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**Sustainability Consultant
Portland, OR**

After 28 years assisting Portland businesses with their risk management and insurance needs, I left corporate America in mid-2005 to follow my passion as a sustainability consultant and coach. Although the term wasn't even part of the vernacular back in the early 1970s when I was at SMA, for me "sustainability" is the practical application of the true Christian values that I learned while there. It is about loving our neighbors (both here and abroad) and caring for our environment. It's why we need to stop consuming at record levels and start thinking—and acting—long-term. In

global warming was one of the three reasons I covered when addressing any group that would give me the podium as to the critical importance of embracing sustainability, I hoped and prayed that the powers that be would select me. Luckily they did, and I was honored to be personally trained by former Vice-President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore in January 2007.

The journey has

continue the momentum, in April 2007, I founded a monthly networking forum for local businesses, educators and government representatives to promote

and advance sustainable practices in Clark County, Washington, and that same month I co-hosted the local STEP IT UP Global Warming rally as part of the National Day of Climate Action.

I believe that climate change is THE foremost

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issue of the 21st century, and if not taken seriously, and addressed urgently, will make every other issue irrelevant. Already, the poorest peoples of the world are suffering the consequences of unrelenting greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere (that they didn't contribute to) from extreme weather events, droughts, floods and rising coastal waters. And those of us more fortunate are not far behind. For my part, I want to be able to say to my great-grandchildren that, in the words of Sharif Abdullah in his wonderful book, *Creating a World that Works for All*, I was a “mender” and not a “breaker.”



Jill Nyland Sughrue in training with former Vice President Al Gore during the "Climate Project."

short, it's about global stewardship.

In August 2006, I heard about The Climate Project and submitted my online application to become a presenter of the slideshow from the Oscar-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Since

personally been a very rewarding one. I've shared the photographic evidence of climate change with over 20 audiences and close to 600 people, and I am encouraged by the positive response of so many people who have attended. To