

STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team

For July, 2012

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TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

[Farmer-to-farmer site to help feed buyers, sellers communicate](#), Wisconsin Ag Connection, July 30. State government leaders are encouraging farmers in Wisconsin that are less affected by the dry conditions to replant crops and make them available for others by posting them on the University of Wisconsin-Extension's online Farmer-to-Farmer program... <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/>.

[Managing the Risks of Extreme Weather Events](#). IPCC. The assessment concerns the interaction of climatic, environmental, and human factors that can lead to impacts and disasters, options for managing the risks posed by impacts and disasters, and the important role that non-climatic factors play in determining impacts.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Calendar of 2012 EPA grant opportunities](#)

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

[A new era rises](#), Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, July 22. Nature and sustainability define [UW-Eau Claire's] new Davies Center, with a north woods lodge theme incorporated in the building bordered by Little Niagara Creek and Putnam Park.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

[Biofuels proposals sought, Madison's Virent among firms invited to participate](#) A biofuels initiative that aims to reduce the military's reliance on imported petroleum is moving ahead, with companies including Madison-based Virent Inc. invited to submit proposals in a \$30 million initiative.

[Foxnews.com: Apple returns to EPEAT environmental ratings list.](#) Apple Inc. said Friday that it is putting its products back on an environmental ratings registry, saying it made a mistake in removing them from the list.

ENERGY

[Biofuels project at UWSP earns patent](#), Wausau Daily Herald, July 18. The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology made advancements with its biofuels program recently when it announced a patent for a process to produce biofuels from plant fibers. "This gives us an economically viable way to use grass, trees or wood waste to make renewable fuels and chemicals," said Eric Singsass, associate professor of biology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. WIST is housed at the university...

[Cow manure is focus of biofuel research](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 28. The race to create a better, less controversial biofuel has spawned plenty of research into a variety of potential new sources - including switchgrass, cornstalks and algae...

[DOE funds 13 biofuel projects with \\$41 million](#), AutoblogGreen, July 26...Today, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the DOE has announced that it will reach a little deeper into 13 biofuel and feedstock improvement projects with a \$41 million investment...The five vehicle-specific projects include...\$7 million for the University of Wisconsin to turn dairy manure into ethanol and other products...

[UW-Madison receives \\$7M grant for manure conversion projects](#), Wisconsin State Journal, July 25. UW-Madison has received a \$7 million federal grant that will help a large dairy farm near Green Bay convert cow manure into ethanol, fertilizer and mulch...

[UWS physicist pursues cheaper solar cells](#), Superior Telegram, July 27. The world could use a cheaper solar cell, and Dr. Peter Cook at the University of Wisconsin-Superior is among the scientists trying to figure out a way to create one. Cook, assistant professor of physics in the Department of Natural Sciences, recently received an Applied Research Grant Award from the University of Wisconsin System to conduct solar cell research...

[Chu visits UW biofuels center, talks future funding](#), Wisconsin Public Radio, July 13. One of the Wisconsin stops for Energy Secretary Steven Chu Thursday was at a UW-Madison site that's working on alternative fuels. Chu says he'd like to see more funding for the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center... (audio clip)

[Feds to fund natural gas research](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 11. Eaton Corp. is receiving \$3.4 million from the U.S. Department of Energy for a Milwaukee research project to help advance the development of vehicles powered with natural gas...The consortium pairs the three engineering schools in Milwaukee as well as the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

FOOD

What is the Compass? The [KYF Compass](#) highlights USDA investments in local food systems; showcases inspiring local food success stories from around the country; and features an interactive map. The 2.0 version of the map (live on July 17) is searchable by keyword or zip code radius, easier to use and has thousands of new data points, including USDA-funded local food projects in all 50 states, farmers markets, food hubs, wholesale markets, meat processing facilities, and other critical infrastructure.

RECYCLING

[Research targets plastic pollution in Great Lakes](#), Superior Telegram, July 27. Dr. Lorena Rios-Mendoza is spending much of July crossing the Great Lakes in search of a new type of pollution -- plastic. The assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Superior will sample three of the Great Lakes to determine whether they contain the same types of tiny plastic fragments that plague the world's oceans...

[New Dunn County Recycling Education Campaign's goal to improve recycling](#), Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, July 12. Keeping recyclable materials out of the landfill is the

goal of a new residential recycling education campaign at the Dunn County Solid Waste division. Summer intern Megan Hines is studying the current curbside recycling rates in the county, Hines, a UW-Stout student majoring in environmental science recently spent a week working with Menomonie Disposal observing curbside recycling within the county...

WATER

[Milwaukee touts its water resources at Chicago conference](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 25...It was an idea born in Milwaukee more than five years ago when civic leaders discovered that a fluke of the area's economic evolution had bestowed it with dozens of water-engineering companies. That was followed quickly by the creation of university research programs to study clean water technology and the emergence of a trade group called the Milwaukee Water Council...