



Works in Progress

"Conserving Coastal Georgia's Natural Heritage... Investing in Our Children's Future"

Summer 2008

Jekyll Island: How much is too much?

State officials still cannot answer a key question that we continue asking:
"Just how many overnight visitors can be accommodated without losing the uniquely affordable, slow-paced appeal of this popular coastal state park?"

Statewide public outcry over the Jekyll Island Authority's (JIA) plans to redevelop – and apparently overdevelop – the existing commercial area and convention center has caused significant delays in the project. The precise nature of project revisions – now underway – is unknown, but the Authority and the developers are clearly responding to the conservation and other public interest concerns raised by the Center, the Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island (IPJI), and others. (See links noted in the lower right corner.)

The Center and many of our colleagues take issue with a number of elements in the \$352 million, 63-acre proposed redevelopment plan of the JIA and its developer, Linger Longer Communities. The plan runs counter to the past Jekyll Island Master Plan and, even now, numerous Jekyll hotels are already being expanded, which would *double* previous overnight capacity. Nevertheless, the plan calls for a new hotel, numerous private condominiums, and time-share dwellings that have never been justified as part of any redevelopment analysis.

At a recent meeting of the Authority, Center executive director David Kyler told JIA board members that proceeding with the "town center" plan prior to completing a capacity study or refining and adopting the long-awaited conservation plan – two efforts already way behind schedule on the JIA agenda – is "logically inverted." Any proposed development could violate the JIA's existing conservation plan, and a capacity study would ensure that the size of the project is appropriate. Despite this reasoning, JIA Board chairman Ben Porter summarily dismissed these Center objections.

But the numbers justifying the need for a major new project don't add up.

David Egan, co-director of IPJI, exposed the JIA's misrepresentation of declining visitation to the island – an argument used by the JIA to justify its proposed development to the state legislature and others.

Egan focused on the JIA's irreconcilable assertion that automotive traffic entering the island fell by 44 percent between 1996 and 1997 while hotel occupancy declined by only 2 percent.

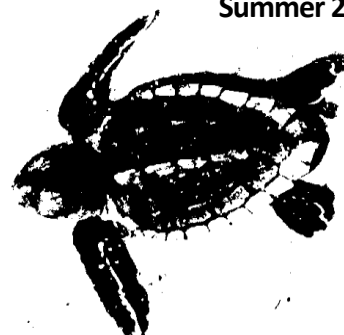
Dr. Kenneth Cordell, an expert on outdoor recreation analysis with the U.S. Forest Service, agrees with Egan's critique. "In my research over the years, I have never seen data changes that drastic," he says, "and no one seems to be able to offer a satisfactory explanation." Cordell's latest study showed traffic onto the island has remained relatively stable over the years.

Dr. Cordell also validated our proposal for the JIA to launch a transparent planning process with ample opportunities for substantive public participation.

Other unanswered questions remain, casting doubt on JIA's objectives.

Apart from the town center project, but equally troubling, is a \$10 million lease-fee waiver for a beachfront hotel that was approved by JIA after little discussion.

The only justification offered was that it would help 'jump-start' redevelopment. Prior to abruptly granting this waiver, the JIA board considered charging a premium to the developer because of the site's high-profit beachfront location.



The Center agrees that lodging improvements and more quality family dining options are needed on Jekyll, and that the convention center should be renovated. But the Center and IPJI oppose any redevelopment that includes high-cost accommodations, such as privately owned condos, or other facilities that jeopardize the island's ecosystem – and over 10,000 surveyed Jekyll visitors agree. The survey can be viewed at www.ipji.org/survey.

In a published letter to the editor of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* last spring, the Center executive director wrote,

"With proper guidance, the Jekyll redevelopment effort could become a national model of success – demonstrating a strong conservation and sustainability ethic worth emulating. Unfortunately, realizing such an inspiring legacy is being stymied by the JIA's aversion to transparency, objective use of environmental and capacity criteria, and meaningful public involvement."

What's Next for Jekyll?

Linger Longer Communities is expected to present a revised plan within the next 60 days. JIA will consider additional public comment. We'll keep you posted on our website.

Links to related Center articles:

<http://savannahnow.com/node/478911>
<http://nl.newsbank.com/nojavascript.html>

Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island:

www.savejekyllisland.org



"To grow smarter, we need to get smarter."

