

STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team
Energy and Environment news from December 2012

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TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

[Wisconsin and National Links for GREEN Resources.](#)

December 7, 1:00-2:00 PM (EST) – Global Warming's Six Americas: Understanding and Communicating with a Diverse Public. [Webcast registration.](#) Americans differ in their beliefs and concern about climate change. Understanding the differences is vital to effective engagement and to bring about positive behavioral change. Dr. Edward Maibach, professor and director of George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication...will address a range of topics, including recent increases in public engagement in climate change, perceptions about extreme weather and its relationship to climate change, and public policy preferences.

*****EPA Releases Report on Economic Advantages of Smart Growth, Announces Winners of Smart Growth Achievement Awards.** [Smart Growth and Economic Success](#) is a new report from EPA's Smart Growth Program designed to inform developers, businesses, local government, and other groups about the economic advantages of smart growth development. The report demonstrates that smart growth development is attractive to developers, investors, local governments, and communities because it offers new opportunities for economic growth that is also environmentally sustainable.

*****Rhode Island Commission Identifies Social, Economic, and Environmental Vulnerabilities to Climate Change.** The Rhode Island Climate Change Commission, a state panel charged with assessing the risks associated with climate change, has released a report that summarizes key climate risks in the state and associated social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities. The report, "[Adapting to Climate Change](#)

[in the Ocean State: A Starting Point](#)" (PDF, 38 pp, 1.2 MB), also explores current and projected impacts on human health, public and private infrastructure, and the environment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Approximately \$23 Million in Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below. In addition, please visit the [calendar of 2012 EPA grant opportunities](#) that may be of particular interest to communities.

[Helping Communities Realize a More Prosperous Future—HUD Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities 2012 Accomplishments Report](#). In 2010 and 2011, OSHC awarded 152 grants in 48 states, totaling \$240 million. This in turn has generated almost \$253 million in private investments and commitments from local partners.

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

*****EPA Directories of Adaptation Tools and Resources for Public Officials.** EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy site has a [topic page on impacts and adaptation](#) that includes links to state adaptation plans, guidebooks, programs, and tools. EPA's Climate Change Site includes a list of [adaptation-related tools, guidebooks, clearinghouses, and other resources](#) for public officials.

*****EPA's Webcast Series on Climate Change Adaptation for State and Local Governments.** All of the [presentations, papers, and audio recordings](#) from these webcasts are available on EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program website. The webcasts covered climate impacts and risk communication, adaptation planning and implementation, and federal resources and support for climate change adaptation.

*****Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments.** This [guidebook](#) presents a detailed, easy-to-understand process for climate change preparedness based on familiar resources and tools. ICLEI's website also provides [links to a number of other free adaptation resources](#).

*****Georgetown Climate Center Adaptation Portal.** A [clearinghouse of information on impacts and adaptation](#) for state and local governments, including news and updates, a directory of resources and tools, and state and local adaptation stories.

*****Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE).** Aims to build a shared knowledge base for managing natural systems in the face of rapid climate change. The [CAKE website](#) provides a virtual library, case studies, a directory of people and organizations, and tools.

*****NOAA's Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook Reports for State and Local Governments.** The reports highlight trends in temperature, precipitation, and climate in four regions of the country (Central Region, Southern Great Plains, the Eastern Region, and the Western Region). Maps of areas of significant fire potential and drought may help state and local officials in their planning efforts. The reports are available on the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

*****Adapting to Urban Heat: A Tool Kit for Local Governments.** A [toolkit to help local governments reduce the effects of increased heat](#) on their communities and citizens.

*****UK Climate Impacts Program (UKCIP) Tools and Case Studies.** Provides [information, tools, case studies, news, and links](#) to resources on climate change adaptation. While designed for users in the UK, many of its products and resources are applicable to the United States and other areas.

***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 EPA's [State and Local Climate and Energy Program](#) site.

Realizing Cost and Energy- Saving Opportunities in County Facilities. Thursday, January 10, 2013, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Eastern Time. Join the webinar to learn how savvy county leaders are thinking about energy management and consider where the opportunities for savings are for your county. Contact: Cindy Wasser, cwasser@naco.org or 202.942.4274. Register Now at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/296681834>.

New NACo Publication on County Wind Ordinance Best Practices. Find out how county leaders are working with the wind industry to responsibly develop wind energy in their communities—protecting public safety while respecting individual property rights and promoting development. Download the publication: [NACO - Wind Best Practices](#). Contact: Cindy Wasser at cwasser@naco.org or 202.942.4274

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

[UWO partners for environmental technology program](#), WLUK-TV, Dec. 14. UW Oshkosh is taking its mission of environmental stewardship to another level. With the help of a

German company, it's creating a sustainable technology program. The program provides new opportunities for students and might one day lead to new manufacturing jobs in Northeast Wisconsin...

