

SILVER/DECEMBER

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NEWS



BILDBYRÅN SILVER HAS MOVED!

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SOLUTIONS BY NOOR!

NOOR's newest Climate Change group project: Solutions by NOOR. Ten photographers show what is and can be done to reverse or slow down climate change.

This is the follow-up project to: Consequences by NOOR project from last year.

In this newsletter we will not have the space to present all of the Solutions projects so please contact Bildbyrån Silver for more information.

THIS ARE THE SOLUTIONS PROJECTS SO FAR:

The Cuban Solution by Jon Lowenstein

Globally there are more countries with few resources and people forced into environmentally conscious decisions by necessity than places with 'whizz bang' gadgets.

Greening the Ghetto by Nina Berman

What was once America's most famous slum is now at the forefront of a national movement tackling climate change with environmental justice, one street at a time.

Brazil's Sweet Solution by Francesco Zizola

To reduce oil dependence in a decade threatened by the first oil crisis and its resulting oil shortages, has brought Brazil to the forefront of the battle against climate change.

Wind Energy in China by Kadir van Lohuizen

The Mongolian herdsman have received compensation from the energy companies to allow them to build these high-tech wind parks on their land.

Steamland: Geothermal Energy in Iceland by Pep Bonet

Nearly all homes in Iceland are heated by geothermal heat, one of Iceland's greatest natural resources.

Russia's Green Exodus by Yuri Kozyrev

The back to the land movement is drawing thousands of professionals - weary of consumerism, state policy and corruption - to far corners of Russia searching of happier, forms of living.

Human-Powered Transport by Philip Blenkinsop

Rickshaw cays, filtering swirling, carbon-monoxide-blues, invite glances from within, both furtive and not.

Tupande Miti! Sustainable Forestry in Congo by A.Fazzina

Deforestation produces about one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. Protecting the world's remaining tropical forests is a key part of the solution to tackling the climate crisis.

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GREENING THE GHETTO

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Greening the Ghetto **South Bronx, USA, July - October 2010.** **Nina Berman**

What was once America's most famous slum is now at the forefront of a national movement tackling climate change with environmental justice, one street at a time. What's good for the planet is also good for the 'hood.

Over the years, motivated residents who saw possibility where others found wreckage cleaned out abandoned lots and created green spaces. Global warming wasn't on their minds. They yearned to create peace amid chaos and nurture themselves and their neighbors, one plot at a time. Slowly, public space was transformed.

More than 100 community gardens manned by crews of volunteers are thriving in the most unlikely places – tucked in near train tracks or sandwiched between housing projects. Here, urban farmers grow everything from eggplant to beans, cantaloupes and broccoli.

Local schools are teaming up with gardeners to teach kids basic nutrition and agriculture. One child on a garden tour thought the apples scattered under the trees had been bought at the supermarket – he didn't realize apples grew on trees. In a borough with high rates of diabetes and obesity, teaching kids how to eat, and persuading them to choose fresh fruits and vegetables over fast food, is a health necessity.

The movement has reached a pivotal point. Right now, gardeners eat what they grow, or give it away to churches and shelters, or sell it at neighborhood farmers' markets. The vision is for the gardens to become part of a more systemized network of urban growers – farming in gardens and on rooftops that can supply local schools, hospitals, restaurants and residents. The benefits would be enormous. Local food requires less transportation and so less CO2 emissions. Those without jobs – the South Bronx is one of the poorest places in America -- could work in farms. Organically produced fruits, vegetables and eggs (some gardens have hens) are healthier than the pesticide laced, processed food served up by corporate agribusiness.

Community gardening is just one component of a bigger greening strategy that must tackle the historical reality of the Bronx having been built as a place to serve cars rather than people.

Waterfront parks, where there were previously none, have opened in the past few years and a greenway for runners and cyclists will open in 2011. Majora Carter, founder of Sustainable South Bronx, an environmental justice and jobs training organization, grew up in the Bronx but never knew there was a river flowing through it until she happened upon the Bronx River one day while walking her dog. This experience inspired her to 'dare to imagine', resulting in the Hunts Point Riverside Park, the first new park built in 60 years and a jewel of the New York City parks system.