Center, Executive Director & Colleagues Honored by Common Cause Georgia

The Center's executive director was among those honored at *Common Cause Georgia's* annual Democracy Awards Dinner in Atlanta on April 27. Common Cause is a national, non-partisan good-government advocacy group dedicated to holding those in political power accountable. Common Cause presented the award to **David Kyler** for the Center's efforts to strengthen Georgia's tidal marsh protection through an appeal of the marsh permit issued by DNR for the Cumberland Harbour project in St. Marys, Georgia.

The case is the third in a series of marsh permit appeals, beginning with Emerald Pointe in Chatham County in 2001, followed by Man Head Marina in Glynn County in 2003. The appeals focus on controlling impacts to the

marsh from upland development made viable through issuance of a state marshlands permit.

The Center and our partners insist that a marsh permit issued for a bridge to a hammock or for a marina must protect the marsh and its wildlife from storm water runoff and other direct impacts to the marsh. Judges in all three cases have ruled in favor of the Center and in favor of marsh protection.

For the first time on appeal, the Georgia Court of Appeals sided with the state and the developer, and the case is now on appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court. The Center is represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center and the case is now being reviewed by the Georgia Supreme Court. A decision is expected at any time.

Accepting the Common Cause award on the Center's behalf was **Ms. Dory Ingram**, an Atlanta resident who is a Jekyll Island homeowner and active Center member.

Ms. Ingram explained, "I was extremely honored to represent the Center for a Sustainable Coast, whose work is so essential to safeguarding our vulnerable coastal resources. Coastal Georgia is treasured by millions because of these magnificent natural resources, especially our marshes, which are the most beautiful and renowned feature of our coast. I am proud to be a member of the Center and extremely encouraged that the organization's work is being recognized."



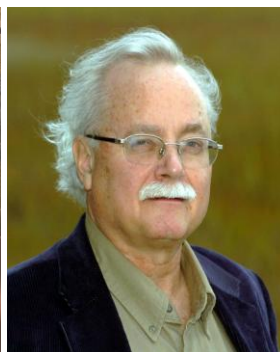
Chris DeScherer
Southern Environmental Law Center



April Ingle
Georgia River Network



Jim Grode
Turner Environmental Law Clinic



David Kyler
Center for a Sustainable Coast



Gordon Rogers
Satilla Riverkeeper

Also honored at the ceremony were **Chris DeScherer** with Southern Environmental Law Center, Steve O'Day with the law firm of Smith, Gambrell, and Russell, and **Jim Grode** with Turner Environmental Law Clinic, who formed the legal team on the case, and representatives of the two other appellant groups, **April Ingle**, director of Georgia River Network, and **Gordon Rogers** of Satilla Riverkeeper.

In presenting the award, Common Cause Georgia's executive director, Bill Bozarth, said: "At the heart of efforts defending the marshlands sits a dedicated non-profit group called the Center for a Sustainable Coast. Headquartered above a hardware store on St. Simons Island, the Center has stood as a guardian for eleven years to ensure that the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act is enforced."

David Kyler responded by saying, "It was a real morale boost to receive this honor. It gives us a renewed sense that we are doing good work that's improving protection of coastal Georgia's environment and advancing the public's long-term interests."

Common Cause Georgia is a non-profit, non-partisan citizens' lobby organization. It believes that by banding together, citizens can make a difference. Common Cause throws a spotlight on issues that affect all Georgians. The group works to strengthen public participation and to ensure that the political process serves the public interest, rather than the special interests. Their purpose is clear: make public officials and public institutions accountable and responsive to citizens.

In fond memory of Nick Williams. Beloved defender of the coast and Center board president.

The Center's board and staff were saddened by the death of our board president and friend, Nick Williams, a resident of Vernonburg, in Chatham County near Savannah. Nick passed away on February 21 from respiratory illness complications.

Nick joined the board of the Center for a Sustainable Coast three years ago, and was serving as board president at the time of his death. During his service to the Center, the staff, board members, and advisors developed a genuine fondness for Nick as well as a deep respect for his abiding dedication to the conservation of Georgia's coastal environment. He will be missed as both a committed environmental advocate and colleague.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Nick played a leading role in stopping the city of Savannah from polluting the Vernon River through successful legal action. In recent years, he resumed his battle to defend water quality through work on the Vernon River Committee. To protect wildlife habitat and the natural landscape, Nick and his wife Suzie put their Vernon River homesite in Chatham County, as well as their family's Highlands North Carolina property, into conservation easements, and encouraged others to follow their example.

