

**Greentopia & the Center for Environmental Initiatives (CEI) Present Greentopia | FUTURES Summit**

*A Two-Day Event, the Summit is a Forum for Dialog, Exchange of Information and Education in Sustainability*

Rochester, N.Y., (August 19, 2013) - - Greentopia, a mechanism for dialog, engagement and education on sustainability, and the Center for Environmental Initiatives (CEI) are proud to announce the first Greentopia | FUTURES Summit, to be held September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> featuring keynote speeches, plenary sessions and over 50 panelists from cities throughout the United States and Western New York.

Attendees will be entertained over two days at Kodak Theatre on the Ridge – the official location of the Summit. This event will feature lively panel discussions, seminars, a vendor and exhibitor expo as well as question/answer sessions and engaging dialog, conversation and debate around topical sustainability theories and experiences.

Special guests include; Key Note Speaker James Howard Kunstler (author and activist); Danny Wegman (Co-chair of Fingers Lakes Regional Economic Development Council); Don Edwards, of Justice & Sustainability, LLC; and Sophie Faris of b-lab, New York, to name but a few. The cost to attend Greentopia's FUTURES Summit is \$225 for a two-day pass. Student/Educator 2-day passes are \$50 and single day passes (September 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>) is \$99. For more information, please visit [greentopiafest.com/futures-summit](http://greentopiafest.com/futures-summit).

Greentopia | FUTURES Summit welcomes James Howard Kunstler as Key Note Speaker. Author of 12 novels, *The Long Emergency*, *the Geography of Nowhere* and most recently, *Too Much Magic: Wishful Thinking Technology and The Fate of the Nation*, published in 2012 by the *Atlantic Monthly Press*, Mr. Kunstler has also published articles in the *New York Times* and *Orion* magazine. A frequent guest lecturer at some of the nation's most prestigious college campuses including Harvard, Yale, Princeton and MIT, Mr. Kunstler has also been a keynote speaker for the National Trust, the Congress for New Urbanism and has appeared at the TED Conference in Monterey, California. Born and raised in New York City, Mr. Kunstler has lived in Saratoga Springs for 40 years. Previously, he began his career at the *Albany Knickerbocker News* in the 1970's, followed by a stint as a staff writer at *Rolling Stone* magazine.

“Greentopia | FUTURES Summit is especially exciting not only because it is the first event of its kind in the Northeast but because it also promotes dialog, conversation and an immediate call to action,” says James Howard Kunstler, Key Note Speaker, author and activist.

Guests can expect to be; energized to incorporate sustainability principles and practices into the workplace; know how the Finger Lakes Region Sustainability Plan was developed and become familiar with its contents; understand the issues when developing a sustainability plan; find out how to access funding to implement sustainability projects; become better equipped to be part of the implementation of the Finger Lakes Region Sustainability Plan... and much, much more.

“It is thrilling to present such world-renowned, local and national speakers at the Summit in a city like Rochester, which is steeped in invention and innovation,” says Lewis Stess, FUTURES Summit Co-Chair for Greentopia. “It is that history that propels us to get the dialog going, educate the public and promote sustainability for the betterment of our city, region and planet. And it begins here with our Summit.”

For more information visit [www.greentopiafest.com/futures-summit](http://www.greentopiafest.com/futures-summit).

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#### **ABOUT GREENTOPIA**

Greentopia is a premier gathering together of thought leaders and visionaries, harnessing film, music, art, design, fashion and innovation to create Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes' yearly celebration of sustainability - in ALL its forms. Greentopia Week | 2013 is actually a series of festivals within a larger curated and designed event: Greentopia | ECOFEST, Greentopia | MUSIC, Greentopia | FILM, Greentopia | DESIGN and Greentopia | FUTURES Summit.

Greentopia strives to empower people to create positive change in their lives, communities and work. It's mission is to educate, celebrate and promote sustainability in all its forms to create better health, better communities and a better planet.

Greentopia is a project which supports Friends of the GardenAerial, a non-profit group devoted to sensitive, sustainable development of High Flals and the Genesee River Gorge in Rochester, NY. For more on Greentopia, visit [greentopiafest.com](http://greentopiafest.com)

Connect with Greentopia at [www.facebook.com/greentopiafest](http://www.facebook.com/greentopiafest) and [www.twitter.com/greentopiafest](http://www.twitter.com/greentopiafest).

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