



## **Second Annual SLOW LIVING SUMMIT**

Downtown Brattleboro, Vermont — May 30-June 1, 2012

A national convening of cross-sector intelligence, ideas and action for sustainable living  
“Common interests, common solutions, common good”

<http://www.slowlivingsummit.org>

For immediate release – March 20, 2012

### **Slow Living Summit to explore solutions for sustainable economics, communities and policies**

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Engaged citizens, entrepreneurs, investors, educators, journalists, students, civic, foundation and non-profit leaders will gather May 30-June 1 to invent and implement cross-sector solutions for sustainable communities in a post-carbon, new-economy world.

The second-annual U.S. Slow Living Summit, is a national convening of intelligence, ideas and action for sustainable living co-organized by graduate schools in management and international development. It boasts at least 50 sessions on topics like food, agriculture, spirit, investing, energy, technology, entrepreneurship, communities, media and sustainability – plus theater, video and music offerings.

“Imagine a conference that takes place not in the sterile corridors and conference rooms of a hotel conference center, but along the vibrant main street of a historic New England town with a rich arts scene,” says Orly Munzing, founder and executive director of Strolling of the Heifers, which is organizing the Summit.

Early-bird registration rates apply through March 31. Register at:  
<http://http://www.slowlivingsummit.org/>

“Creating a just and sustainable world isn’t just about economics and energy, it’s also about how we live and how we treat each other,” says Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, president of Marlboro College, one of the event’s co-sponsors along with Brattleboro-based World Institute-SIT. “We’re looking to solutions for our planet in which common good is just as important as private gain.”

An array of speakers and participants include Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin (recipient in 2011 of the “greenest governor” award), and David Orr, Oberlin College environmental professor and architect of the Obama administration’s policy on global warming.

Other featured participants include Woody Tasch, founder of the organization Slow Money, Charles Eisenstein, author of *Sacred Economics: Money, Gift, and Society in the Age of Transition*, Chris Martenson, author of *The Crash Course*, and Michael Shuman, director of the Institute for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Washington D.C.

Because 2012 is the United Nations-designated Year of the Co-op, the Summit will have a special focus on co-operative organizations, including participation by John Restakis, executive director of the British Columbia Co-operative Association and author of *Humanizing the Economy*.

In its three major themes —**Slow Economics, Slow Communities and Slow Policies** — the conference will examine sustainable, resilient approaches in many areas including food, energy, health care, relationships, investing and entrepreneurship.

The Summit happens just before the world-famous Strolling of the Heifers weekend — Summiters are encouraged to stay in town for the Stroll, an agriculturally-themed parade featuring scores of heifer calves, followed by the Live Green Expo, on Saturday June 2, and the Tour de Heifer farm-to-farm cycling event on Sunday, June 3.

## **PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS**

The Summit’s schedule offers five plenary sessions with high-powered speakers and panelists, and more than 50 breakout sessions covering a wide range of topic. In addition, there will be unscheduled “open space” sessions offered by Summit participants.

Among the speakers at the Summit are:

- Gov. Peter Shumlin of Vermont
- David Orr, Prof. of Environmental Studies, Oberlin College, Oberlin OH
- Woody Tasch, founder and chair, Slow Money, Brookline MA Charles Eisenstein, author, *Sacred Economics*, Harrisburg PA
- Chris Martenson, author, *The Crash Course*, Montague MA
- Michael Shuman, director, Institute for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Washington DC
- Ricky Baruc, co-founder, Seeds of Solidarity, Orange MA
- Lynn Benander, CEO, Coop Power, Greenfield MA
- David Bollier, cofounder, Commons Strategy Group, Amherst MA

- Scott Budde, managing director, Global Social and Community Investing, TIAA-CREF, New York NY
- Susan Clark, author, *Slow Democracy: Replacing McPolitics with More Community, Better Decisions, and Real Change*, Middlesex VT
- Jeff Clements, co-founder, Free Speech for People, Amherst MA
- Chuck Collins, Senior Scholar, Institute for Policy Studies, Jamaica Plain MA
- Amy Cortese, author, *Locavesting*, Brooklyn NY
- Erbin Crowell, executive director, Neighboring Food Coop Association, Shelburne Falls MA

## WHAT IS SLOW LIVING?

**“Slow” means sustainability, resilience, and mindful communities.** "Slow" as a metaphor for "sustainable" first came into use via the global Slow Food movement — founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy in 1986 both as a rejection of "fast food" and as an advocate for local and traditional food production and consumption. Slow Food has inspired other organizations like Slow Money and CittaSlow (Slow Cities) — and now Slow Living in the form of the Slow Living Summit.

"Slow Living" is shorthand for taking a more reflective approach to living and work; an approach that is mindful of impacts on the environment, on Earth, and on communities; and an approach that incorporates resilience — our ability to “bounce back” from the consequences of climate change, resource depletion and other changes and stresses.

This simple phrase, "Slow Living," expresses the fundamental paradigm shift that is underway in this age. “Slow” encodes the transformative change from faster and cheaper to slower and better—where quality, community and the future matter. It’s about slowing down and becoming more mindful of our basic connection with land, place and people, taking the long view that builds a healthy, fulfilling way of life for the generations to come. It is about common good taking precedence over private gain.