Nick was appointed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to represent Vernonburg on an advisory group in efforts to develop rules for the Marshlands Protection Act in 2005. The following year he was asked to serve on a related group advising DNR about requirements for docks and marinas.



Nick Williams (1927 – 2008)

Consistent with Nick's generous nature and his concern for safeguarding coastal Georgia, he left word with his family that he wanted donations made in his memory to go toward supporting the Center for a Sustainable Coast.

In recognition of Nick's service to the Center and his well-developed environmental convictions, we are creating an award program in his honor. Starting this year and in the years ahead, an annual Nick Williams Coastal Georgia Sustainability Award will give credit to deserving individuals and groups for their valued efforts to conserve and sustain the treasured natural resources that are so essential to our quality of life in coastal Georgia.

We invite you to ask us about submitting nominations for the award. The closing date for making nominations is October 31.

Peter "Pete" Krull Joins Center Board

The Center for a Sustainable Coast is pleased to announce that Pete Krull has joined our board of directors. Pete is the President of Krull & Company, one of the East Coast's leading socially and environmentally responsible financial services firms.

Pete believes strongly in the importance of taking care of the environment. He is known for his well-reasoned opinion pieces on environmental issues that have appeared in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Savannah Morning News*, and *Brunswick News*.

Krull & Company is a signatory of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment and donates one percent of its revenue to progressive socially and environmentally centered charities.

Pete is active with the McIntosh County Rotary, responsible for the local scholarship competition. He is also a founding member of Savannah's GreenDrinks group. He has been on the board of directors of the Science Museum of Western Virginia and, in addition to being a Center member, Pete actively supports several other non-profit environmental groups in coastal Georgia.

The Center first learned about Pete through his unique work as a financial services provider specializing in "socially responsible" investing. He started out in the business with Merrill Lynch in 1998 and founded his firm, Krull & Company in 2004.

For years, the Center has advocated and written about socially responsible investing in our newsletters, because this type of financial activity supports environmental goals such as clean air and water, recycling, resource conservation/efficiency, and innovative, low-impact technology, including solar and wind power.

With rising concern about the implications of economic activities on wildlife and ecosystems, there are increasing opportunities for financial benefits through this kind of investing.

Pete lives on Sapelo Island with his wife, Dr. Melissa Booth, who is assistant director of the UGA Marine Institute and a research scientist. Dr. Booth is also a trusted technical advisor of the Center.

We welcome our new colleague to the organization and feel confident that he will strengthen the Center's ability to support its comprehensive mission. We are especially excited about Pete's unique ability to assist the Center in aligning the goals of environmental quality and responsible, enlightened development policy.



Pete Krull, new Center board member

Upcoming Events

Aug 27 – 29 Third Annual Environmental Conference hosted by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. **Savannah Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bay Street.** The Center's executive director will moderate a panel on water protection and speak about non-point source pollution. For more, go to www.gachamber.com.

October 4 – CoastFest, annual festival featuring exhibits on natural and cultural resources of coastal Georgia, hosted by the Department of Natural Resources in Brunswick.

October 14 -16 – Southeast Stormwater Institute, workshop on stormwater management in Savannah. Co-Hosted by:

- Center for Watershed Protection
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
- UGA Marine Extension Service

October 23 – Rivers Rock! Fundraiser event for three Riverkeeper groups: Ogeechee-Canoochee, Satilla, and Savannah. Starts at 6 p.m. at Moon River Brewing Company. For more, go to www.riversrock.org.

November 2008 – Center Annual Meeting. Presentation of the first Nick Williams Sustainability Award. Details to be announced.

Climate Change in Georgia



Background

The fact of global climate change has gradually won broad acceptance as a priority public issue among nearly all sectors of the political and economic spectrum. The reality of the worldwide warming trend, now thought to be caused by a complex combination of natural factors and human-originated activities (largely related to the combustion of fossil fuels), is already changing our environment. Within a decade or two these impacts could be profound.

Among such impacts are coastal flooding and storm-hazards caused by rising sea levels and higher ocean temperature, which is correlated with storm intensity. Computer models of the systems that produce the most threatening symptoms of climate change are not yet precise enough to predict specific consequences by location.

Given the potential risks and the difficulty of forecasting impacts, it is imperative that political decision-makers take steps to reduce harm and diminish the causes of climate change.

