

STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team*

For stories collected in May of 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, June 7 and is open to all. Please come and contribute!

TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

[CHICAGO — The Windy City is preparing for a heat wave — a permanent one.](#) Climate scientists have told city planners that based on current trends, Chicago will feel more like Baton Rouge than a Northern metropolis before the end of this century. So, Chicago is getting ready for a wetter, steamier future. Public alleyways are being repaved with materials that are permeable to water. The white oak, the state tree of Illinois, has been banned from city planting lists. Thermal radar is being used to map the city's hottest spots, which are then targets for pavement removal and the addition of vegetation to roofs.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[National Park Service RTCA Community Assistance Available](#) RTCA staff will provide guidance to selected communities to help them conserve waterways, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Applications are due August 1, 2011.

[More Funding Opportunities](#)

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

NACo's Electronic Green Government Network is your source for information about county greening efforts. This includes grant opportunities, new tools, publications, sustainability best practices, webinars, workshops and many other opportunities. Sign up today at www.naco.org/greennetwork. Contact: [Jared Lang](#) • 202.942.4224

BUILDINGS

[Creating a 'living' built environment.](#) Yes Magazine.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

[Business Leaders Are Surprised that Sustainability Actually Pays Off](#)

[New green house gas rule raises environmental concerns from Democrats:](#) Superior Telegram, May 11, 2011. A panel of state Senators has approved a rule that will exempt small businesses from regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

[UWEC helping students with tools to get growing number of green jobs,](#) WEAU-TV, May 20. Green energy jobs continue to be a stand out sector of the growing job market, and along with the rest of the country, Western Wisconsin universities are creating classes and programs to make students more attractive to green sector companies.

ENERGY

U.S. Department of Energy's [2011 Strategic Plan](#) - a blueprint to guide the agency's "mission of ensuring America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions."

[Walker, GOP reversing green initiatives,](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 7. Gov. Scott Walker and the Republican Legislature have moved quickly to weaken a string of environmental and energy programs as they contend with a budget deficit and make economic development their top priority...

[UWO to unveil nation's first dry fermentation anaerobic digester,](#) Oshkosh Northwestern, May 11.

[GM and University of Wisconsin investigate diesel engines,"](#) TheGreenCarWebsite, May 7. A partnership has been formed between General Motors and the University of Wisconsin looking into high-speed petrol direct injection compression ignition operation in low temperature combustion of a light duty diesel engine...

ENVIRONMENT

[Carbon Capture and Storage \(CCS\) critical to addressing climate change.](#) Hubert Huppert, director of the Institute of Theoretical Geophysics at the University of Cambridge, asserts that CCS is critical to the reduction of global CO2 emissions and that supporting CCS deployment will be much less costly than the impact of inaction.

[Wetland restoration in Stevens Point to fight floods,](#)"Wausau Daily Herald, May 12.

FOOD

[USDA Launches Food Desert Locator](#) A "food desert" is a low-income area where a substantial share of residents does not have easy access to a supermarket or large grocery store. The Locator reveals that about 10 percent of the land area of the United States lies within food deserts. About 13.5 million people in these areas have little access to sources of healthful food.

[On Small Farms, Hoof Power Returns - NYTimes.com](#) May 3, 2011. Mr. Fisher discovered farming with horses more than a decade ago as an...

HEALTH

[RF student earns honor for bright idea,](#) River Falls Journal, May 16. River Falls native and UW-Madison student Brad Lindevig recently won \$2,000 in a student competition for innovative ideas to counteract climate change...

RECYCLING

[UW-Stout students' pizza box design takes first in national contest,](#) Leader-Telegram, May 13. Packaging majors design innovative product that's recyclable and reusable.

SUSTAINABILITY

[Know Your Madisonian: UW student helping change the world,](#) Wisconsin State Journal, May 11. Some students may talk a good game about changing the world but Steven Olikara is following through. The UW-Madison junior from Brookfield is active in the university's sustainability initiative and is helping to create a study abroad program in China focused on sustainability issues...

[Sustainability in America's Cities: Creating the Green Metropolis](#) , Sustainability in America's Cities offers firsthand insight into innovative strategies that cities have adopted in renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate change, green building, clean-tech and green jobs, transportation and infrastructure, urban forestry and sustainable food production.

[College grads' gowns going green](#), USA Today, May 27. America's colleges, where recycling is hip, are turning another green leaf: sending off their graduates in caps and gowns made from eco-friendly materials...

TRANSPORTATION

[Safe and Complete Streets Legislation Introduced in U.S. House](#), The national legislation would direct states and regions to adopt policies to provide for the needs of all users of the transportation system, including people of all ages and abilities who are walking, bicycling, and taking the bus. The bill was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

[Vermont Passes Complete Streets Legislation](#), Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin recently signed into law legislation that ensures Vermont's roads are safe for all users, requiring transportation policy to take into account the needs of motorists, bicyclists, public transportation users and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

[10 Schools with fewest cars on campus](#), U.S. News & World Report, May 24. At Wisconsin, the school's transportation services department offers amenities to incentivize alternate means of travel...