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How sacred is your property?

By Henry Lamb

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The essential difference between Capitalism and Marxism is the ownership of property. In a Capitalist system, individuals own and control the use of property. In a Marxist system, property belongs to the community, and its use is controlled by government. Agenda 21, and the “sustainable development” policies it contains, are constructed on the idea that property should belong to the community and its use must be controlled by the government.

Advocates of sustainable development have been convinced that the earth’s resources are not only finite, but in great jeopardy of extinction because of society’s greedy overuse and abuse. Consequently, they say, the only way to insure that future generations have the resources to meet their needs is for government to control the current generation’s use of resources. In one way or another, this is the excuse used in communities across the nation, to impose a system of government control called sustainable development, delivered through comprehensive land use plans.

“Sustainability,” as it is called, is facilitated by the [federal government](#), and by the [International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives \(ICLEI\)](#). ICLEI, [created by the United Nations](#), boasts that more than 600 U.S. communities have entered into contracts through which ICLEI helps make the communities “sustainable.”

Las Cruces, New Mexico is one of those cities. On March 7, 2011, without a vote of the city council, the city entered into an agreement with ICLEI to help facilitate the “Sustainability Plan” adopted the same day by the *(Continued on Page three)*

Agenda 21: Coming to your community

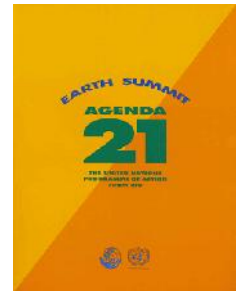
By [Steve Mann](#)



One of the GOP’s battle-cries during the recent showdown over the 2011 budget was to defund the Environmental Protection Agency. It was in response to what many see as the Obama administration’s backdoor attempts to bypass Congress and impose unnecessary regulations on small businesses to regulate carbon emissions. But another reason to defund the EPA is because it monitors and promotes activities related to sustainable development.

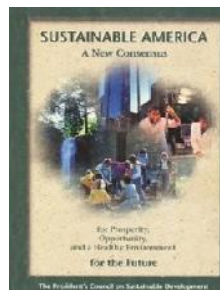
What? Never heard of [Agenda 21](#)?

Agenda 21 is not a conspiracy theory; it is a comprehensive plan of action at international, national, regional and, most important, local levels to implement the United Nations’ vision for a centrally managed global society.



One-world government sound familiar?

The number “21” refers to an agenda for the 21st century. The U.N. Sustainable Development Agenda 21 was adopted in 1992 during a signing ceremony at the U.N.’s Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. President



George H.W. Bush signed the non-binding document for the United States, and in 1993, six months after his inauguration, President Bill Clinton signed an executive order to create the [President’s Council on Sustainable Development](#).

The council was established to translate the recommendations of Agenda 21 into public policy administered by federal agencies. The agencies that were part of the council included the departments of the Interior, Commerce, Energy, Education, Transportation, Agriculture, and Housing and Urban Development; the EPA; NOAA; and the Small Business Administration. Those agencies affect almost every aspect of life in the United States.

Agenda 21 is a 40-chapter document divided into four sections that detail eight areas for action: agriculture, biodiversity and ecosystem management, education, energy and housing, population, public health, resources and recycling, and transportation and sustainable economic development. It emphasizes the abolition of private property, the establishment of human-settlement zones and the increasing limitations and restrictions on mobility. And, of course, it requires a redistribution of wealth.

As it says in the Preamble, “The development and environmental objectives of Agenda 21 will require a substantial flow of new and additional financial resources to developing countries...” It has never been debated or adopted by Congress, but it has been implemented by the administrative agencies of the federal government. It is monitored by the EPA’s Office for Sustainable Communities. And it’s a good bet that few in this country have ever heard of it, including politicians.

“I think environmentalists don’t want people to find out what’s truly involved in Agenda 21,” Steve Henson, the executive director of the Southern Appalachian Multiple-Use Council in western North Carolina, said. “If they did, it would create a situation where it would make it difficult to implement it piecemeal. “They’re happy to move it

along a piece at a time. They spend a lot of time preaching to followers that we’re not going to do it overnight, but we can do it if we’re persistent. (They say) “We get what we can get when we can, and move on.”

