

I too, Have a Dream

by

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Six or seven years ago this nations great minds came together to look at the concepts of Sustainability. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of human beings who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

And several years later, we must face the tragic fact that our society is still in a state of emergency. Several years later, the manacles of air toxicity and the chains of global warming still sadly cripple the life of the young children. Several years later, the young children live on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of privatized corporate wealth and socialized public risk. Several years later, the Native American is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to this group of the nation's leading minds to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that we have defaulted on this promissory note insofar as our citizens are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, we have given the future generations a bad check that has come back marked "insufficient natural resources." But I refuse to believe that the bank of earth's natural systems is bankrupt. I refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So I have come to cash this check -- a check that will give generations to come the riches of rain forests and the security of fresh water. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind you that every small step toward a sustainable future is crucial. This is no time to engage in the luxury of empty promises or to take the tranquilizing drug of procrastination. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of oil depletion to the sunlit path of renewable energy. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's

children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand's of urban sprawl to the solid foundation of sustainable design.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of principles, dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into meaningless rhetoric. And as we walk on this journey of sustainability, we must make the pledge that we cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of sustainable development, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our mothers' bodies, heavy with metals and toxins, cannot nurture our children with breast milk that meets EPA standards. We cannot be satisfied as long as our cities' both large and small have to place ozone alerts that refuse our children and more seasoned adults to be held captive in their own homes.

I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the state of the journey, I too have a dream.

I too have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live according to then stewardship of the earth that God gave us.

I too have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia young children will be able to run through wooded mountains and enjoy the dew dripped mornings of mother earth.

I too have a dream that one day the Native American Indian will be able to enjoy their divine relationship with nature without the threat of political and corporate development.

I too have a dream that the second and third world countries along with the second and third world cities in America will be able to live happily without concern of meeting their basic human needs.

I too have a dream today.

I dream of that day when children of all countries and nationalities are looked upon with a check marked “Natural Systems Needed for Life-PAID IN FULL”

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to my office at Interface to help extend Ray Andersons dream of the 1st Sustainable Business.

Ssshhhhh!!!!

I too have a dream!!

SssHHHH!

Can't you hear them, nations of unborn children crying out in many tongues!

The children of China saying – Odia

Scandanavia – Toximika

Hebrew- Yawda

Greek- Charris

Germany- Dunkeyshun

Portugal- Obligata

Russia- Sposiba

France- Merci Beaux coup

Egypt- Mai ho tept

Mexico- Mochas Gracias

And my children and you children saying “Thank you” for your journey!!!

God Bless you!