Text by Nina Berman (more text is available)

More pictures available at: www.bildbyransilver.se

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A butterfly can be seen at the newly opened Hunts Point River park, on the site a former dump and junk lot. Envisioned by environmental activists and conceived with the help of the City, the park provides access to the Bronx River, which had previously been closed.

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76-year-old Abu Talib helped turn a vacant lot filled with old cars, tires, and garbage, into this half block long urban paradise with watermelons, peaches, apples, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and chickens. Local residents become members and farm their own plots. During the week, Talib and his son Robert Watson sell food to local residents who now have access to affordable, organic, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

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Clay Garden, built on the site of a burned down home by a resident across the street, provides urban farming opportunities for local residents. In the background, are the Webster Morrisania public Housing projects which house over 2000 people and are one of the poorest demographics in the Bronx

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Beekeepers Zan Asha and Dwaine Lee check their hives located on the rooftop of Zans building in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. Zan is a descendant of bee keepers in Hungary and is continuing the tradition in New York. In the wake of colony collapse, Zan is bee keeping and lending her bees out to local gardens. The roof of her building is also a green roof.

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Padre Plaza Success Garden, a thriving garden and focal point of the neighborhood in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx. High School students learn gardening (a boy sees his very first worm) and there is a weekly farmers market.

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Concrete Plant Park, 7 acre park on the site of a former concrete batch mix plant, is one of the milestones in the creation of the Bronx River greenway, an environmental effort to transform the bronx river. New york city and local activists re-established salt marshes on the riverbank once strewn with trash and tires, and opened it up to recreation and water activities

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Russia's Green Exodus

Photo: Yuri Kozyrev

The Vissarion community, Abakan, 1996 and 1999.
 The Anastasia movement, Novosibirsk, October 2010.
 The Kukui community, Altai Mountains, October 2010.
 The Nevo-Ecoville community, Karelia, November 2010.

Russia's Green Exodus, the back to the land movement, is drawing thousands of professionals weary of the new consumerism, state policy and corruption. They live in tepees, raise horses and identify themselves with Native Americans. They believe in the magic powers of cedar trees and plant them by the thousands. They create hundreds of ecological communes in far corners of Siberia, the Altai Mountains and the Karelian woods in search of happier, alternative forms of living. Yuri Kozyrev documented four different communities.

The movement started about 15 years ago. Some represent the outgrowth of old Socialist ideals, transformed by religious rhetoric. At least 10,000 Russians have joined just one commune, City of Sun, led by the Christ of Siberia, or Vissarion, an ecological sect outside Abakan. By selling all their property and giving the money to their charismatic leader, Vissarion's followers have burned all bridges to their old life. They are heavily criticized by the Russian Orthodox Church, as being "green" saved religious communes from political persecution.

The tree lovers, or **Anastasia movement**, involving over 100,000 registered activists of eco communes, idealize the return to rural peasant life. 'All my life, I've been a part of the system: at school, as a university student, then as a faithful officer, but the system fell apart before my eyes, destroyed by traders, by stealers, by outrageously corrupt managers. The motherland is what teaches us to live in harmony,' says Dmitry Ivanov, a former colonel and an ideologist of the Land of Plenty commune, outside Novosibirsk on the Ob River.

Hundreds of Russian fans of Native American culture ran away to the Altai Mountains, settling in **Kukui community**. They followed the traditional life of Native American tribes, living in tepees, working on Soviet horse collective farms and wearing traditional Native American clothes – they copied the designs from Marlboro adverts somebody brought from Poland, or from pictures found in books about American Indians.

After almost 20 years of searching for the best alternative life, the residents of Nevo Eco-Ville commune say they have found harmony. 'The key to successful life in a commune is strong family relations – nobody has managed to escape city life, go green and stay happy without family support,' says Andrei Obruch, a father of four natural and four adopted children. Obruch's family teach their children at home; vegetarians, they eat what they grow in their garden. Every summer crowds of European backpackers and eco-tourists stop at Nevo Eco-Ville commune, well-known for its hospitable and friendly atmosphere.

More pictures available at: www.bildbyransilver.se

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Nevo-Ecoville - Russia, Karelia, Sortavalski district. six families live there year-round growing seeds and seedlings, doing architectural designs and construction, trying to fish-raising and scientific research.

