STEAM

The (mostly) monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area **S**ustainability **Team***

For stories collected from March 1 to April 30, 2012

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TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

Banking on Green: How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money and Provides Economic Benefits Community-wide. This new report from the American Society of Landscape Architects examines hundreds of case studies that show that green infrastructure practices often offer more cost-effective solutions relative to traditional infrastructure approaches. The report details potential benefits of green infrastructure such as lower energy expenses, reduced flood damage, and improved public health.

Cool Climate Carbon Calculator. Interesting, interactive site that helps you calculate your household's energy use and impact on the environment, and then determine feasible positive action.

In Poll, Many Link Weather Extremes to Climate Change. New York Times. Scientists may hesitate to link some of the weather extremes of recent years to global warming - but the public, it seems, is already there.

On Campus: UW-Madison to launch new Office of Sustainability, Wisconsin State Journal, March 8. UW-Madison will launch a new office Friday to coordinate all campus efforts on sustainability.

Portland, Oregon: Doin' It Right. SustainableBusiness.com News. Portland, Oregon's Climate Action Plan is working - greenhouse gas emissions are now 6% below 1990 levels and down 26% per person, even though population has grown 26% over that time. Over the same period, US emissions rose 12%.

Forest Management and Climate Change: A Literature Review, FAO, March 2012. This document summarizes knowledge and experiences in forest management as a response to climate change, based on a literature review and a survey of forest managers.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program Request for Proposals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the availability of approximately $10 million in competitive Farmers Market Promotion Program grants to support farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agri-tourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer infrastructure. Minimum award $5,000, maximum award per grant is $100,000. Proposal due date: May 21, 2012.

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

May 8, 2012, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. EPA Smart Growth Webinar: Reimagining Rural—Green Building Boosts Economy in Howard, South Dakota. Learn how Howard, South Dakota, a community of 850 residents, came together to revitalize its local economy. The community's vision and drive resulted in construction of Maroney Commons, a LEED Platinum building that includes a restaurant, hotel, fitness center, and conference center that serves as a training center for the region on green jobs and rural health care.

Policy tools for more sustainable towns. From The Atlantic Cities, March 7. Rules about development are made collectively by local citizens through their elected councils and local agencies, not through a shadow-arm of the United Nations.

Fostering Sustainable Behavior – Community-Based Social Marketing. This site consists of five resources for those working to foster sustainable behaviors, such as those involved in conservation, energy efficiency, transportation, waste reduction, and water efficiency.

WI Education for Sustainability (EfS) Updates. The new online location for EfS information for Wisconsin Schools is www.efswisconsin.org. The new page contains:

- EfS Overview
- EfS in K-12 Schools
- 2011 Input Process
- EfS Toolbox and Resources

- EfS News and Opportunities

EPAUpcoming Climate and Energy Webcasts for State and Local Governments. To register, visit the webinar registration page.

- May 7, 1:00-2:00 PM (EDT) Connecting Materials & Discards Management with Climate
- May 8, 1:00-2:00 PM (EDT) Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE): An Overview for Green Power Partners and Stakeholders
- May 16, 2:00-3:30 PM (EDT) - Funding & Financing Local Government Clean Energy Programs, Part I: Getting Started: Answering Big Picture Funding Questions
- May 17, 2:00-3:00 PM (EDT) Innovative Energy Conservation Measures at Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- May 30, 2:00-3:30 PM (EDT) - Funding & Financing Local Government Clean Energy Programs, Part II: Getting it Funded: Finding Funding for your Clean Energy Programs
- ENERGY STAR Webcasts
- May 2 & May 15, 1:00-2:30 (EDT) - How to Apply for EPA's 2012 ENERGY STAR National Building Competition
- May 7, 1:00-2:30 PM (EDT) – EEPS Portfolio Manager Training
- May 10, 2:00-3:15 PM (EDT) – Benchmarking in Portfolio Manager for State and Local Governments
- May 16, 2:00-3:30 PM (EDT) – ENERGY STAR and Green Building Rating Systems
- AMPO (Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization) Webcasts
- May 1, 2:00-3:30 PM (EDT) - Linking Climate Change Solutions to Other Planning Goals

BUILDINGS

In November 2011, the US got a national green building code for the first time when the International Green Construction Code approved it. The historic code sets mandatory baseline standards for all aspects of building design and construction, including energy and water efficiency, site impacts, building waste, and materials.

Illinois Will Be First Midwest State to Adopt Historic Green Building Code. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is putting on 30 multi-day trainings across the state as it prepares to implement 2012 IECC rules.

UW-La Crosse's Centennial Hall wins statewide design award,"WKBT-TV, March 5. The newest and largest academic building on the UW-La Crosse campus is also the best

new building in the state. The "2011 Department of State Facilities Best Project Award" recognizes Centennial Hall's state of the art design and emphasis on sustainability...

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

A collaborative environment: Aldo Leopold's new education center proves business leaders and environmentalists really can work together. Environmentalists and businesspeople are clearly not always on the same page when it comes to our nation's and our state's future. No one knows that better than the players involved in the recent Gogebic Taconite mining proposal, which was shelved after the state Legislature failed to pass a bill that would have cleared the way for the mine.

