

# STEAM

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

For November 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, December 7th and is open to all. Please come and contribute!

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Chamber of Commerce to honor sustainability innovation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC) opened the nomination period for its 2011 Siemens Sustainable Community Awards. The program recognizes local governments, chambers of commerce, and other organizations for innovative steps they have taken toward long-term sustainability. To apply, click [here](#). Contact: [Jared Lang](#) • 202.942.4224

## EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

**New Climate Adaptation Program Available for Local Governments.** ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA has launched a Climate Resilient Communities Program to help local governments learn how to adapt to climate change. For more information and links to resources, please visit <http://www.iclei.org/adaptation/>.

**\*\*\*EPA State and Local Climate and Energy Webcasts.** 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>

For more information or to view past webcasts, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/web-podcasts/index.html>.

December 15, 2010, 2-3:30 pm (EST): **Adaptation Planning and Implementation.** Visit: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/114040154>.

January 13, 2011, 2-3:30 pm (EST): **Federal Resources and Support for Climate Change Adaptation.** Visit: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/371104282>.

December 2, 2010, 1-3:00 pm (EST): **Climate Change Adaptation Tools for Addressing Water Issues.** Visit: [http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/webcasts\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/webcasts_index.cfm))

\*\*\*ENERGY STAR Webcasts

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

November 30, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm (EST): **K-12 Benchmarking 101.**

December 2, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm (EST): **Financing Energy Efficient Upgrades with Energy Star.**

December 7, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm (EST): **Benchmarking in Portfolio Manager for State and Local Governments.**

December 8, 2010, 2:00-3:30 pm (EST): **ENERGY STAR and Green Building Rating Programs.**

December 15, 2010, 1:00-2:00 pm (EST): **Purchasing and Procuring Efficient Equipment.**

\*\*\*DOE Solution Center Webcasts

DOE offers free online training to help organizations improve their energy performance. To register for any of these trainings or to view past webcasts, visit: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/webcasts/default.html>

November 30, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm (EST): **Community Renewables Projects.**

December 2, 2010, 12:00-1:30 pm (EST): **Defining and Establishing the Role of a Sustainability Manager.**

December 6, 2010, 2:00—3:00 pm (EST): **Building Actionable Climate Action Plans.**

December 8, 2010, 1:00-2:30 pm (EST): **Overcoming Barriers to Solar PV and Solar Water Heating Implementation.**

December 16, 2010, 1:30-2:30 pm (EST): **ESPC Pricing and Financing.**

**Save Money through Green Purchasing**, Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2 – 3:15 pm. EDT  
Join this webinar to learn green purchasing strategies available to help you immediately start saving money and resources. To register, click [here](#).  
Contact: [Cindy Wasser](#) • 202.942.4274

**2011 County Forum on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** set for January  
Register to join NACo at CBS' Los Angeles studios on Jan. 20 and 21 for a highly interactive event on county energy initiatives. To learn more and register by December 15, click [here](#). Contact: [Cindy Wasser](#) • 202.942.4274

**SEED Center** ([www.theSEEDcenter.org](http://www.theSEEDcenter.org)) is a free clearinghouse of resources for community colleges to scale up training programs to educate America's 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce to compete in the green economy. To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/311205411>

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**™ is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. To learn more about this program, go to: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>. Go to the "Actions for Sustainable Communities" section to see the actions and tools that have been developed to support this program.

## BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

"[Wis.-Madison buys socially conscious apparel](#)," Associated Press, Nov. 19.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is joining other schools around the country in purchasing apparel from a Dominican Republic factory that pays its workers a living wage...

"[UW-Madison buying apparel from living-wage factory](#)," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 19.

"[Biomass boiler will keep cash in state](#)," Letter, Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 17. ...The request to stop the biomass boiler installation is shortsighted and will hurt the state in the

long run...As a chemical engineering researcher in the field of biomass, I know that Wisconsin and especially the university are world leaders in biomass utilization...

## ENERGY

**"The new biomasters and their assault on livelihoods"**, Jim Thomas, ETC Group, 07 October 2010, <http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/67535>

**"Driving to destruction. The impacts of Europe's biofuel plans on carbon emissions and land"**, 2010, [http://www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/ILUC\\_report\\_November2010.pdf](http://www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/ILUC_report_November2010.pdf)

[Xcel halts biomass plant in Ashland](#): Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 29, 2010. Sharp increase in costs of gasification plant cited.

[Alliant's \\$200 million outlay](#): Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 29, 2010. Sheboygan coal plant sale, upgrades approved.

[Biomass power plant at juncture](#): Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 27, 2010. Hearings will address We Energies proposal.

[Report: Breathing near biomass plant no breeze](#): Wausau Daily Herald, Nov. 21, 2010. Findings prompt D.C. Everest Area School District to ask for air filters, monitors for buildings near proposed biomass facility.

["Doyle breaks ground on Wisconsin Energy Institute"](#), The Daily Reporter, Nov. 29. Gov. Jim Doyle broke ground last week on the Wisconsin Energy Institute, which will help the University of Wisconsin-Madison develop new technologies to meet the need of creating renewable energy in the state...

["On Campus: School of Music, Wisconsin Energy Institute move forward"](#), Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 29.