As a result of these concerns, some 38 states have adopted or are developing "climate action plans." These action plans include a broad array of steps incorporating land-use and transportation policy (to cut back on average travel distance and reduce carbon dioxide emissions), state purchasing policies (to require use of more efficient recycled products and reduced packaging materials), and capital improvement programs that focus on better energy efficiency in public buildings and transportation.

Priority is also given to educating the public about the adverse implications of global climate trends and the options available to homeowners and consumers for controlling them.

Despite the logic of planning for our changing climate, Georgia's political leadership has been reluctant to do so.

In fact, Georgia remains the only state on the East Coast that has not taken official steps to deal with climate change.

We believe this 'do-nothing' position is driven by a woefully misinformed and obsolete belief about the economic consequences of revising public policy to adapt to climate change. Our leaders' sense of responsibility has been clouded by conventional economic interests such as generating power from burning fossil fuels and building sprawling subdivisions that require huge amounts of energy, land, public infrastructure, and other resources.

Not only is this mindset working against public health, but it is actually contrary to the state's economic interests – both short- and long-term.

This backward thinking is especially unfounded now that Georgia is benefiting directly from huge investments being made in some of the very technologies that are promoted by efforts to address climate change and cleaner sources of energy.

For example, in recent months Georgia has been selected as the location of an experimental facility for producing ethanol from cellulose – organic fibers like switch-grass, wood scrap, and peanut hulls, for which there is now little if any market demand. And a major producer of solar panels just announced plans to build a multimillion-dollar plant in Atlanta.

The Center and many others believe that within five to ten years, these innovative industries are likely to produce jobs, energy and income of greater value to Georgians than anything that may be lost by turning away from older technologies that are making adverse climate trends worse. Likewise, converting to cleaner and more efficient ways of using energy will also improve quality of life and public health, while reducing threats of flooding and drought.

Features of Climate Change Action Programs In Other States

- ✓ Broad political support, non-partisan
- ✓ Motivated by both economic and environmental goals
- ✓ Combines public policy and tax incentives
- ✓ Comprehensive in scope and goals
- ✓ 38 states now taking action

For more, go to www.pewclimate.org and www.climatestrategies.us.

Center Staff Activities on Climate

Center staff is participating in the Chatham Environmental Forum, which has chosen a new focus – the "greening" or sustainability effort being undertaken by the Chatham County and City of Savannah governments. The Chatham County Commission, in particular, adopted a resolution calling for the county to become the "greenest" county in Georgia.

Communities across the nation have undertaken similar initiatives. This effort is an opportunity for the Center to explore climate change solutions on a local level, and then extend the approach to other communities along the coast.

The Center's climate change goals are also being pursued in the form of our participation in a state-wide, multi-organization campaign to fight three proposed new coal-fired power plants in Georgia. Because of the sheer quantity of the contribution to the greenhouse gas problem, the restriction of coal plants has to be part of any serious climate action strategy.

The Center is an active member of the *Southeast Climate Change Network* formed by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE). In this effort we are collaborating with coastal groups throughout the Southeast to boost the public's understanding of this vital issue and what can be done about it.

Climate Change, Continued**Center Staff Activities**

Staff member Wesley Woolf attended a **Climate Change Summit** at Georgia Tech in Atlanta in May. A full agenda for the Summit can be seen at <http://climatesummit.gatech.edu/>.

Prior to the conference, Wes facilitated the participation of Tom Peterson, president of Center for Climate Strategies (<http://www.climatestrategies.us/>), the leading national organization assisting states in laying the groundwork for "climate action plans" that are now adopted or underway in some 38 states.

Governor Purdue points to the state energy plan and a hodgepodge of other programs for his approach to climate change. Information on Georgia climate change impacts, however, is woefully lacking, and the programs to which the governor points are fragmented and ineffectual relative to climate change solutions. The lack of state government action is disappointing and threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of residents of Georgia – especially coastal Georgia, where climate change impacts are most likely to be felt greatest, and in the short term.

The Center is developing a portfolio of coast-focused climate change strategies, beginning with our participation in the Chatham Environmental Forum. State legislative opportunities are being explored, but progress on that front is likely to be slow – so local methods for using community planning to achieve safe and more efficient use of land, energy, and other critical resources are of particular interest.