Biodigester a new source of electricity for farms, Oshkosh Northwestern, March 11. A small-farm biodigester in Wisconsin, located on the Dave Allen farm near Oshkosh, may be the first of many in the state to use this technology for generating electricity from cow manure...The small-scale biodigester represents the third project BIOFerm, a company of the Viessmann Group, is taking on…

ENERGY

UW-P's new line of study targets sustainable and renewable energy, Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, March 31. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville's decision to offer a major in sustainable and renewable energy systems could have a big impact on tri-state area businesses.

Solarize Marshfield. Sustainable Marshfield Committee. Solarize Marshfield will help Marshfield area residents and businesses overcome the logistical hurdles of going solar at home or at their business including who to hire, what equipment to buy, how much to budget and where to start. With Solarize Marshfield, interested participants will join forces to conquer the process as a team, and realize up to 20% cost savings with bulk purchasing power.

Discovery Center researcher wins state award for fuel cell work, Dunn County News, April 22. A University of Wisconsin-Stout researcher has won a state award for his work with fuel cells. Kenneth Smith, an associate with the UW-Stout Discovery Center, has been named the 2012 WiSys Innovation Scholar.

UWS student sees changed views on energy in her native Japan,"Duluth News Tribune, March 11. Hiroko Tada went home to a different Japan last summer. "Because of the nuclear explosion … we didn't have enough energy to provide for all of Japan," said Tada, 30, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. "Many companies were saving energy"...

Increased use of solar in WI gets 89% support. Polling information is available at www.cleanwisconsin.org/polling.

ENVIRONMENT

Justice for Forests: Combating a US$ 10-15 billion Annual Illegal Logging Business. The World Bank, March 2012. This report shows how countries can effectively fight illegal logging through the criminal justice system, punish organized crime, trace and confiscate illegal logging profits. To be effective, law enforcement needs to look past low-level criminals to where the profits from illegal logging go, using tools developed in more than 170 countries to go after 'dirty money.'

The latest issue of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Water Currents newsletter is available.

Do-It-Yourself Alternative Lawn Care. Growing a lush lawn without synthetic fertilizer or pesticide is difficult, but can be done—and growing your lawn this way will protect the environment. (3 pages, October 2011).

Low Water Lawns. In this video from Wisconsin Public Radio's The Wisconsin Gardener, author Doug Soldat explains how much water to put on your lawn, how to calibrate a sprinkler, and what turf grasses work best in Wisconsin.

FOOD

30 to 50% of World's Food Thrown Away or Wasted. Reuters. Cleaning your plate may not help feed starving children today, but the time-worn advice of mothers everywhere may help reduce food waste from the farm to the fork, help the environment and make it easier to feed the world's growing population. Hard data is still being collected, but experts at the Reuters Food and Agriculture Summit in Chicago this week said an estimated 30 percent to 50 percent of the food produced in the world goes uneaten.

What Works for Women: Proven Approaches for Empowering Women Smallholders and Achieving Food Security. This publication has been produced by ActionAid International, CARE, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Find Your Feet, Oxfam, Practical Action, Save the Children, and Self Help Africa to share the lessons learned in promoting gender equality and working with rural women, including smallholders, over many decades.

Moving Food Along the Value Chain: Innovations in Regional Food Distribution, a USDA study of the aggregation, distribution, and marketing operations of eight regional food hubs/value chains.

UW-Sheboygan's aquaponics lab gives students new perspective on growing food, Sheboygan Press, April 28. ...The University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan's aquaponics lab -- a closed ecosystem that uses nothing but fish, water and bacteria to grow plants -- is giving students a whole new look at how to grow food indoors in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way...

Menomonie's Vagabond Bakery focuses on local, organic ingredients, Leader-Telegram, March 20. While driving to classes at UW-Stout about a decade ago, Rick Suydam remembers, he took note of the family farms lining his route. "You drive around and see all these local farms or apple orchards," said Rick, of Menomonie. "I started to wonder what I could do to support these places."...

RECYCLING

UWEX Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center News.

SUSTAINABILITY

Resource deficits are as important as financial deficits. By Chuck Baynton. We don't usually think of gasoline consumption as a form of deficit spending, but it is. There is a petroleum bank in the ground. Deposits to the bank - new petroleum formation - are almost nothing, and withdrawals have gotten very large in recent years. Almost all of what we consume is deficit spending from the petroleum bank. As with financial deficits, so with resource deficits. They are not sustainable. We must find a way to end dependence on this deficit spending too. Necessity trumps difficulty.

Painting a fact-based picture of a desirable future. A marketer would observe that the brand values of sustainability historically have been images of displaced and hungry people, forest fires, drowning polar bears and flooded villages. These are not images that motivate. Using this kind of rhetoric did not sell a lifestyle people would want to buy.

NACo identifies 2012 emerging sustainability strategies. In this publication, NACo's Green Government Advisory Board identifies promising solutions to county governments' sustainability challenges. Contact: Jared Lang • 202.942.4224

TRANSPORTATION

Retiring Baby Boomers Prefer Infill, Walkable Communities. By 2020, an estimated one-fifth of the U.S. population will be 65 or over. Instead of a rush to golf courses and retirement villages, the focus for retirees today is on more infill housing, as well as walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods with high levels of services and amenities.

Millennial Generation Driving Fewer Miles. The number of vehicle-miles traveled by people between the age of 16 and 34 has dropped almost 25 percent during the past decade. This trend away from the historical steady growth in miles driven is likely to be long-lasting, concluded a recent research report titled Why Young People Are Driving Less and What It Means for Transportation Policy. The study concluded that younger individuals prefer living in places where they can easily walk, bike and take public transportation.