[New University of Wisconsin online Master of Science in sustainable management prepares students for universal business challenges of profit versus environmental impact](#), Yahoo News, Dec. 19. The University of Wisconsin-Extension has developed a new Master of Science in Sustainable Management, answering student demand for business strategies that are profitable, improve local communities, and protect the environment.

[Argonne battery lab adds Midwest power to industry](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 30. A \$120 million federal project to develop smaller, cheaper and more powerful batteries for the next generation of fuel-saving cars will be based in the Chicago area and deeply involve Johnson Controls Inc., Wisconsin's largest company...

[New wind turbines power S.C. Johnson plant](#). Racine County, 12/27/2012. Combined with two cogeneration turbines that have been in place since the mid-2000s, the facility is now able to produce an average of 100 percent of its electrical energy onsite....

ENERGY

[US energy revival has staying power](#). National, 12/13/2012. Exxon says the energy renaissance in the U.S. will continue and predicts that North America will become a net exporter of oil and natural gas by the middle of the next decade.

[Energy innovation needed despite oil, gas boom](#). The United States is well on its way to becoming virtually energy independent in less than two decades, in no small part because "fracking" and other technologies are unlocking new supplies of oil and natural gas within our borders. That's great news for an economy that seems permanently stuck in neutral. However, it's unnerving for those who believe prolonged reliance on fossil fuels will curb conservation, reduce innovation and accelerate potentially disastrous climate change.

ENVIRONMENT

[New Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology to study environmental footprint of nanoparticles](#). National, 12/3/2012. Northwestern University has joined forces with four Midwestern universities and a national laboratory to establish the Center for Sustainable

Nanotechnology, which this fall received funding from the National Science Foundation.

[New air pollution regulation looks to limit soot.](#) Wisconsin, 12/17/2012. The Obama administration set new and tougher air pollution limits for soot on Friday that will produce cleaner air. All counties in Wisconsin meet the new standards, which will go into place in about three months...

FOOD

[Farming: Friend or foe to climate change?](#) World, 12/10/2012. The answer to a cleaner climate is through the stomach, according to a new report by the Worldwatch Institute.

[Farming in the sky in Singapore.](#) SINGAPORE, 12/10/2012. With a population of five million crammed on a landmass of just 715 square kilometers, the tiny republic of Singapore has been forced to expand upwards...Now, Singapore is applying the vertical model to urban agriculture, experimenting with rooftop gardens and vertical farms in order to feed its many residents...

[UW-Extension launches online crop budget calculator,](#) Wisconsin Ag Connection, Dec. 17. The costs for growing alfalfa, corn, soybeans, and wheat in Wisconsin are predicted to be about 14 percent higher next year compared to 2012. University of Wisconsin-Extension Educator Ken Barnett says the drought will result in much higher seed prices going into 2013...

Future Food Trends: <http://prezi.com/qo1d7egpdhkg/future-food-trends-2013/>, http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLX55MmT7nGJgQwwXdi32N1Ik_qCCQu8co.

[Organic food distributor to build Racine County facility.](#) Sturtevant, 12/13/2012. Another distribution center is planned in the Interstate 94 corridor between Milwaukee and Chicago. Providence, R.I.-based United Natural Foods Inc., which claims to be the largest distributor of natural, organic food in the nation, plans to build a 425,000-square-foot distribution center at the southwest corner of Highways H and 11 in Sturtevant....

TRANSPORTATION

[Indianapolis to replace entire fleet with electric, hybrid cars.](#) Indianapolis, 12/17/2012. Indianapolis is aiming to become the first major U.S. city to replace its entire fleet with environmentally friendly vehicles, in a move the mayor said is aimed at reducing the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

[State funds rail line between Plymouth/Kohler](#) . Wisconsin, 12/20/2012. State transportation officials have awarded \$17 million for the 11-mile line, which has been out of service for more than two decades.

[Cyclists, Pedestrians Spend More than Car Drivers](#). According to a new report by the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, bicyclists and other nonmotorists purchased more than motorized drivers at stores other than supermarkets. Although bikers and pedestrians often spent less per visit, they made more frequent trips to restaurants, bars and convenience stores, and those receipts added up.

[Chicago Mayor: Bike Lanes will Attract Tech Companies](#) . Chicago recently installed its first two-way bike route with dedicated traffic signals, in an effort to attract high-tech companies and startups to the city.

<p><i>Your county extension office</i></p>  <p>UW Extension Cooperative Extension Green Lake County</p>	<p>Jason Kauffeld Community Development Educator Green Lake County UW-Extension 571 County Road A Box 3188 (Mailing Address) Green Lake, WI 54941 Phone: 920-294-4036 Fax: 920-294-4176 Email: jason.kauffeld@ces.uwex.edu http://greenlake.uwex.edu</p>
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