We are coordinating with other groups working in coastal Georgia to achieve more effective use of our combined capabilities. Further, we're reorganizing and upgrading the Center's Web site. Go to www.sustainablecoast.org.

For more on climate change actions, please also visit www.wecansolveit.org.

Savannah River Basin Initiative

Project aims to integrate evaluation & control of major projects in the Savannah watershed

Several environmental organizations are collaborating to bring reliable environmental management and planning throughout the Savannah River watershed – a watershed shared by growing populations in South Carolina and Georgia. The goal is to account for significant interactive and cumulative project impacts on water supply, water quality, fisheries, and other aspects of public interest, including public health.

Among these projects are the Savannah harbor and channel deepening, the liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at Elba Island, the proposed doubling of nuclear energy produced at Plant Vogtle near Augusta (and the doubling of river water consumed), the construction of a new port across from Savannah in South Carolina, development of the river's floodplains, and the prospect of water being taken from the Savannah River to supply the needs of other watersheds, most likely those in Atlanta.

"A new, comprehensive approach to planning and evaluating major projects along the Savannah River is needed if we are to ensure environmental quality," says Center board member Steve Willis.

Willis is a leading environmental advocate now also representing the Savannah Sierra Club group. Currently, he

also happens to be a contender running for Chatham County commissioner.

The approach Willis describes is known as the Savannah River Basin Initiative (SRBI). At present, Sierra Club, Center for a Sustainable Coast and Savannah Riverkeeper officially support the SRBI.

The SRBI proposes a new public program committed to bringing responsible management to the Savannah River Basin. The Basin encompasses the entire Savannah River watershed, from its source in the mountains of Georgia and the Carolinas to Tybee Island, and throughout its 10,577 square-mile drainage area.

As part of the proposal, SRBI proponents advocate a two-state agreement between Georgia and South Carolina. The agreement would include a wide-ranging program of analysis, planning, and resource management. The needs and sustainable capacity of the entire Savannah River Basin would be protected through science-based decision-making and shared accountability.

The Center's executive director, David Kyler, agrees with Willis. "To promote the long-term quality and flow of the Savannah River, we simply cannot afford to ignore the combined impacts of multiple

projects using interconnected natural resources," he asserts. "My 30 years of experience as a professional planner and public-policy advocate make it clear that we must carefully integrate project evaluation, permitting, and monitoring."

SRBI sponsors say that the City of Savannah and the surrounding area are critically affected by the quantity and quality of water coming down the Savannah River, as are our fisheries, the safety of navigation, and industrial water supplies in the lower river. To balance these factors, integrated management of the Savannah River Basin is fundamental to the public's health and economic prospects, according to their rationale.

"Our future depends on getting smarter in making decisions about using these limited natural resources. The more we broaden the assessment, the more reliable, accountable, and controllable the consequences will be," predicts Frank Carl, executive director of Savannah Riverkeeper. "And the sooner we upgrade our methods, the more chance we have of meeting the needs of a growing population and economy."

Threats to the Savannah Basin differ in specific river and stream segments, but include dangerously low dissolved

Savannah River Basin Initiative, Cont'd

oxygen, thermal pollution, and consumptive removal of water for energy production and other industrial cooling, and rapidly escalating river pollution caused by contaminated stormwater runoff – all of which can deplete fisheries, jeopardize the health of coastal marshes, and spoil economic opportunities.

Unless properly controlled, these threats to our area could irreparably degrade the fragile coastal and marsh river basin ecology in the same way the Chesapeake Bay, Southern Louisiana, and the Everglades have been harmed by ill-informed, misguided, and poorly managed government projects. Monitoring the Basin's condition and carefully

scrutinizing the river management activities of all Georgia, South Carolina, and federal agencies is essential. No agency now has the needed authority or responsibility to provide this guidance.

SRBI supporters advocate:

1. Development of a comprehensive, reliable, integrated, and continually updated database that is available to the public and used for decision-making processes.
2. A long-range plan for conserving, evaluating, and responsibly using river resources.
3. A board of formally appointed and accountable officials (with needed staff) representing the people of Georgia and South Carolina, tasked with maintaining, improving, and

implementing the SRBI long-range plan.

Broadening support of the SRBI to include advocates from the business community, citizen groups, and other stakeholder is essential.

The three organizing groups strongly urge government leaders to withhold approval of major, high-impact projects, such as those listed above, until an integrated, well-coordinated structure of decision making is adopted.

