



Installation of a water rain collection cistern with community volunteers, funded by the Blue Water Project Grant.



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620 S. 6th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 628-8263~www.borderlinks.org
education@borderlinks.org

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BorderLinks Sustainable Futures Program

BorderLinks' Sustainable Futures Program began with the recognition of the inextricable link between environmentally responsible living and the larger issues of social justice. Keenly aware of the connection between our fellow human beings and the environment, BorderLinks addresses these issues during our delegations and actively participates in building an alternative system that protects our workers, the environment, our health, and food security.

Most of us don't think too much about basic ways that we use and consume resources every day. Where does our food come from? Who grew it, who harvested it and how did it get to my plate? What about the water we use for washing dishes or watering the garden? How far did the water have to travel? With what chemicals was it treated?

How does our resource usage affect the supply in other parts of the world? What policies are keeping these systems in place? And what does all of this have to do with migration?

By practicing sustainability in water use, energy use and food production, we are working towards a future that looks very different from what we see now. Concern for the earth and our neighbors - whether they live right next door or across an international border - means caring for our resources wisely and understanding our place in the complicated web that makes up the global community.

As Mohandas Gandhi proclaimed, "Live simply so that others may simply live."

So, how do we do it? **Please take a look inside.**



Installation of a water harvesting system for our garden, funded by the Blue Water Project Grant.
Thanks to all our volunteers and staff for a successful workday at BorderLinks!

Sustainable Futures Program

Food Production

BorderLinks maintains a vegetable garden that provides fresh produce used to prepare healthy and delicious vegetarian meals for delegation participants. This past year, staff and volunteers harvested lettuce, spinach, kale, chard, cilantro, rosemary, beets, carrots, peas, garlic, and arugula. We recently planted chiltepins (a spicy and tasty chili that grows wild in the Sonoran desert) and artichokes. Also on site are several other native and food producing trees and cacti, including mesquite, desert willow, pomegranate, fig, and prickly pear cactus.

We compost all food scraps, creating nutrient rich compost that, mixed with the soil, produces amazing vegetables.



Local Eating

BorderLinks patronizes local farmers' markets and builds relationships with farmers and urban gardeners in and around Tucson. These connections allow us to use local and seasonal produce in our meals and to cook with whole, fresh ingredients. Combined with our harvested vegetables, all meals are made from scratch in the BorderLinks kitchen. We provide delegation participants with a list of sustainable food resources in their communities so that when they return home they can start eating local too!

Water Conservation

A 2,200 gallon cistern collects the rainwater that runs off of BorderLinks' roof. We use this water for the vegetable garden. Our vegetables love the rainwater because it is highly oxygenated and free of the chemicals present in treated water.

By shaping the contours of the yard at BorderLinks, we better control where the rainwater goes and keep it in our watershed. This technique is called "earthworks." Without earthworks, the water flows out to the street and ends up in the sewer system, leaving the watershed entirely.

Planting food producing plants and trees in basins ensures that rainwater will flow directly to the places that need it. Raised pathways also help rainwater flow into the right places and keep the walking areas dry and mud-free.

The Connection Between Sustainability and Migration

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), implemented in 1994, eliminated protections for the corn market in Mexico and allowed corporations in the U.S. to export heavily subsidized corn into Mexico at prices below the cost of production.

- ⇒ After the implementation of NAFTA, Mexican corn farmers, unable to compete with subsidized U.S. corn, increased their migration to the north. Two-thirds of undocumented Mexicans currently living in the U.S. (over 4 million people) came after 1994.
- ⇒ Studies estimate that 85% of U.S. agricultural workers are immigrants, and up to 70% of these people are undocumented.
- ⇒ The major grain trading companies in the U.S. who export corn to Mexico also provide the U.S. with heavily processed foods that cause major health problems for U.S. consumers.

See our website for sources and additional information.

Sustainable Food Delegation

Join BorderLinks in April for the first ever **Sustainable Food: We Are What We Eat** delegation! We are excited to provide this opportunity for the community to learn about the connections between sustainability and migration, to see first hand the results of current policies, and to explore all of the delicious ways people are taking action on both sides of the border.

Date: April 28-30, 2011
Cost: \$450*

Contact Susanna McKibben at 520-628-8263, susanna@borderlinks.org, or visit our website for more information.

Visit our website for Summer/Fall delegation dates: 3-day \$450; 6-day \$750 (includes a visit to Alamos, Sonora, Mexico).

Join us for this dynamic, hands-on delegation!

*Reduced fees may be available.

Get Involved with BorderLinks

- ⇒ **Join our inaugural Sustainable Food Delegation!**
- ⇒ **Donate!** Send a check in the enclosed envelope or contribute online at www.borderlinks.org.

40% of BorderLinks' Annual Budget comes from your donations. Please help us continue to provide our transformational programs, including the Sustainable Futures Program.

More ways to get involved, continued...

- ⇒ Join us for a delegation to the Copper Canyon or Chiapas.
- ⇒ Organize a group for a BorderLinks delegation.
- ⇒ Arrange a workshop at your church, school, home or other meeting place.
- ⇒ Volunteer with the Sustainable Futures Program.
- ⇒ For more information visit our website at: www.borderlinks.org.



A special thanks to Susanna McKibben and Alison Wood for their dedicated work with the Sustainable Futures Program.



Susanna McKibben,
BorderLinks
Sustainable Futures
Coordinator

Alison Wood,
Young Adult
Volunteer and
BorderLinks
Sustainable
Futures
Associate

