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Storm Warnings: Best Practices provides timely information, trends and ideas that relate to the looming storm and impact on our lives.



The Biomimicry Institute

In a landmark paper presented at the National Academy of Sciences in 1991, James Gustave Speth outlined five transitions necessary to move us to an age of true sustainability. One of those transitions is:

“...a transition in technology to a new generation of environmentally benign technologies—to technologies that sharply reduce the consumption of natural resources and the generation of residual products per unit of prosperity.”

The Biomimicry Institute, founded in 2006 by Byrony Schwan and Janine Benyus, is a global leader in the innovation of more environmentally benign technology. Biomimicry is an emerging discipline in which designers, engineers and innovators ask, “What problem am I trying to solve that nature has already figured out?” By analyzing how fish act in shoals, for example, researchers at CalTech were able to determine that spacing vertical axis wind turbines closer together led to ten times more output on less land. By studying the skin of a particular basking shark that had no bacteria on its surface, designers created films and surfaces to which bacteria cannot adhere, fighting bacterial colonization with simple structure rather than with antibiotics or harsh chemicals. By analyzing how nature creates hard tissues in organisms, a company called Blue Planet is making carbon-negative concrete using carbon dioxide emissions from flue stacks as a raw material.

The best thing about biomimicry is what it doesn't use. Biomimicry-inspired manufacturing uses low-temperature, low-pressure processes, along with green chemistry, dramatically lowering energy consumption and greatly reducing pollution.

We invite you to watch this beautifully produced, awe-inspiring video explaining biomimicry in greater detail. A sustainable future is closer than we think. Visit biomimicry.org to learn more, get on their mailing list, or become a member.

-- Matt Hoiland

To view the video go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf4oW8OtaPY>



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