

STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability **Team***

Covering January 2011 and December 2010

Compiled by Jason Kauffeld, Green Lake County UWEX

**STEAM meets the first Tuesday of every month from 2-3pm in the demo room of the County Courthouse in Green Lake. The meeting is an open discussion of current projects, ideas for the future, and a sharing of advice and lessons learned.*

Next meeting is **Tuesday, February 1st** and is open to all. Please come and contribute!

THIS ISSUE'S TOP RECOMMENDED STORIES

"Forget green jobs," Inside Higher Ed, Jan. 25. The problem is, we're debating the wrong issue. There are no green jobs. A green job is like a math job. Every job is a math job. And every job is a green job. We need to step back from this conversation to focus on the real issues: new skills, new competencies, and a new world view...

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/01/afghanistans-green-marines-cut-fuel-use-by-90-percent/>, **Afghanistan's Green Marines Cut Fuel Use by 90 Percent.**

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Clean_Economy_Report_Web.pdf. **Wisconsin's Clean Energy Economy 2010.** Wisconsin now ranks 5th in the nation in solar industry jobs (2,855 jobs, *National Solar Jobs Census 2010*, October 2010), 7th in ethanol production (Renewable Fuels Association, January 2010) and 9th in sustainability (*Green Guide, Site Selection Magazine*, July 2010). According to a study just released by The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Global Clean Power: A \$2.3 Trillion Opportunity* (2010), the United States is one of the countries with the most to gain from strong (G-20 countries) government clean energy policies in the next 10 years. The US could attract \$342 billion in clean energy investments in the next decade. Clean energy jobs occur up and down the supply chain from research to manufacturing to shipping.

FUNDING

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=58143>.

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm>.

http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.htm.

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=56016>.

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/prgemerglist.htm>.

Five Star Restoration Grant applications available Dec. 16. The Five Star Restoration Program will begin accepting applications for the 2011 round of funding on Dec. 16. This program funds wetland, river or stream restoration in connection with community-based environmental education. For more information, click [here](#). Contact: [Carrie Clingan](#) • 202.942.4246.

"[Campus Connection: UW plasma fusion teams awarded \\$10.7 million](#)," *Capital Times*, **Dec. 21.** Another day. Another multi-million-dollar grant for UW-Madison researchers. Two research teams on campus conducting plasma fusion experiments were awarded \$10.7 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fusion Energy Sciences.

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

State and Local Climate and Energy Webcasts. EPA hosts the State Climate and Energy Technical Forums and Local Climate and Energy Webcast Series to assist local governments with climate change and clean energy efforts. These regular webcasts highlight EPA resources and present examples of successful state and local climate and energy programs and policies. For more information or to view past webcasts, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/web-podcasts/index.html>.

ENERGY STAR Webcasts. ENERGY STAR offers free online training to help you improve the energy performance of your organization. To register for either of these trainings or to see other upcoming ENERGY STAR trainings, visit: <https://energystar.webex.com>.

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>.

Building Sustainable Communities with Green Building Codes, *Thursday, Feb. 3, 2 – 3:15 p.m. EST* Find out how the new International Green Construction Code (IGCC) supports sustainable development in county government. To register, click [here](#). Contact: [Jared Lang](#), Phone: 202.942.4224.

"[UW Oshkosh offers sustainability workshops for area businesses](#)," *Oshkosh Northwestern*, **Jan. 13.** The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh announces a new workshop series, Sustainable Systems at Work, to help businesses, nonprofit organizations and local governments develop and implement organizational sustainability initiatives from social, ecological and economic perspectives...

LibGuides (<http://uiuc.libguides.com>) is a web 2.0 platform that libraries use to create topical guides to help their users find information. It combines the best features of social networks, wikis, and blogs into one package. Users can also sign up to receive e-mail alerts when new content is published, either for particular topics/keywords or for a specific librarian.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

"Region's role in green technology in spotlight," Editorial, Green Bay Press-Gazette, Jan. 26. We are encouraged by President Barack Obama's emphasis on green technology in his State of the Union address Tuesday, particularly because Northeastern Wisconsin is poised to lead in this area...

"Monroe manufacturer, UW-Madison to collaborate on electric pickup truck," Wisconsin State Journal, Jan. 10. A Monroe steel manufacturer is helping UW-Madison pursue advances in clean vehicle technology using a new Ford F-150 pickup truck that will be reconfigured for researchers as a rugged, experimental electric vehicle...

ENERGY

Wisconsin Bioenergy Atlas, <http://wiscbioenergy.org/>

Tapping into Wisconsin's energy potential should be bipartisan goal, *submitted by Tom Still.* Unless someone strikes oil in Oshkosh, discovers natural gas in Necedah or mines coal in Colfax, the state of Wisconsin is destined to remain largely dependent - perhaps for decades - on outside sources of energy that power its homes, businesses and vehicles.

"On Campus: \$40 million in upgrades at UW-Madison paying off, officials say," Wisconsin State Journal, Jan. 24. Faramarz Vakili, director of the university's We Conserve program, said he expects the university to recoup its costs through energy savings in less than five years. "Our annual reduction is \$13 million."

"Food waste to provide energy at UW-Oshkosh," Associated Press, Jan. 4. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will use food scraps and yard waste to provide energy on campus. A \$3.5 million bio-digester is expected to be operational this year and will convert waste into biogas for electricity and heat. The system should generate up to 10 percent of the university's electricity...

"New Wisconsin governor ends UW-Madison biomass project," Biomass Power and Thermal, Jan. 24. A biomass power project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been nixed by new Republican Gov. Scott Walker...

"EPA investigating Wis. power plants," Associated Press, Dec. 2. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notified the state of Wisconsin this week that it was starting an investigation into 15 publically owned power plants to determine if they were violating clean air laws...

ENVIRONMENT

"Know Your Madisonian: UW limnologist is a strong voice on climate change," Wisconsin State Journal, Dec. 8. Though he retired 10 years ago from his work as a limnologist at UW-Madison, John Magnuson remains one of the most recognizable and authoritative voices on issues related to climate change in Wisconsin...

"Madison surpasses reduction goal for carbon emissions," Wisconsin State Journal, Jan. 12. Madison and a coalition of community partners have far surpassed a clean energy goal of reducing carbon emissions city wide by 100,000 tons over four years.

Information on the impacts of Wisconsin Climate can be found at <http://blogs.ces.uwex.edu/climatechangeeducation/>, at <http://climatewisconsin.org/>, and at <http://www.wicci.wisc.edu>