

STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team*

For stories from the month of June, 2011

Compiled by Jason Kauffeld, Green Lake County UWEX

**STEAM meets the first Tuesday of every month from 2-3pm in the training room of the County Government Center 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, July 12 and is open to all. Please come and contribute!

TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

The Earth Is Full, By [THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN](#). Published: June 7, 2011.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/08/opinion/08friedman.html>

http://earththeoperatorsmanual.com/broadcast_info "EARTH: The Operators' Manual" dispenses with politics, polemics or punditry; instead, it presents an objective, accessible assessment of the Earth's problems and possibilities that will leave viewers informed, energized and optimistic."

Hungry For Power, Sicily's Mafia Tries to Go Green. Read more:

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2075775,00.html#ixzz1RpurDkLL>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[DOT Announces \\$175 Million in Grants: Transit Options for Communities](#)

US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced the availability of up to \$175 million in livability grants to help urban, suburban and rural communities develop transit options to better connect people to where they live, work and play. Livability grants will help assure that transportation and housing decisions are made jointly in communities.

Learn about grant opportunities via NACo's Green Government Network NACo's Electronic Green Government Network is your source for information about county "greening" efforts, including grant opportunities, new tools, publications, sustainability best practices, webinars and workshops. Click [here](#)

[More Funding Opportunities](#)

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

July 19, 2011 [Webinar: Local Food Systems and Brownfields Redevelopment](#) 1:00-3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Communities nationwide have begun to implement programs focused on local food systems and how brownfield sites can play a role in urban agriculture development.

The Weave: Participatory Process Design Guide for Strategic Sustainable Development. The link to the resource is: <http://www.theweave.info/>. As noted on the web site, The Weave provides guidance for sustainability practitioners wishing to more deeply engage people in creating their sustainable future.

BUILDINGS

www.cubeproject.org.uk – A ten foot by ten foot by ten foot house that generates its own energy.

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/124924374.html> **Delavan** - When it opens next year, the Green Leaf Inn in rural Delavan will claim a unique selling point as the nation's only hotel that generates as much energy as it uses.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

[Legislators are exporting wind energy jobs](#): BizTimes.com, June 20, 2011. If Wisconsin is serious about economic development and growing jobs in the state, it must look to establish a stable environment for wind project development and for wind turbine component manufacturing in the state.

["Sustainable energy jobs could boost economy, group says,"](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 12. Wisconsin should strive to do more to grow a renewable energy economy that creates jobs in the state, the author of a new sustainability report says.

["Johnson Controls, UW partnership touted as unique,"](#) Business Journal of Milwaukee, June 30.

["Institute forms board,"](#) Wausau Daily Herald, June 19. The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has formed a 12-member advisory board comprised of leaders from industry, business development groups and research organizations who will provide guidance to the institute as it shapes priorities and works to transfer new technology from the laboratory to commercial use...

ENERGY

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Johnson Controls to Convert Ohio Plant to New Battery Technology](#)

"[Energy facilities sparking interest](#)," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 2. As the Walker administration explores a plan to sell off the state's energy plants, which provide heat and steam to college campuses and prisons, local utilities are expressing interest in buying the plants.

[Energy Concerns Could Make Panetta First Green DOD Chief](#) New York Times. When Leon Panetta was sworn in this morning as the 23rd secretary of Defense, he inherited a force that is more fuel-dependent than ever -- a fact that those inside the Pentagon increasingly say underlies the budgetary and ...

"[WIST director joins Centergy board](#)," Stevens Point Journal, June 30. The executive director of the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has been elected to the board of directors of Centergy, a Central Wisconsin economic development group.

"[Rising gas prices send colleges on search for corners to cut](#)," Chronicle of Higher Education, June 19. With gasoline prices high again, universities are looking for ways to reduce their long-term reliance on the fuel. Hybrid vehicles, ethanol, alternative-fuel research, and car-sharing programs are some of the ideas being examined or phased in at many larger institutions.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-google-solar-20110614,0,4289667.story> Google creates \$280-million solar power fund. Google says its deal with SolarCity, a solar panel installation company, is the biggest green investment it has ever made. SolarCity will use the Google fund to help finance rooftop installations.

ENVIRONMENT

"[UW-EC research findings may influence climate change models](#)," Dunn County News. Scientific models used to predict future climate change could be modified because of findings from an extensive research project that involves a University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-EC) biologist and several of her students...

Monster wildfire in Arizona: A glimpse of what climate change could bring. Even as the Wallow fire threatens to alter the Arizona landscape for a long time to come, some scientists say climate change may be fueling a trend toward larger wildfires in the American West. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/0609/Monster-wildfire-in-Arizona-A-glimpse-of-what-climate-change-could-bring>

FOOD

[A Warming Planet Struggles to Feed Itself](#) New York Times, Jun 4, 2011

["Gardening effort blossoms at UW-Eau Claire,"](#) Leader-Telegram, June 23. Rows of cucumbers, leafy green lettuce, plump tomatoes and numerous other vegetables cover a plot of land in the courtyard of Phillips Science Hall at UW-Eau Claire...Odegard is working as garden manager, a newly established position. She will work closely this summer with the university grounds crew to maintain the garden established by The Foodlums, a campus organization concerned with promoting sustainable food...

[Four endeavors are worthy of four-star ratings,"](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 14. This week the pats on the back go to a group of clever food science students, a "sustainable" caterer, an ice-cream loving organic foods business owner and an author who prizes French food.

HEALTH

Community Resilience to Disasters: A Way Forward to Enhance National Health Security
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2011/RAND_TR915.pdf

SUSTAINABILITY

<http://energybulletin.net/stories/2011-06-09/building-resilience-new-economy-shell-old>
Building resilience: The new economy in the shell of the old.