

Tips for getting involved in local government issues

One of the best ways to get involved in environmental issues is to start locally. There are a few pointers for getting involved in local issues:

1. Just begin. Find something that interests you and pay attention to it. Figure out who the players are. Find out what decisions are coming up. Meet others who are interested in the issue.
2. Go to the meetings. Show up. Begin speaking out.
3. Do your homework. Learn the subject in depth.
4. Persist. Remain vigilant. Keep trekking even after a defeat.
5. Be scrupulous in your argument. Distinguish fact from opinion. Be accurate in your facts.
6. Don't burn bridges, build them.
7. Volunteer to serve on boards, task forces, and committees. Among them are the board of adjustment and the planning and zoning commission, both of which deal with zoning issues.

Sources

Material is taken from Legacy: portraits of 50 area environmental elders, John Hart, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, CA, 2006