



The Long Island Sound Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Environmental Stewardship in Your Backyard and Community Focus of Twelfth Annual Long Island Sound Summit

Stamford, CT, March 28, 2002 - The Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance

(LISWA), along with the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), Save the Sound, Inc., and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Long Island Sound Office are co-sponsoring the twelfth annual Citizens' Summit aimed at encouraging people to make environmentally-sound behavior a part of their daily activities in the home and in their neighborhoods. The Summit will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2002 at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

The Summit is designed to appeal to a diverse audience of individuals and organizations with an interest in the health of Long Island Sound. Government and municipal officials, environmental activists and professionals, researchers, students, and other non-affiliated individuals are invited to attend.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum to discuss what people can do in their

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communities, neighborhoods, and even in their own backyards to help restore Long Island Sound.

The keynote speaker, author James Howard Kuntsler, will address problems of urban sprawl in America. Mr. Kuntsler is the author of eight books, including *The Geography of Nowhere* and *Home from Nowhere*, and a regular contributor to the New York Times Sunday Magazine and Op-Ed page. Other speakers will touch on subjects ranging from environmentally-friendly gardening techniques to protecting open space to bringing recycled and sustainable materials into the construction or remodeling of your home. The day will conclude with outdoor workshops designed to provide attendees with hints on selecting native plants for your garden, composting, and other “green” gardening techniques.

“The challenge ahead is to raise awareness that human activities in the watershed are connected to Long Island Sound. Getting people to change their behaviors locally for the benefit of Long Island Sound is still a very difficult task,” said Mark Tedesco, Director of the EPA Long Island Sound Office. “The Citizens’ Summit will give people useful ideas and tools to incorporate into their daily lives.”

“All of us living in the Long Island Sound watershed affect each other when it comes to the environment. All of our activities affect the Sound, for better or for worse.” said John Atkin, President of Save the Sound, Inc. “We feel that this conference focuses attention on the many ways people can engage in environmental stewardship at home as well as in the community to benefit Long Island Sound.”

Registration for the conference, which includes a box lunch and conference materials, is \$30. For more information regarding details and registration for the conference, please contact Robin Kriesberg at 1-888-SAVE LIS or email rkriesberg@savethesound.org.

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