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Creating a CT Sustainable Business Network *Draft Executive Summary & Invitation*

What: An effort to create a CT network of companies and company change agents working to advance sustainable business practices.

When & Where: A state-wide kick-off meeting in early 2003 (at Yale) building toward bi-monthly meetings in Hartford and Fairfield County Connecticut, and perhaps bi-annual statewide meetings

Content: The Network will offer strategic content, networking and group problem-solving and support at its meetings, at 1-2 open enrollment workshops/seminars per year (in cooperation with established organizations) and during internal workshops/training to members.

Needs to be addressed: The **Network** will enable its members to:

- 1) Understand how others are handling sustainability issues (including benchmarking and case studies) and brainstorm on their own challenges
- 2) Introduce other people in their organization (Sr. management, R&D, production) to sustainable business practices and leaders) in high-credibility settings, e.g., where there are clients and other leading companies present
- 3) Gain exposure and connections to potential new clients who care about sustainable practices concepts so their organizations will come to see sustainability as an important emerging issue
- 4) Seamlessly align their work and personal values so they acquire good, meaningful answers to their children's pointed questions
- 5) Encourage business-to-business sustainability projects and relationships
- 6) Make new and existing sustainable business initiatives more visible to our children, our organizations and our communities
- 7) Focus on regional meetings to minimize the amount of time and energy necessary to participate, and maximize positive impact on each region (and eventually the state)
- 8) Take advantage of Sustainable Step New England (SSNE) as a content rich, skilled, neutral convener of dialogues around sustainable business practice.

Current Status:

An informal Steering Committee (facilitated by SSNE) holds 20-50 minute conference calls to develop the concept, build momentum and seek funding. Representatives of companies operating in CT are welcome to participate.

Next Conference Call: Contact SSNE for details

To Participate in the Next Planning Call and/or be notified of the Kick-off Meeting:

Send an e-mail stating your interest, name, position, company, address, phone & fax to Paul Lipke (address above) and a 1-line answer to, "What do you most want to get out of participating in such a network?"

Participants to Date (partial list): Pamela Elkow of Robinson & Cole, Michelle Gamache and Garen Sabarian of Fleet Boston Financial, Ray Merrell of Cytec Industries, Celia Bayless of Pitney Bowes, Sam Waldo of Amphenol, Patty Heyl of Purdue Pharma, Reid Lifset of Yale University/Journal of Industrial Ecology, Mary Franco of GE Capital, Bob Tierney of Pratt & Whitney, William Stillinger of Institute for Sustainable Energy (Eastern CT State College), and others.