in such a place out side the city center but we could take the water taxi down town. Back we walked on the beautiful board walk that follows the shore. And the restaurants were all serving the local food – salmon, crabs and halibut. Now I have no statistics so I do not know how the overall energy consumption is. Canada has on average equally high consumption as USA but Victoria I would guess to be significantly lower – and with a very high life quality. An alternative living would be to live on a floating house and have you sailboat beside.



A house on a boat



The water taxi



Our B & B

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

The Pacific Ocean

The original native tribes who lived along the coast of the Pacific Ocean from California to British Columbia experienced one of the last wildernesses on Earth from the forests full of giant trees and a variety of animals, rivers full of Salmon and the oceans full of shell fish, halibut and whales. Following the gold rush with the immigration of thousands and then millions of white men this land was transformed to a totally other reality during a very short time.

The natives called this the “brink of the world”. And it was the end of civilized man’s journey towards west in search for a better life and to become rich. There were no more wildernesses to conquer or was it. Like we have treated our land as a “resource” for our consumption we also started to treat the oceans in the same way. What seemed totally impossible – that is that we would manage to consume so much fish, pollute so much toxins and now even increase the temperature – now is a reality. What we consider the most intelligent life form at sea – the whales- has become a symbol for this – another genocide. There are now after the banning of whale hunting a stabilization of the population. Orcas are swimming along the enormous fleet of ships feeding USA and Canada with consumer goods from Asia. And naturally this is a fantastic experience to see these large animals again. But the original problem not only remains but is accelerating – the exponential increase of our consumption.



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

Our choice

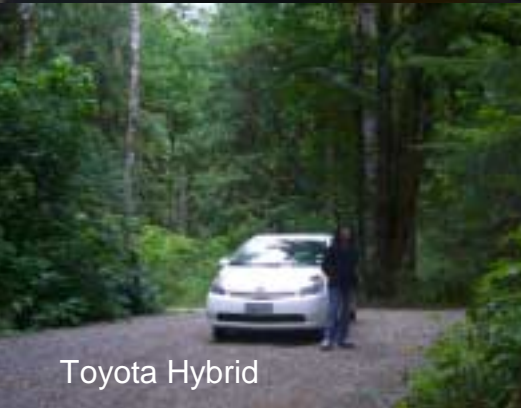
We drove from Seattle via Port Angeles to Victoria and Vancouver (Ferry) and then back to Seattle. Our Toyota hybrid managed this trip with gas for only 50 USD although we were up to 6000 feet. But driving on the free ways entering Seattle it was like no global warming existed. Almost all cars were large and with only the driver. Our “Ego trip”. And then hundreds of trucks. One of the main problems is our rapid increase of oil consumption for our cars. And the more money we earn the bigger car we will buy. Today you already have a choice. You may drive a large SUV and a large trailer or you may drive a small car on Ethanol or a Hybrid. But the best is naturally to use public transportation, bicycle or walk.



Cadillac



Hummer



Toyota Hybrid



GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

My Cadillac and my Hummer



THE ESCALADE HYBRID IS COMING THIS FALL.
EPA ESTIMATED 20 MPG CITY.* ▶

▶ 08 ESCALADE

- 6.2L Vortec V8 VVT with 403 hp
- 0-60 mph: 6.5 Seconds
- 6-Speed Transmission with Driver Shift Control
- Rear-Wheel Drive or Available All-Wheel Drive
- Power Opening and Closing Lift Gate
- HID Headlamps
- Bose® 5.1 Cabin Surround® Sound System
- Adaptive Remote Start
- Available DVD-based¹ Navigation Radio
- Ultrasonic Rear Park Assist



Engine

Engine Type	Gen IV 6.2L Vortec V8 VVT
Horsepower/Torque	403 hp at 5,700 rpm and 417 lb-ft at 4,300 rpm

Transmission

Drive System	Rear-Wheel Drive system or All-Wheel Drive system with single-speed open differential transfer case, 40/60 front/rear torque split and full-time operation
Standard Transmission	Hydra-Matic 6L80 heavy-duty 6-speed automatic transmission with electronically controlled shifts plus Driver Shift Control manual mode and tow/haul mode
Final Drive Ratio	3.42

Fuel System

Fuel Delivery	Sequential fuel injection
Fuel Economy	EPA estimated 12 mpg city, 18 mpg highway (AWD) EPA estimated 12 mpg city, 19 mpg highway (2WD)

2008 HUMMER H3 SPECS

2008 Hummer H3 Performance & Efficiency Standard Features

- 5,328 cc 5.3 liters V 8 front engine with 95.0 mm bore, 92.0 mm stroke, 9.9 compression ratio, overhead valve, variable valve timing/camshaft and two valves per cylinder LHS
- Unleaded fuel 87
- Multi-point injection fuel system
- 23.0 gallon main unleaded fuel tank 19.1
- Heavy duty alternator
- Heavy duty battery
- Power: 224 kW , 300 HP SAE @ 5,200 rpm; 320 ft lb , 434 Nm @ 4,000 rpm



Vehicle Highlights

MSRP: [\\$30,595](#) - [\\$39,160](#)

MPG: [13 city](#) / [16 hwy](#)

GAIA Newsletter – Autumn 2008

carl.ohlen@lacable.se

My Toyota Prius and Volvo S40 E85

In the city the fuel efficiency is 48 MPG. The Cadillac is 12 MPG and the Hummer is 13 MPG. So people driving this Cadillac or Hummer is polluting 4 times as much as when you drive a Toyota Prius. And you also has to include the material used to produce the car. The bigger the car the more material is needed. And yes there are other alternatives. An Ethanol car with 15% gas mixture will pollute even less. My E85 Volvo will use 1 l/10 km of fuel or 20 MPG. But since only 15% is gasoline and the rest Ethanol my gas efficiency is 0.15 l/10 miles or 133 MPG. And if you bike or walk it is absolutely clean.

This is however not only connected to the type of car you are using. Do you go alone or to you share a ride. Do you frequently drive miles after miles to go to the shopping center. Do you fly or do you go on a cruise. It is very simple. The more you will travel the more you will consume and the more you will pollute. There is no free lunch!



E85 USES A MIXTURE OF 85% BIOETHANOL AND 15% CONVENTIONAL PETROL |

SEP 08

FLEXIFUEL FUEL UP NATURALLY

www.volvocars.com

Copyright
Privacy policy