Henry Lamb, the founder and executive vice president of Freedom21, Inc., says he estimates that as many as 75 percent of politicians probably don’t see a relationship between laws they enact and policies they adopt and the goals of Agenda 21.

Henson has seen the environmentalists’ efforts firsthand. Groups in North Carolina’s mountain regions are working on a petition drive that would allow local governments to control timbering on private property. State law currently prohibits government from restricting how you use your own land as long as you follow your management plan, Henson said. “I thought common sense would prevail on some of these environment issues, but that hasn’t happened,” he said. Many communities across the country have dealt with Agenda 21 and probably never even knew it. It commonly involves annexing large tracts of land and then limiting what owners can do with their property. It includes attempts to create wilderness areas, buffer zones and urban-growth boundaries.

” In the case of the U.S., our local authorities are engaged in planning processes consistent with **Local Agenda 21** but there is little interest in using the LA21 brand. Participating in a U.N.-advocated planning process would very likely bring out many of the conspiracy-fixated groups and individuals in our society such as the National Rifle Association, citizen militias and some members of Congress.

“This segment of our society who fear ‘one-world government’ and a U.N. invasion of the United States through which our individual freedom would be stripped away would actively work to defeat any elected official who joined ‘the conspiracy’ by undertaking LA21. So, we call our processes something else, such as **comprehensive planning, growth management or smart growth.** “ (Emphasis added)

J. Gary Lawrence, Second Millennium Papers, prepared for Spanish National University for Distance Education (UNED-UK), 2002

President Obama will ask Congress to double spending, to \$900 million in the 2012 budget, on the Land and Water Conservation Fund used to buy property. The federal government already owns about 635 million acres, about three out of every 10 acres in the country. The land-use policies fall under different catch-phrases: smart growth, green jobs, green building codes, regional planning, conservation easements,

development rights, growth management, sustainable communities.

Any of those sound familiar?

“(Environmental groups) do like big corporations do,” Henson said. “They hold focus groups and hire the best marketing firms to do research and try to find phrases and words that people will accept without them knowing what they are accepting. There are lots of environmental groups out there, but central direction is being given. There’s a big picture they are working toward.”

Among the 40 chapters of Agenda 21 are: “Combating poverty”, “Changing consumption patterns”, “Promoting human-settlement development”, “Protection of the atmosphere” and “Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions.” The objective of sustainable development is to use economic, social and environmental policies to reduce consumption, achieve social justice and preserve and restore biodiversity. Supporters insist that every decision by society be based on environmental impact.

What’s considered unsustainable under Agenda 21? Golf courses, ski areas, irrigation, paved roads, commercial agriculture and farmlands. As Maurice Strong, the secretary general of the U.N.’s Earth Summit in 1992, said: “Current lifestyles and consumption patterns of the affluent middle class – involving high meat intake, use of fossil fuels, appliances, home and work air conditioning, and suburban housing - are not sustainable.”

In his report, Sustainable Development: Transforming America, Lamb writes: “Sustainable communities of the future will bear little resemblance to the towns and cities of the 20th century. Single-family homes will be rare. Housing will be provided by public/private partnerships, funded by government, and managed by non-government ‘Home Owners Associations.’ Housing units will be designed to provide most of the infrastructure and amenities required by the residents. Shops and office space will be an integral part of each unit. ... Each unit will be designed for bicycle and foot traffic, to reduce, if not eliminate, the need for people to use automobiles.”

How best to achieve that vision? Supporters say it’s an emphasis on education, specifically the indoctrination of a generation of children so that they accept the concepts and goals of Agenda 21. In fact, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

has declared the period from 2005 to 2014 as the decade for education on sustainable development.

There’s also the [ICLEI](#) – Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), an association of more than 1,200 local governments around the world that have made a commitment to sustainable development. It represents about 70 countries and almost 570 million people.

More than 600 local governments in the United States are members. ICLEI collects fees from the local governments in exchange for access to software, training, community plans and technical consulting that measures compliance with or progress toward certain environmental goals that dovetail with the goals of Agenda 21. The result of the coordinated efforts will be a world that even the indoctrinated children might not recognize.

