

The Ants Go Marching...



If you observe a colony of ants on any given day you will observe that they...

- Safely and effectively handle their own material wastes and those of other species
- Grow and harvest their own food while nurturing the ecosystem of which they are a part
- Construct houses, farms, dumps, cemeteries, living quarters, and food-storage facilities from materials that can be truly recycled
- Create disinfectants and medicines that are healthy, safe, and biodegradable
- Maintain soil health for the entire planet.*

* McDonough, William & Michael Braungart *Cradle to Cradle* North Point Press, New York 2002. pg 79.

In today's world of vast carbon contamination and rapid depletion of natural resources it can be beneficial to look simply at the lives of our fellow inhabitants and see a great model for a sustainable lifestyle.

One of the greatest philosophical differences between man and animal is the fact that man creates and uses tools. I find that a lot of people see "sustainability" as simply giving up luxuries and reverting back to the "Good ole' days" (whatever

that means!). The current sustainability movement is about using things as effectively as possible with minimum impact both environmentally and socially. Creating and using tools. So, instead of simply resorting back to outhouses, "horse and buggy" transportation, large wood crates to ship everything and adobe huts, maybe we can instead use the most technologically advanced water reduction plumbing systems, cars that actually help global environmental air quality instead of harming it, packaging materials that feed nutrients into the ground as they naturally biodegrade and houses that create their own energy!

Ants live humbly yet effectively. Humans make complicated tools to do unimaginable tasks every day! We just need to identify the "problems" so we can ask the "questions" so we can develop the "solutions" so we can live lives that will be sustainable for the next billion years or so.

We need turn our "Waste" into "Food".