



# EMC News

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## **NOW READ THIS!**

In Michael Moore's new best selling book, "Where's my Country, Dude", he provides some interesting statistics about Americans' attitudes towards the environment. Three quarters of us think environmental problems pose a serious threat to the quality of life in the United States. 85% are worried about pollution of river and lakes, 82% worry about toxic waste and polluted drinking water, and 78% worry about air pollution. 89% of the people recycle, and 60% would rather see the government push for more energy conservation than an increase in production of oil, gas, or coal. When given the choice between "economic growth" or "environmental protection," assuming you couldn't have one without the other, Americans choose environmental protection. Four times as many Americans trust environmental organizations to know what's better for the ecology than they do the government and 83% say they are in agreement with the goals of the environmental movement.

These statistics show that the American people are already convinced of the importance of environmental issues. Many of our leaders and elected officials are not. The political will needed to establish policies of environmental protection is what is lacking in America, and this is where our efforts should be focused.

- Submitted by Steve Nicholson

***Don't Forget!***  
***EMC will meet December 10, 2003.***

## **NEW BROCHURE IDENTIFIES LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO REDUCE BACKYARD BURNING**

EPA is taking action to reduce the open burning of household waste, often referred to as backyard burning. EPA has established a Web site containing information, links, brochures, presentations and other outreach materials. Four brochures are available to assist state, local and tribal officials, as well as their residents, in efforts to reduce backyard burning. For more information see <http://www.epa.gov/msw/backyard/index.htm>

- Submitted by Karen Edelstein

## **MUNICIPAL REPORT -- TOWN OF ITHACA**

Several meetings of general environmental interest took place in the Town of Ithaca during the early part of the month. The first, a "presentation and discussion", took place in the regular Planning Board meeting of December 2nd. This involved consideration of a Forest Stewardship Plan which has been prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the administration at Ithaca College. It has been created to help College officials to "maintain and enhance the diversity of plant and animal species on the property", and to "manage for production of high quality forest products for periodic commercial harvest with a heavy emphasis on aesthetics and recreation." The study involves some 423 acres of Ithaca College property on South Hill, including 38 different forested sites.

In each case, in the study the site is described as to the number of trees, the varieties which predominate, general characteristics of the site, its soil quality, the relation to campus buildings, and other considerations. Finally, in each case a recommendation is made as to the management of the stand, the preservation of

endangered plant species, aesthetic considerations, etc. The various boards of the Town have had many discussions with College officials over the years concerning their shared interest in the South Hill Swamp area and the impact of development here, so this presentation was a valuable step in town/gown cooperation.

Then on December 8th the Town Board has scheduled a final public hearing on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance and Map as the last stage of review before consideration of adoption. The Board accepted the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement regarding the zoning revisions in November.

Among the key changes in the proposed zoning are low density Agricultural and Conservation zones, a new Lakefront Residence zone, a new Office Park Commercial zone, clarification of the purposes and uses in the various Business zones, updated definitions, etc. All these proposed Zoning Revisions are intended to implement recommendations in the Town of Ithaca Comprehensive Plan of 1993.

*- Submitted by Barney Unsworth*