“What an incredible planet in this universe this will be,” the late Robert Muller, a former U.N. under-secretary general, said, “when we will be one human family living in justice, peace, love and harmony with our divine Earth, with each other and with the heavens.” (*Steve Mann is a freelance journalist who spent 33 years in the newspaper business.*)

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(Continued from page one)

city council. As the news spread throughout the community, city councilmen were asked why they were supporting the U.N.’s Agenda 21. Several of the councilmen denied supporting Agenda 21, and told their constituents that such claims were “nonsense.” Jim Harbison knew better. He appeared before the city council on April 4, and reading from the mission statement of ICLEI, showed how the city’s contract with ICLEI was directly supporting Agenda 21. He [went on to say](#) that the councilmen who told their constituents otherwise were either “...disingenuous or dishonest, because the city’s membership in ICLEI does, by default or intent, support Agenda 21.”

Mayor Pro Tem, Sharon Thomas, [first reported](#) that the council had never adopted a resolution in support of Agenda 21, then proceeded with a five-minute dissertation on why she supports the U.N., and Agenda

21, claiming that the city is in “good company” because 178 other nations signed Agenda 21 at the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development.

Democrat Party activist, and [Progressive Voter Alliance](#) member, Charlotte Lipson, learned that Harbison intended to speak at the April 4 council meeting, and immediately issued this email:

“Please come tomorrow (Monday, April 4) to the Las Cruces City Council meeting. Mr. Harbison intends to expound on the nonsense that Sustainability standards are a UN plot to take away our property rights and create a "one world government." You may have already seen press reports that a few Midwestern municipalities have defeated or eliminated sustainability programs because of these bizarre beliefs.

“I urge YOU and all my well-educated, literate, critically thinking friends, to turn up in force because it is anticipated that the Tea Party Crackpots will be there to support Harbison.

“The meeting starts at 1 PM, this Monday, April 4 at City Hall. Remember: this will be televised on city ch. 20 and covered by local media which have been complicit in spreading this claptrap so let us demonstrate that there is indeed a sane Majority -- us!”

Charlotte Lipson

The Las Cruces experience is quite typical. In community after community, local elected officials deny that their sustainability plans have anything to do with Agenda 21 or the U.N. They also tend to ridicule and denigrate opposition, as does Ms. Lipson. Fortunately, more and more communities are learning the truth and are terminating their association with ICLEI and shutting down their sustainability office.

It may be too late in Las Cruces. The government already controls virtually every square inch of land in the entire county. In the first place, 86.7 percent of the total land area in the county is owned by state or federal government. That leaves only 13.3 percent of the land in private ownership. And even that land is controlled by government. According to Chapter Two of the Las Cruces [Vision 2040 – Regional Planning Project](#), “Performance districts regulate all privately owned areas.... All uses are permitted in these areas....”

The Sustainability Plan recently adopted by Las Cruces goes way beyond the control of land use, and seeks to regulate the behavior of previously-free people. The plan contains 8 objectives and 99 actions to be taken over the next three years. Each of these actions will impose some limitation on the freedom of individuals and/or cost additional tax dollars taken from individuals and companies to achieve goals that are, at best, questionable.

Some progress has been made, however. City Manager, Robert Garza, announced after the April 4 presentation by Jim Harbison, that the city of Las Cruces would not be renewing its agreement with ICLEI.

Regardless of the spin advocates put on sustainable development, the concept and the process replaces individual decision-making about, and control of, the use of privately owned property, with government regulations enforced by fines and other penalties. A much more detailed analysis of sustainable development, complete with several examples of its negative impact, is [available here](#).

Agenda 21, ICLEI under attack

Since Carroll County, Maryland kicked ICLEI out of the county early this year, several other communities have stepped up to challenge their elected officials. Currently, local groups in Titusville, Florida. Bradley County, Tennessee, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Amarillo, Texas are asking their elected officials to either end their relationship with ICLEI, or to not enter into an agreement with them.

In a massive display of biased ignorance, the local newspaper in Bradley County [The Cleveland Banner](#), boldly announced that the U.N. was not funding the County’s 2035 Joint Strategic Plan. No one had suggested such a thing, of course, but the Editor apparently thought it might be a good thing to print anyway.

In Titusville, Florida, a staff member told the city council that ICLEI had nothing to do with the U.N., but we are providing [articles published in 1997](#) that quote the first director of ICLEI telling the interviewer that the U.N. called him directly, which resulted in the creation of ICLEI. Real Americans are holding their officials accountable.