We urge you to support this initiative by getting involved and telling your friends and elected officials about it.

Please call the Center at 912.638.3612 for more information.

Reducing water pollution with development controls

Many people know that developing land affects the coastal environment, but they may not understand the details. One of the most prominent impacts of building, especially on the coast, is pollution of water caused by stormwater runoff that carries eroded soil, lawn chemicals, parking lot particulates, and other contaminants from upland areas into surrounding creeks, rivers, marshes, and freshwater wetlands.

In fact, this kind of impact, called non-point source pollution, is so dominant that both the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) say that this is the source of most of our water quality problems.

In Georgia, nearly two-thirds of the state's waters fail to meet federal standards under the Clean Water Act, and much of this failure is the consequence of non-point source pollution.

To get a handle on the problem of non-point source pollution, EPA now requires storm water controls in urban areas. Through a series of steps under the same EPA guidelines, our state EPD

is assisting local governments in Georgia's more developed areas to adopt and implement carefully devised methods for collecting, storing, and filtering stormwater, and then returning it to waterways and wetlands.

On the Georgia coast, state agencies are leading an effort to develop model local controls (see *Green Growth Guidelines* @ <http://crd.dnr.state.ga.us>.) to guide development by using the natural landscape to reduce storm water runoff and filter it before it reaches coastal streams and marshes.

The Center recognizes the importance of protecting coastal waters using stormwater controls, and we're educating the public about the problem. Because many smaller communities are not yet required to adopt controls, we are raising awareness about the issue to build local support for water protection through better land-use control ordinances.

We are promoting the adoption of local "conservation ordinances" through which cities and counties may approve suitable portions of project sites for development while also preserving more

natural vegetation and wildlife habitat, and reducing energy use, road maintenance, infrastructure costs, erosion, and water pollution.

To put a conservation ordinance into practice requires that developers do an environmental survey of the land where construction is proposed *prior* to any land disturbance. This entails a broad pre-development inventory of features such as soils, topography, vegetation, drainage, and wildlife. Based on this assessment, some areas are set aside for conservation, and portions of the site with suitable soils and drainage are identified for construction.

No-build zones or "buffers," where the natural landscape is to be left undisturbed along rivers, streams, and wetlands, are also required. Materials used for roads and driveways and the total amount of built area are controlled to limit the impervious surfaces and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff.

Please call us for assistance to apply these valuable ideas in your community.

New Poll Shows that Americans Prefer Clean Energy

News from SustainableBusiness.com

A new national energy poll reveals that Americans favor investment in clean, renewable energy over increased oil drilling when presented with the full spectrum of energy options. The report was released this week by the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, and the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund.

Unlike some previous polls that neglected to ask participants to compare clean energy solutions with increased fossil fuel extraction, this survey put every option on the table.

"These results prove that Americans want real solutions that will help families at the pump, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and invest in clean, alternative energy," LCV President Gene Karpinski said. "We must invest in clean energy sources like wind and solar and build more fuel efficient cars to reduce our demand for oil."

The poll was conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research from July 24-29, 2008. The survey polled 1,004 likely voters and has a margin of error of 3.2%.

One of the poll's top findings indicates that 83% of Americans support a plan to end our addiction to oil through investment in wind, solar, and next generation biofuel technology, 20% more than supported increased offshore drilling.

Center note: Previously reported claims of support for U.S. domestic offshore oil were based on assumptions that were stated in publicized surveys which contradicted expert findings that offshore drilling would not result in lower fuel prices. To date, no reported public surveys about offshore drilling are based on the official D.O.E. prediction that U.S. offshore drilling will have negligible effect on oil prices. See:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/otheranalysis/ongr.html>

Fully 80% believe that America should put a stop to billions of dollars in oil subsidies and use the money to invest in renewable sources.

"Americans just want solutions that work. When they hear the facts, people understand clean energy works," Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope said. "Big Oil and their allies in Congress need to stop holding up the clean energy solutions that can move us forward now."

In addition to support for renewable energy sources, an overwhelming majority of 81% believe that increased production and affordability of hybrid vehicles will have an impact on America's energy problems. A large majority of 79% of respondents support increased efficiency for appliances.



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221 Mallory Street, Suite B
Saint Simons Island, Georgia 31522

Voice: 912.638.3612
Email: susdev@gate.net

www.sustainablecoast.org

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