

Touching the Earth

Mandala Environmental Sustainability Working Group is Established

We are looking to identify motivated individuals from every Shambhala Center to act as liaisons to this group.

In May of 2007 at the Shambhala Congress in Köln, Germany, several participants from around the world joined together to birth *Touching the Earth*, a working group formed to explore Shambhala's worldwide vision and commitment to environmental sustainability.

The group asked the Congress if a permanent working group should be established, to which a resounding "YES" was expressed.

Our first discussion was a productive and lively exchange. We confirmed Jessyca Goldstein as our chair (please see the bios for the entire core working group at the end of this letter) and our first action item was to reach out to Shambhala Center Directors to ask for help in identifying motivated individuals to act as liaisons to this group.

Through these vital contacts with each local center, we can tap into the talent and wisdom already present. We hope to make this an uplifted and exciting experience for everyone. Our desire is not to burden the Centers or create mandates, but to discover how we might enhance environmental practices that are already in place and provide useful information to our Centers so you can develop workable environmental practices locally. Over time we believe that Shambhala can and should become an exemplar of sustainability in our commitments and actions.

A foundation for our actions should be our thoughtful View. We will explore and share a provisional Shambhalian view on sustainability. We hope to investigate how our teachings are relevant, can be expressed, and can provide guidance to best benefit all beings, particularly the ecosystems including the animals and plants of our fragile natural earth.

We are still discovering the many forms this initiative can take on a Center, Shambhala societal and individual level. **If you have interest in getting involved at your Center at a dialogue, organizational or facilities level, please contact your Center Director and s/he will put you in touch with us. If your Center Director does not know how to contact us email TouchingEarth@gmail.com.**

In the vision of the Great Eastern Sun,

Jessyca Goldstein,
Chair, *Touching the Earth* Working Group