

# Journey of the Global ARC 2010

## Bridging Sustainability Solutions Worldwide

### The Global Action Research Center: *A call for participation*

July – September, 2010 bicycle Journey focused on Sustainability Solutions from Vancouver, Canada to Tijuana, Mexico.

The Global ARC—a not-for-profit organization—is in the process of organizing a 2000 mile-long bicycle Journey from Canada to Mexico along the West Coast of North America. Participation is welcome. The Global ARC envisions a world where global knowledge and learning are pooled in ways that inspire people to work together successfully across diverse boundaries for sustainability, community well being and the common good. We create community-based partnerships and learning resources to empower people to intelligently research, plan, implement, evaluate, crossfertilize and share sustainability solutions—locally and globally—while eradicating root causes of poverty, environmental degradation and unhealthy living conditions. Currently, we are concentrating on ways to create sustainable livelihoods and common wealth—especially in light of interdependencies linking built environments and land use, water flows, ecosystem integrity and human health.

The Global ARC is led by a mix of educators, researchers, scientists, professionals and community activists all of whom are dedicated to critical study, open dialog, social learning and creative problem solving for sustainable development. Journeys of the Global ARC bring participants right to the heart of what we do and what we promote as a not-for-profit organization. The Journeys serve multiple purposes: they provide field-based learning opportunities, inspiration for stories and science communication, and networking energy for bridging sustainability solutions worldwide. During the Journey's we (1) identify and learn from a diversity of solutions to serious problems of unsustainable development, (2) broadcast exciting success stories from the field—in real time—through the power of multimedia, internet connectivity and social networking technologies, and (3) strengthen and interconnect our partnerships

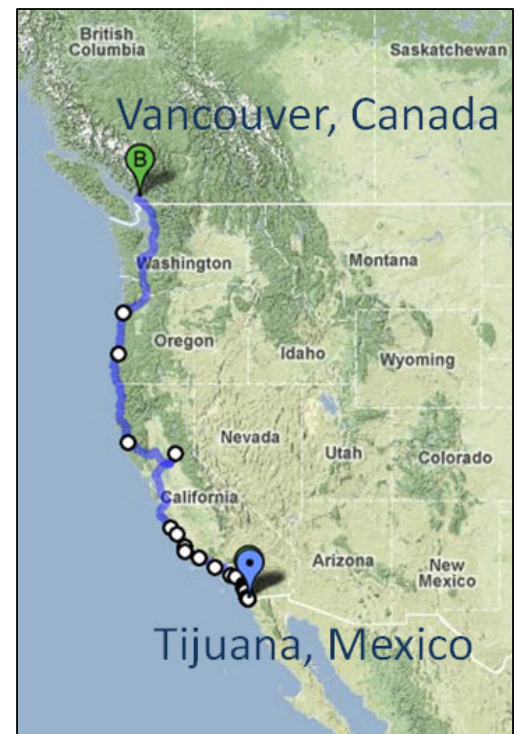
## How can you participate?

- Suggest one or more community-based solutions that you think would be good candidates as stopping points (site visits) along the *Journey's* Canada-USA-Mexico route. It could be a project you lead. Even if the project does not get selected as a stopping point on the Journey for logistical reasons, all suggestions will be entered into the on-line database of opportunities and solutions that The Global ARC is now building.
- Help organize or host an educational event, or some type of social learning opportunity, at one or more of the Journey's designated stops (site visits). Each stopping point will be featured on the Global ARC web site as a story linked to "learn more" resources. We will use unique and compelling ways of interactively sharing (and interconnecting) the Journey's diverse story lines.
- You can join the bicycle ride itself for as little or as much as you like (10, 25, 100 or over 2000 miles). Some sections of the ride will be very demanding (steep mountain climbs, long sections of road with fierce winds, etc.), but many sections will be bucolically blissful. The logistics for enabling participation on the bike ride itself (i.e., meet up points) are being worked out. Using bicycles as an alternate means of transportation is a serious part of the overarching story line –it is good for the environment, mind and body.

## What kinds of community-based solutions are we looking for?

Mainly, we seek place-based solutions that have traction from the perspective of enabling sustainable and healthy communities to flourish. Traction means that something good is happening and important lessons are being learned. Rural, urban and regional suggestions are welcome. We'd especially like to include solutions that include one or more of the following elements:

- Community-based and regional-scale approaches to the greening of jobs, food, energy, water systems and infrastructure
- Grassroots mobilization and social entrepreneurship
- Conscious efforts to join concerns about the built environment, ecological integrity, health and wellbeing
- Watershed-based perspectives
- Citizen science and creation of knowledge commons
- Cultural and historic preservation
- Civically-engaged planning in borderlands (U.S.-Mexico, U.S.-Canada, Tribal Lands and surrounding communities)
- Public-private sector action research and novel approaches to building hybrid institutions focused on sustainability.
- Efforts to expand the public trust and common wealth (e.g., support for urban and rural commons, such as community land trusts, as a basis for creating sustainable livelihoods).



## Logistics

If all goes well, the *Journey* will cover roughly 2,000 miles by bicycle over a 10 week period in 2010 (July, August, September). The Journey's route begins in Canada near Vancouver, heads south through the USA (with stops in the states of Washington, Oregon and California), and across the border into Tijuana, Mexico.

The Journey's route is a work in progress. Ultimately the chosen path will hinge on the types of projects we select for the site visits—including a mix of urban and rural sustainability solutions (e.g., innovative rural land conservancies, urban agriculture, river and watershed stewardship networks, citizen science initiatives, cooperatively owned green businesses). We anticipate including a half-dozen major stops while drawing attention to many points of interest, and crosscutting storylines, all along the way. We are currently seeking the funds necessary to make all of this possible (donations and ideas are welcome).

We will use a combination of multimedia, video casting, GPS tracking, interactive mapping and journaling to broadcast the Journey's travels and stops as they happen in real time. The Global ARC web site will enable internet viewers (from nearby and afar) to become active participants via social networking technologies. In other words, viewers will be able to register input of their own using the Global ARC's web interface. This has the potential to transform otherwise passive viewers into active participants who can enrich the depth and diversity of story-lines, sustainability solutions and challenges that merit our attention. The Journey thus exploits new powers of connectivity afforded to us through social networking and multimedia technologies. In this respect the Journey of the Global ARC is a *process model* that can be utilized in other settings. It is a process model that uses participatory

means to build the kinds of collectively defined knowledge commons (and tools) we need to envision and actualize sustainable and healthy communities.

A core theme lies at the heart of each Journey (it is a series, and not just by bike, some will be by way of walking, and/or other non-fossil fuel dependent ways of getting around). The 2010 Journey hinges on the theme of "Bridging Urban and Rural Sustainability Solutions through Regional Ecology."

The 2011 Journey will track the full length of the Hudson River on the East Coast of the USA. The 2011 Journey is tentatively titled: "The Hudson River Valley: Sustainability Initiatives along America's Rhine." The Journey of the Global ARC web site is now under construction. Once it is live, you will be able to view and learn more about the 2010 Journey's route maps and selected stops.



Keith Pezzoli. Ph. D.

The Global ARC: <http://theglobalarc.org>

858-735-3012, [kpezzoli@gmail.com](mailto:kpezzoli@gmail.com)



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Global Action Research Center