



News Release

For immediate release

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Local author calculates her carbon emissions and offsets them close to home

Author Vicki Robin has offset her carbon footprint for the year by donating to the Trillium land purchase on Whidbey Island. Robin, co-author of the New York Times bestseller *Your Money or Your Life*, travels for work and pleasure, but she's been troubled by the fact that flying releases so much carbon into the atmosphere. "It's ridiculous to fly around the world talking about sustainability when flying itself is one of the worst things I can do," says Robin, whose book includes information about the impact that consumption has on the environment.

Robin attempted to mitigate the effect that her travels had on the planet by conducting an "airplane fast" one year, but found it unsustainable. "If I were a purist, I wouldn't fly," she says, "But there are people I love that I'd never see again if I did that. And keynotes at conferences I'd never do that could make a real difference. When I read about Trillium, the penny dropped. I realized that I could, in one act, face up to my carbon footprint and make a difference in something I'm passionate about anyway.

"This is a donation, and it isn't," she continues. "In addition to our annual giving, we should all be doing our annual offsetting. Two birds with one stone."

Robin used the Nature Conservancy's Carbon Footprint Calculator (<http://tinyurl.com/3x5tv1>) and determined that her lifestyle, including air travel, generated 24 tons of carbon per year. "In contemplating the cost to the earth of my long flights to Brazil, I hit on a great idea," she wrote in an email message to more than 200 friends. "Rather than offset the carbon by planting new trees elsewhere, why not donate the \$480 cost of the 24 tons of carbon that I spew into the atmosphere annually to keep the trees on the Trillium land standing?" She challenged her friends to do the same.

Robin moved to Whidbey Island about five years ago to recover from cancer. "God bless cancer," she says. "It gave back parts of my life that I'd just shut down." After her diagnosis, Robin changed everything: where she lived, what she did, whom she did it with, and how she measured success. Fortunately, she chose to do that on South Whidbey Island. Robin has been integral in the formation of Transition Whidbey, whose mission is to equip our community to be resilient in the wake of climate change, economic instability, and the eventual depletion of fossil fuels. She's worked on forming Langley's growth management plan, sings with the Open Circle Choir, and is part of Wake Up Laughing, Whidbey's premier improvisational theater troupe.

“We’re fortunate to have Vicki on the island and in our corner at the Land Trust,” says Pat Powell, executive director. “When we hear about things like climate change, we often feel powerless. In so many ways, Vicki connects the dots and shows us that we can make a difference right where we live.”

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust has until September 10 to raise the remaining \$1.8 million dollars needed to save the Trillium Woods. For more information, see <http://savetheforestnow.org>.

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