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Gray Owl's farm is famous for traditional Lakota tribe pipe smoking ceremonies. Eco tourism lovers come to stay at Gray Owl's Tepees in Kalmak village; and learn how to perform a shaman healing ceremony at a sweat house. Gray Owl and his 8 year old daughter, Nastia, order their Indian outfits, traditional American Indian tobacco, Cowboy Hats and boots from the Dakotas by Internet. A big sign over their gate says: "Private Native American Territory".

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The believers of the Vissarion community during the Vissarion birthday procession. At least 5,000 Russians joined just one such commune, Vissarion's City of Sun, an ecological sect outside Abakan. 1996-1999

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Vilaly lives among 51 other families in the Land of Plenty commune whose members range in age from one to 91 settled along the bank of Ob river, 115 kilometers North of Novosibirsk. The tree lovers, or Anastasia movement, involving at least 100,000 people, idealize the return to rural peasant life.

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In 1990 former Siberian traffic cop, Sergey Anatolyevitch Torop, had a revelation that he was the reincarnation of Christ and founded a religious movement known as the Church of the Last Testament. The settlement, Tiberkul, was established in 1994 has nearly five thousand inhabitants. 1996-1999

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Natalia and Vitalyi Hohlyly live among 51 other families in Novosibirsk. About 100,000 Russian families follow the Anastasia movement, based on the ideas of spiritual books by Vladimir Megre. New communities of homesteaders have sprung up across some of the most remote sections of Russia in the past decade, including Siberia, attracting thousands of Russians in search of a simple, self-sufficient and environmentally friendly lifestyle free from state control and big city corruption.

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Brazil's Sweet Solution

Photo: Francesco Zizola

The biofuel that powers more than 10 million cars.

Started as a way to reduce oil dependence in a decade threatened by the first oil crisis and its resulting oil shortages, after 35 years the commercial production of sugar cane ethanol fuel has brought Brazil to the forefront of the battle against climate change.

An agro-industrial giant, Brazil is the world's second largest producer of ethanol and the world's largest producer of sugar cane, which is used as feedstock in the production of bio-ethanol. Brazilian ethanol derived from sugar cane is deemed the most successful biofuel to date in terms of energy balance and greenhouse gas emissions and it has slowly been replacing gasoline and diesel in significant sectors. Today, bio-ethanol is not only used to power light vehicles, but is also being tested on power buses in city centers and electric powers plants.

Since Brazil's government launched the 'National Alcohol Program' in 1975, making a blend of petrol and ethanol mandatory for light vehicles, pure petrol is no longer sold in the country and in March 2010 'flex-cars' (running on a mix of petrol and ethanol) reached a record of 10 million vehicles built by Brazilian automakers since 2003.

Despite concerns raised by environmentalists and humanitarian organizations, at present the advantages of ethanol produced from sugar cane seem to outnumber the drawbacks. Bio-ethanol is a renewable energy source, its emissions are cleaner than fossil fuel emissions and it contributes to mitigate global warming. This is achieved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% to 100%, thanks to an overall balance between the CO2 absorbed by the growing crops and the carbon emissions produced by the vehicles running on ethanol.

But the 'sweet' news isn't over yet. Besides literally setting millions of Brazilians in motion, sugar cane is now producing electricity. After being crushed, sugar cane cellulosic residue (known as bagasse) is partly processed into second generation bio-fuels and is partly burned at power cane mills. The energy surplus from bagasse burning is channeled to the Brazilian national grid and about 3% of the country's electricity now comes from the sweet crop, complementing production from the hydro-electric plants that provide much of Brazil's power during the dry season.

Thanks to abundant rainfalls, the 2010-11 harvest is expected to break all sugar cane harvest records in the centre-south region of Brazil, the biggest sugar cane growing area in the world. With 570.19 million tons of sugar cane on the horizon, ready to be crushed, Brazil's contributions to mitigating global warming have never looked sweeter.

More pictures available at: www.bildbyransilver.se

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A previously harvested sugar cane field is lit by the fires burning on the surrounding fields. Sugar cane in Brazil is harvested either by hand, the traditional method, or by machines. Harvesting operations have been mechanized in the majority of Brazil's sugar cane mills but some fields on uneven terrain are not accessible to machines and have to be burned to facilitate manual harvesting.

