



# Patricia Dines

Compassionate & Empowering Community Educator  
Freelance Writer, Graphic Artist, Trainer, & Public Speaker  
Specializing in Environmental Topics

## WRITING PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Ask EcoGirl (Syndicated eco-advice column • Author • 2007 – present)



"EcoGirl believes that everyone can be a superhero for the planet. Then she shows you how!" Past columns include: Can I Afford to Go Solar? • Remodeling Green on the Cheap • Pet Care Without Toxics • Creating a Healthy Garden from the Start • Taming Our Tiny Ant Friends • Greening Medicine • Getting Started on Public Transit. She's also gathered key information into her "insanely useful" booklets, including "Healthier Housecleaning."

"Thank you so much for your contributions to our newspaper. People are clearly reading your column and you're such a delight to work with. You meet deadlines and your work is well-done and thoughtful. I like your writing style, thorough and upbeat, and encouraging people to actually do things. I love what you're doing!"

Vesta Copestakes, Editor, Sonoma County Gazette

"Your Ask EcoGirl columns are fun and informative, and I really LOVE the resources you list at the bottom. Having this makes 'doing' feel like it can be a reality, not just a nice idea."

Jill Engvaldsen, A regular reader

"Solar financing is a complex topic and you nailed it."

Chris Cone, Writer, Coordinator Green Energy Loan Program

### The Next STEP (City of Sebastopol bi-monthly newsletter • Editor, Lead Writer, & Graphic Artist • 2001 – present)



The Next STEP newsletter offers useful information that gently encourages readers to reduce their use of synthetic pesticides and other toxics. Readers consistently report that our information helps them create less-toxic lives. Our topics have included: Perfume Dreams • Healthy Homes for the Holidays • Protecting Children From Pesticides • Natural Cleaners Go Mainstream (& What's Hiding Inside?) • Green Air Fresheners • Preventing Those Neurotoxic Blues • Mosquito Protection Without Toxics • Safer Chemicals Policy Proposed to California Legislature • The Laguna's Lushness

"I love the [Next STEP] newsletter! It's given me so many ideas and is so friendly not preachy."

"[The articles] are not only practically helpful but also very inspiring."

"Thank you, this is fabulous info to have on hand."

(Representative reader comments from annual anonymous survey cards.)

### The Organic Guides (Guidebooks for the San Francisco Bay Area • Author & Graphic Artist • Seven editions, 1997 – 2007)



Subtitled "Your Organic Travel Guide and Empowerment Manual," each book starts with short, easy-to-read articles that educate and inspire, then makes action easy by presenting a cornucopia of new places to discover and support (many uncovered through extensive primary research). Article topics have included: What is organic, exactly? • The true costs of pesticides • The economic value of ecosystems • Wise spending on organic • The benefits of buying small and local • Bringing organic into our daily lives • Digging the dirt with community gardens • Reconnecting to community and the cycle of life

"I honestly believe that The Organic Guide should be required reading for any institution of higher learning teaching classes on agricultural sustainability and food systems. Check it out for yourself."

James Johnson, The Quantum Agriculture Project

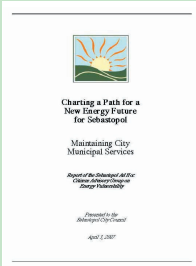
"[A] cornucopia of organic delights.... If a visit to northern California's wine country is in your travel plans, be sure to pick up a copy.... A wealth of healthful information you're not likely to find in Fodor's."

Delicious Living magazine

Also recommended by: Bon Appetit, Bay Area Backroads, Earth Island Journal, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Press Democrat, The North Bay Bohemian, Marin County's Pacific Sun – & organic fans everywhere!



## Charting a Path for a New Energy Future for Sebastopol (Report of the City of Sebastopol Citizens Advisory Group on Energy Vulnerability (CAGE) • Executive Editor & Project Coordinator • 2007) •••••



After spending many months exploring a range of facts, theories, and ideas about the likely upcoming energy supply challenges, CAGE produced this summary analysis and recommended actions for Sebastopol's City Council.

### Response from Sebastopol City Council

"This is an incredible document. I really appreciate you for all doing the hard work to make this happen, to bring this forward."

Councilmember Craig Litwin

"I want to thank the [Advisory Group] and the wealth of editorial and writing skills of Patricia Dines. We were very lucky to have you, to be able to put this through, in this format and this detail."

Councilmember Linda Kelley

"I encourage the Council and members of the public to read this document very carefully, because I think it has some very important information for us and some very valuable recommendations."

Councilmember Larry Robinson

"An excellent read, fascinating."

Mayor Sam Pierce

### Response by Others

"The CAGE report is quite an amazing piece of work and certainly a model for other communities who will want to follow in your footsteps. Our group, Transition Town Asheville, cited the report and some of its conclusions in a panel presentation we made to the larger community last month. So your work is helping inform us out here in the east."

Joan Engelhardt, Transition Town Asheville, North Carolina

## Better Not Bigger: Grappling With Growth in Sonoma County (Community Conference • Steering Committee Member; co-created the sold-out event, led the educational design, & created the educational book • 1999) •••••



The Conference Steering Committee shared the goal of transforming Sonoma County's conversation about urban growth issues. We brought in author Eben Fodor to share his innovative ideas, which question common myths and offer new approaches. Then we presented panels of local environmentalists, businesspeople, and elected officials to explore these ideas and how we might include them in our local planning processes.

"I liked the entire program from beginning to end. I've done workshops and conferences all my working life – this was the best."

"I left feeling empowered and positive, rare for this topic."

"The resources book is fantastic. It helped my listening because most of my notes were already taken! I look forward to reading it and to making contact with the panelists."

"It was really a wonderfully-coordinated and highly-informative opportunity. Thank you!"

(Representative attendee comments from anonymous feedback cards.)

## Author of a wide range of articles on environmental, health, and community issues (1992-present) •••••



Articles published in other periodicals include:

"True Green: Moving Beyond Greenwashing to Authentic Eco-Success"

– NorthBay biz magazine (Cover story)

"Green Pinstripes: Bringing Sustainability to the Executive Suite"

– NorthBay biz magazine (Feature story)

"Laguna Farm: Sowing Seeds of Sustainability" – Common Ground magazine

"Delighting in Our Delicious Local Farms" – Sonoma County Gazette

"Nurturing the Bounty of Local Organics" – Steppin' Out magazine

"Effective Political Action: Recovering Democracy's True Gift" – Sonoma County Peace Press



## Educator Empowering Computer Users through writing, training, and training development (1982-1994) •••••

Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, with a full major in Theatre Arts, Duke University, 1982, magna cum laude. Served as Chief Programmer for Individual Software, a tutorial software firm. Formed Complete Computer Solutions, and empowered individuals and businesses as a trainer, training developer, consultant, technical writer, and author of 11 published articles.

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