

# #1



## sustainable communities public policy forum

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*a wisconsin idea forum*

The University of Wisconsin invites you to...

**Help Wisconsin create strong, equitable and sustainable communities!**

**How?** You will connect with sustainability experts, share ideas from and for your own community and craft policy recommendations to support community sustainability throughout Wisconsin.

**Who can participate?** Community and economic development professionals, local elected officials, legislators, members of sustainability organizations and grassroots groups, consultants, business and community leaders, faculty and students who are engaged in local sustainability efforts.

**How can you participate?**

1. **Attend a Sustainable Communities Roundtable.** These *free* regional workshops lead up to the forum. Sessions of 2-3 hours open with an overview of sustainability efforts in the state and conclude with participants identifying policy issues, barriers, strengths, and possibilities.

Central Wisconsin, Feb. 26

De Pere, March 2

Southeast Wisconsin, March 2

Chequamegon Bay, March 3

Chippewa Valley, March 3

Rhineland, March 5

Information: [Sustainable Communities Roundtables](#)

2. **Register for the March 25-26, 2010, Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum** at the LEED-certified UW-Fox Valley Communication Arts Center, Menasha. You will learn who's doing what to make their communities sustainable, then help write policy recommendations to move your own community and the state toward a sustainable future. These contributions will be shared in a post-conference publication, "Building Sustainable Communities in Wisconsin: Opportunities and Challenges Moving Forward."

*Wisconsin case studies:*

Chequamegon Bay

La Crosse

Neenah

*Out-of-state case studies:*

Duluth, Minn.

Greensburg, Kansas

Northfield, Minn.

*Speakers:*

[David Morris](#), vice president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Minneapolis

[Michael Dombeck](#), professor of Global Conservation at UW-Stevens Point

[Satya Rhodes-Conway](#), senior associate at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, UW-Madison

*Registration and program information:* [Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum](#)

*Information:* [sustainablecommunities@uwex.uwc.edu](mailto:sustainablecommunities@uwex.uwc.edu)

*Cost:* \$100 (\$75 by March 1), \$30 for students, \$50 for a single day

*Optional entertainment March 25:* ["Wild Woods & Waters"](#) 920-832-2646

**Real-world challenges and an audience eager to make a difference** are key components of the Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum and other Wisconsin Idea Forums. The University of Wisconsin's resources -- coupled with your ideas, expertise and energy -- can create solutions for the state's economic, environmental and social challenges. Let's get to work together!

## #2

### [U.S. Quadrennial Defense Review 2010](#)

"Climate change and energy are two key issues that will play a significant role in shaping the future security environment. Although they produce distinct types of challenges, climate change, energy security, and economic stability are inextricably linked. The actions that the Department takes now can prepare us to respond effectively to these challenges in the near term and in the future." p 107

"Assessments conducted by the intelligence community indicate that climate change could have significant geopolitical impacts around the world, contributing to poverty, environmental degradation, and the further weakening of fragile governments. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease, and may spur or exacerbate mass migration." p 108

From *Crafting A Strategic Approach to Climate and Energy* section of the U.S. Quadrennial Defense Review 2010, 02/2010.

<http://www.defense.gov/QDR/QDR%20as%20of%2029JAN10%201600.pdf>

## #3

### **EPA Announces New Web Site to Help State and Local Government Partners Tackle Climate Change**

EPA launched a new Web site today to help state and local governments understand, plan, and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdictions.

The State and Local Climate and Energy Program Web site, [www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate](http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate), brings together EPA resources to serve as a one-stop shop for government officials seeking information and resources related to climate change and clean energy. The site targets information to state and local government officials by providing:

- Resources on energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, workforce development, health, adaptation, and more.
- "How to" information for developing a climate change action plan or greenhouse gas inventory, along with maps showing which states and localities have them in place.
- Guidance on evaluating policy and program options and measuring results.
- A calendar of upcoming climate change and clean energy webcasts and conferences.
- Podcasts and video recordings of State and Local Climate and Energy Program webcasts.

**Featured Resource: *Assessing the Multiple Benefits of Clean Energy: A Resource for States***

This resource will help state energy, environmental, and economic policy makers identify and quantify the many benefits of clean energy. This groundbreaking document is the first to organize and present a comprehensive review of the multiple benefits of clean energy, together with an analytical framework that states can use to assess those benefits during the development and implementation of clean energy policies and programs. Access the resource at:

<http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/benefits.html>.

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State and local officials interested in additional information about developing and implementing cost-effective climate and energy strategies that help further environmental goals and achieve public health and economic benefits may visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate>

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this listserv, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/listservs/index.html>

## #4

Wake Up to Good News! View the story, "Native American Tribe Going Solar" for Profit: Denied a casino, Jemez Pueblo people turn toward the sun"

<http://goodnews.msnbc.msn.com/?section=goodnewsfeeds&datald=23325321&source=email>

## #5

### **Upcoming Climate and Energy Webcasts for State and Local Governments**

This message provides details about five upcoming webcasts being offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All webcasts are offered free of charge, but space may be limited.

Local Climate and Energy Webcasts

- Using Smart Growth Strategies to Reduce GHG Emissions, March 31, 2010

Additional Webcast Opportunities

- Purchasing and Procuring Efficient Equipment, March 17, 2010

**\*\*\*Local Climate and Energy Webcasts**

EPA hosts the Local Climate and Energy Webcast Series to assist local governments as they explore and plan climate change and clean energy efforts. These regular webcasts highlight EPA resources available to local governments, and present examples of successful climate and energy programs and policies implemented locally.