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Bagasse, the cellulosic residue of cane crushing, is collected in large quantities and then burned in co-generation electric power plants that can satisfy the electric energy needs of the cane mill. The energy surplus from bagasse burning is channelled to the Brazilian national grid and about 3% of the country's electricity now comes from bagasse co-generation plants. Bagasse is also being assessed as a potential feedstock for second and third generation bio-fuels.

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A cluster of shacks inhabited by seasonal sugar cane workers. Sugar cane in Brazil is harvested in two different periods: from April to December in South-Central Brazil, and from September to March in the Northeast. In these regions the labour demands in the fields are primarily filled by Brazilians who migrate seasonally. Sugar cane companies not strictly following the rules imposed to the sugar industry allow their seasonal workers to live in very poor conditions.

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After harvesting, most cane is delivered to a mill in less than 24 hours. After the cutting process, sugar cane is highly perishable and needs to be processed immediately, to ensure that the sugar content is not lost. For this reason, the mills are generally located either among the fields or in the surrounding areas. 1 ton of Brazilian sugar cane can yield about 85 litres of ethanol.

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In 2007 a Green Protocol was signed between So Paulo state government and the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA). This anticipated the elimination of sugar cane fields burning by 2014 in fields where mechanised harvest is possible, and 2017 on steeper slopes, not yet accessible with existing technology.

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Brazil. Betim. Minas Gerais. Fiat manufacturing plant. 21 October 2010. A worker assembling a flex-fuel car. Brazilian flex-fuel cars can run either on ethanol or on petrol. They are equipped with ethanol-ready engines and one fuel tank for both fuels.

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Wind Energy in China Photo: Kadir van Lohuizen

Inner Mongolia, November 2010.

Since China has committed to a low-carbon development path, it has now become the second biggest producer of wind energy, after the US. With current wind power capacity at 25.8 gigawatt (GW) and capacity sharply increasing, it will be number one by 2011. Big wind farms with thousands of windmills are being constructed in provinces including Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Gansu. The current capacity is enough to serve 55 million Chinese households.

Over the last five years, thousands of windmills have been erected on the vast steppes of Inner Mongolia. Goldwind, a Chinese wind turbine company ranking among the top five in the world, built 200 windmills last year. Goldwind alone has installed 7,000 windmills to date. The windmills are on average 65 meters (215 feet) high, each blade is 34 meters/110 feet long and each generates 1.5 megawatts. A nuclear power plant generates on average 1000 megawatts; thus 1,500 windmills will need to be installed to equal this.

On the steppes, Mongolian herdsmen look strange amid these high-tech wind parks. The herdsmen have received compensation from the energy companies to allow them to build the windmills on their land. Now the old and the new meet and mingle on the steppes.

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The windfarm at Wutalazhongqi, close to the Mongolian border has around 800 windmills.

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Zhao Shoushan (60) and his wife Tong Shuhua (55) are herdsmen in Wulanyiligen. Nowadays they live between the windmills. They have 600 sheep and goats.

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The central control room at the Beijing Jingneng New Energy Corporation at the windfarm Wulanyiligen. A computerscreen with all windmills The screen indicates the generated Kw and the windspeed for each windmill.

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Zhongfu Lianzhong Composites Group Co., Ltd. is the factory where the blades for the windmills are being produced. The factory produces blades of 34 meters and 40 meters. The blades are made of fibreglass.

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The blades of a new windmill at the windfarm of Chayouzhongqi are being mounted. Each blade has a length of 34 meters, where the tower itself is 65 meters. One blade weighs 6 tons. The the windfarm of Chayouzhongqi consists of about 1000 windmills.

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About Bildbyrån Silver

In contrast to the wide variety of commercial images, there is a photoagency that works exclusively with documentary and narrative images. Images that simply convey their story and are not solely provided as a complement to a piece of text.

Bildbyrån Silver appeals to every image user imaginable and sells features, individual images and entire image series. All images are carefully selected and created by some of the world's best photographers.

Partners

PANOS PICTURES
 POWERHOUSE BOOKS
 REDUXPICTURES
 AFRICAN PICTURES
 CONTRASTO
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*Please observe that all our photographers are available for assignments

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