## QUOTATIONS

*We’re getting to see the side-effects of a ‘fast’ world — floods, droughts, melting ice, not to mention communities where people have fewer friends than they used to. It’s time to change that!*

— Bill McKibben, 2011 Summit speaker, invited speaker at 2012 Summit

*Our goal is to cross the chasms and silos which separate the various ‘slow’ movements – to discover the essence of our common search for simplicity, sustainability, enhanced environment, community connection and meaning.*

— Orly Munzing, conference founder, exec. dir. of Strolling of the Heifers

## SUMMIT THEMES AND TOPICS

The Slow Living Summit will examine ongoing and potential actions in many areas, always with an action-oriented focus on **defining problems, proposing solutions and identifying resources**.

The Summit will offer:

- **Five major plenary sessions** with keynoters and top-tier panel conversations Wednesday evening and Thursday and Friday morning and afternoon
- **Dozens of breakout discussion sessions**, panels, presentations and performances
- **And plenty of time for Slow Spaces** — time, space and facilitation of open-space sessions: spontaneous discussions, collaborations, presentations and networking

These sessions will be organized into three overarching themes:

- **Slow Economics** — Exploring economics based on collaboration and integrity rather than extraction and wealth-creation. Session topics include:
  - Common language for Wall Street and Main Street
  - Steady state economics: Possibility or pipe dream?
  - Putting our money where our mouths are
  - Is income inequality sustainable?
  - Slow Money: Investing as if food, farms and fertility matter
  - Slow corporate soul: If a corporation is not a person, can it have soul?
  - Alternative investment: Before, beyond or without an “exit strategy”
  - Slow-cal economics: Are national and global ever as good as local ownership?
- **Slow Communities** — Tools for building healthy, sustainable and resilient communities. Session topics include:
  - Slow livelihoods: Designing resilient work and lifestyles
  - Creative placemaking: Art and identifying the common good
  - Food literacy: Relearning the science and culture of real food
  - Starting from hope: Half full, or half empty?
  - Co-ops: Humanizing the economy
  - Resilience: A new design paradigm for buildings and communities
  - Intentional communities: A how-to guide to co-housing
  - Slow relationships: Changing how we perceive and treat each other
  - Low media: The role of journalism in Slow Living
  - The Transition movement to create resilient communities
  - Spirit: Reimagining Earth

- **Slow Policies** — Economic policy and fostering public-private collaboration. Session topics include:
  - Farms to Schools: Toward a commitment to sustainability education
  - Sustainable literacy: Integrating “green” into a standards-based K-12 curriculum
  - Sustainability in higher education: Leadership by example
  - Building to last: Ownership and governance for sustainability (L3Cs, B-corporations, Co-ops, ESOPs)
  - Corporate personhood: Citizens United and the drive for a constitutional amendment.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Slow Living Summit is the intersection for sharing slow-living ideas and innovation. At the 2012 gathering, participants will:

- **Connect** with other participants before the gathering, through an innovative, early contact with other attendees.
- **Network** across silos of expertise and interest during numerous discussions, meals and social events.
- **Shape** a consensus agenda in real-time within “open-space” sessions and tracks.
- **Engage** with Brattleboro, a unique New England town! (See description below.)

Participants will take away from SLS2012:

- **Practical tools, advice and information** about incorporating slow-living principles into work and home life.
- **New professional colleagues and contacts** across education, business, science, public policy and advocacy.

## WHY BRATTLEBORO?

The Summit doesn’t happen in the usual sterile conference hotel — instead, Brattleboro’s Main Street hosts this gathering, opening up a restored cinema, outdoor walking spaces, cafés, the Marlboro College Graduate School, and other venues to screenings, performances, talks, discussions, workshops and general sessions.

Summiteers will discover Brattleboro — a small community in southern Vermont — renowned for decades for its commitment to healthy, local, sustainable living and technology, for its vibrant communities of visual and performance artists, craftspeople, poets and writers, and for the diversity of its shops, restaurants and galleries. In turn Brattleboro is a gateway to the Green Mountains and Vermont — a state renowned for

innovation in small business, renewable energy, healthy living and progressive government.

## **RATES:**

Currently, through March 31, 2012, “Early Bird” Registration rates, about 25 percent off full rates, are in effect as follows:

- **General registration: \$189**
- **Spouse or significant other**, registering together with a full-rate general registration: \$149
- **Student rate: \$95** — limited to students enrolled in a college-level degree program, part-time or full-time; or full-time secondary school students. We reserve the right to request verification.)
- **Local limited means rate: \$95** — limited to people residing in Brattleboro or within 25 miles who are of limited means; limited to 50 slots on first-come basis. Registrants in this category will receive a brief application to complete. Acceptance is by committee approval. Denied applicants may upgrade to general rate or receive a refund.
- **Stipend reservation rate: \$25** — We are seeking sponsor support for a limited number of scholarship stipend slots. Registrants in this category will receive a brief application to complete. Acceptance is by committee approval and subject to stipend availability. Issuance to approved applicants is on first-come basis. Denied applicants may receive a refund or upgrade to rates that were in effect at time of stipend reservation registration.

Rates will increase as follows (see restrictions and conditions above):

- **April 1-May 14: Advance rates:** General registration \$225; Spouse/SO rate \$179; Student rate \$105; Local limited means rate \$105 subject to availability. Stipend reservations will no longer be available.
- **Final advance and onsite rates:** May 15-June 1: General registration \$249; Spouse/SO rate \$199; Student rate \$125; Local limited means rate \$125 subject to availability. Stipend reservations will no longer be available.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND INQUIRIES:**

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