



Effective Organizations - Community Solutions

Problem: Across the planet, humans are living beyond the earth's means, depleting its resources and fouling the rivers, soil and air due to over-consumption.

Solution: Living more simply, using fewer resources, knowing and reducing your Ecological footprint.

Jim Merkel, a Fellow with The Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions, exemplifies the “radical simplicity” that he espouses in his workshops, lectures and his book. In response to the global disasters of the Exxon Valdez spill and the Iraq war, Merkel made a radical about-face, leaving behind his career training as a military engineer and devoting his life to sustainability and world peace. While learning how to live more simply himself, he founded the Alternative Transportation Task Force in San Luis Obispo, and, in 1995, founded the Global Living Project (GLP) and began the GLP Summer Institute, where teams of researchers attempted to live on an equitable portion of the biosphere. He is responsible for bringing environmentally sustainable practices to Dartmouth College's operations and culture and led a Cycling for Sustainable Future speaking tour across the country. Currently, Community Solutions is partnering with Merkel on a film, “The 100-Year Plan,” which will explore how overpopulation and over-consumption are at the core of the earth's environmental and social problems and will offer a look into societies that are working toward more sustainable practices, such as smaller families, smaller eco-footprints, and healthier, educated citizens.

Organization: Community Solutions/Jim Merkel, Fellow & author/lecturer



Jim Merkel's book, *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth* offers a path to a deeply sustainable way of living respectful of all life. His recent work helped Dartmouth College earn high grades on the Sustainability Report Card issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. Jim founded the Global Living Project and currently writes, lectures and consults with campuses and municipalities on sustainability initiatives. Calculate your own ecological footprint at GLP's website: www.radicalsimplicity.org

Community Solutions: The Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions, founded in 1940, is a non-profit organization that advocates for small communities and the benefits of face-to-face relationships. Since 2003 their focus has been to provide resources for low-carbon living and to inspire collective, cooperative solutions in the face of peak energy and climate change. www.communitysolution.org