**February 23, 2010, 1-2 pm EST—Green Power Communities**

EPA's Green Power Partnership and Local Climate and Energy Program are co-hosting this webinar on the Green Power Community initiative. Green Power Communities are cities, towns, and villages in which the local government, businesses, and residents collectively buy green power in amounts that meet or exceed EPA's purchasing requirements. For more information or to register, visit:

[www.epa.gov/greenpower/events/23feb10\\_webinar.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/events/23feb10_webinar.htm)

**March 31, 2010, 2-4 pm EDT—Using Smart Growth Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

This webcast will provide an introduction to federal programs and resources related to smart growth. It will discuss how smart growth strategies can help communities use energy more efficiently, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide other environmental, economic, and social benefits. Two communities will showcase how they successfully developed and implemented programs that integrate smart growth policies into community design. To register for this webcast, visit:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/803751010>

**\*\*\*Additional Webcast Opportunities**

ENERGY STAR offers free online training to help you improve the energy performance of your organization. To register for any of these trainings or to see other upcoming ENERGY STAR trainings, visit:

<https://energystar.webex.com>

**Benchmarking Wastewater Plants Webcast**

*Benchmarking Wastewater Plants in Portfolio Manager* will be offered on February 23, 2010, from 1-2:30 PM EST. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and carbon dioxide emission reductions in wastewater treatment plants to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

**Benchmarking for State and Local Governments Webcast**

*Benchmarking in Portfolio Manager for State and Local Governments* will be held on February 25, 2010, from 2-3 PM EST. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from their buildings to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

**Purchasing and Procurement Webcast**

*Purchasing and Procuring Efficient Equipment* will take place on March 17, 2010, from 1-2 PM EDT. The webcast will cover ENERGY STAR resources to help your organization purchase products with superior energy performance, guidelines that define energy performance for numerous products, sample procurement language, and energy-saving software that calculates the life cycle costs of ENERGY STAR products and their less efficient counterparts.

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State and local officials interested in additional information about developing and implementing cost-effective climate and energy strategies that help further environmental goals and achieve public health and economic benefits may visit:

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## #6

### \$225 million waste-to-energy project planned in Milwaukee

*By Thomas Content of the Journal Sentinel, Feb. 2, 2010*

A \$225 million project in Milwaukee announced Tuesday would convert municipal and industrial waste into renewable energy. Alliance Federated Energy of Milwaukee announced that it plans to build Project Apollo, a project that is expected to create more than 250 construction jobs and 45 full-time jobs once it is operational.

The 25-megawatt project would go online in 2013, and would deploy a plasma gasification technology developed by Westinghouse Plasma Corp.

Under this technology, the municipal waste is not burned but is instead converted into a syngas that can be used to generate electricity, steam or biofuels.

Several facilities are operating around the world, but there are no commercial plants operating yet in the United States, company spokesman Josh Morby said.

Read more [here](#).

## #7

### Register Today for Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum

Learn how cities and villages across Wisconsin are going green and how your community can do so as well at the Sustainable Communities Public Policy Forum March 25 and 26 at UW-Fox Valley in Menasha.

Representatives of communities already making strides as sustainable communities will share what's working in La Crosse, other areas of Wisconsin and beyond, such as Northfield, Minnesota.

David Morris of the New Rules Project will explain why the old rules undermine local economies and ignore the cost of our decisions on future generations. He'll stress how communities can design and implement intelligent policies to promote sustainable energy production and consumption locally. The New Rules Project is a program of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance co-founded by Morris, who also has served as an advisor or consultant to the energy departments of Presidents Ford, Carter, Clinton and George W. Bush.

But you don't have to be a presidential advisor - or, like Michael Dombeck, the recipient of a presidential award - to make a difference in your community. Former chief of the U.S. Forest Service and now professor of Global Conservation at UW-Stevens Point, Dombeck will explain how any Wisconsin resident can influence policy to help create a healthy environment. He'll review significant achievements to date and outline major policy areas that must be addressed

to help create a more sustainable world.

That's just a look at the first day. The forum will continue March 26 with a half-day including Satya Rhodes-Conway, a senior associate with the Center on Wisconsin Strategy based at UW-Madison. Her presentation will address green economic development opportunities and approaches to get involved in local government. During breakout sessions, participants will put what they've learned to work as they contribute ideas for advancing policy in the great state of Wisconsin.

Registration: [Click here to register and learn more](#)  
Information: Sandra Kallio, [sandra.kallio@uwex.edu](mailto:sandra.kallio@uwex.edu)  
Phone: 608-712-9868

## #8

### NEW WI E-Waste Law to take affect on January 1, 2010

WI electronics recycling law is based on a product stewardship approach, which assigns primary responsibility for collection and recycling of products to the manufacturer. Guidelines have been established for manufacturers, recyclers and collectors to ensure that recycling occurs in an environmentally sound manner. Once fully implemented, the law is expected to provide Wisconsinites with more convenient recycling locations across the state, reduce pollution from improper disposal and encourage an expansion of the recycling industry within WI.

Until now there has been no comprehensive system in WI for recycling electronics form households and K-12 public schools. As a result, local governments and taxpayers were often left paying the bill for recycling, as well as the costs of cleaning up improperly managed electronics. This law will require manufacturers to take financial responsibility for the collection and recycling of covered electronic devices.

WI law is similar to electronics recycling laws passed in MN, IL, and IN. Because the laws are similar, manufacturers, collectors and recyclers in these states will be able to follow similar procedures to create economies of scale. To learn more about the law visit: [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/)



The recycling center accepts electronics year-round. This includes computer, audio/video equipment, microwaves, batteries, ballasts and light bulbs. For fee information visit [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org) or call 920-683-4333. The recycling center has always maintained environmentally correct recycling of electronics. We will keep you informed as this law is implemented.