["Ground broken for Energy Institute"](#), Wisconsin Radio Network, Nov. 25. Ground has been broken on an energy research facility on the UW Madison campus.

["UW breaks ground on clean energy research facility"](#), WISC-TV, Nov. 24.

[Cape Wind Power-Contract Granted in Loss for Kennedys, Wal-Mart, Bloomberg - Christopher Martin](#). Cape Wind may become the first US offshore wind farm after Massachusetts regulators approved a contract permitting it to sell electricity, overcoming critics including the Kennedy family and Wal-Mart ...

[Mass. Regulators Approve Offshore Wind Power Deal](#) ABC News

"[Work begins on \\$250m biomass refit at University of Wisconsin](#)," BrighterEnergy.org, Nov. 1. Construction began last week on a \$250-million refit program for the Charter Street heating plant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The coal-powered plant is being converted to run on natural gas and biomass fuels including wood chips and energy crops...

"[Companies offer fuel for Charter Street plant](#)," Wisconsin Radio Network, Nov. 8.

"[Walker's request brings uncertainty to Charter Street Heating Plant](#)," The Daily Reporter, Nov. 15. If Gov.-elect Scott Walker wants to radically redraw plans to convert a Madison power plant, the contractor behind the project would sure like to know what the changes entail.

"[Walker orders biofuels project stopped at Charter Street plant](#)," Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 11.

"[Clean energy worth state's investment](#)," Letter, Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 15.

A great visual on clean energy / clean tech funding.

<http://www.good.is/post/how-to-lose-the-clean-energy-race-visualized/>

2010 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard, Wisconsin ranks 11 in the country.

<http://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/e107.pdf>  
<http://www.aceee.org/research-report/e107>

International Energy Agency: **Peak Oil Has Already Passed**, BY [Ariel Schwartz](#) Today. There is nowhere for our oil supply to go but down. So what do we do?  
<http://www.fastcompany.com/1702570/international-energy-agency-peak-oil-has-already-passed>

## ENVIRONMENT

**Climate change: evidence from the geological record**, The Geological Society,  
[http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/views/policy\\_statements/climatechange](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/views/policy_statements/climatechange).

**Climate Debt**, <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/2010/04/30/final-conclusions-working-group-n%C2%BA-8-climate-debt/>

**“Winner of Project Censored top 25 articles for 2009-2010 news stories: Pentagon's role in global catastrophe”**, Sara Flounders, International Action Center, [http://www.iacenter.org/o/world/climatesummit\\_pentagon121809/](http://www.iacenter.org/o/world/climatesummit_pentagon121809/)

<http://www.good.is/post/twitter-chatbot-debunks-climate-change-skeptics-without-tiring/>. Debating climate change can get exhausting, especially when so much of the science is settled. So Nigel Leck, a software developer, [created a Twitter chatbot, AI AGW](#), to do it for him. Every five minutes, [AI AGW](#) searches Twitter for tweets that feature common, debunked arguments against man-made climate change. It then responds with its own Tweet, countering the faulty argument in question, and providing a link to published information from groups like NASA that backs up its case.

## FOOD

[“UW study details trade-off of growing crops, climate change,”](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 1.

## SUSTAINABILITY

**Potential Impacts of Tree Plantation Projects under the CDM:** An African Case Study, 07 October 2010, Blessing Karumbidza y Wally Menne, The Timberwatch Coalition, [http://timberwatch.org/uploads/Draft%20Plantation Projects under%20CDM%20-%20Blessing%20&%20Wally%281%29.pdf](http://timberwatch.org/uploads/Draft%20Plantation%20Projects%20under%20CDM%20-%20Blessing%20&%20Wally%281%29.pdf)

**“Could Biochar save the world?”**, Jeremy Hance, 16 August 2010, <http://bit.ly/cALKwk>

**“Biochar, a new big threat to people, land and ecosystems”**, Declaration, <http://www.wrm.org.uy/subjects/agrofuels/Biochar.pdf>

**“Geoengineering the planet: What is at stake for Africa?”**, Diana Bronson, ETC Group, <http://pambazuka.org/en/category/features/67522>

**The Rich: Our Biggest Carbon Problem**, Barry Saxifrage, 12 February 2009, [http://www.saxifrages.org/eco/go19a/The\\_Rich\\_Our\\_Biggest\\_Carbon\\_Problem](http://www.saxifrages.org/eco/go19a/The_Rich_Our_Biggest_Carbon_Problem)

<http://www.breathingearth.net/>

**“Murder on the Carbon Express: Interpol Takes On Emissions Fraud”**, Mark Schapiro for Mother Jones, 8 October 2010, <http://motherjones.com/environment/2010/10/interpol-carbon-trading-fraud>

Figures from CO2Now, <http://co2now.org/>

**Qatar awarded the 2022 World Cup.** Qatar, which promised a carbon-neutral World Cup, complete with air-conditioned stadiums, will become the first Middle Eastern nation to host the tournament, the largest sporting event in the world each time it is held.

"[There's a whole lot of sustainability going on](#)," Dunn County News, Nov. 2.

A lot is going on in sustainability here, and 50 local residents gathered Thursday at the First Congregational UCC Church in Menomonie to learn more about what is happening. Linda Walsh, member of the steering committee of Sustainable Dunn, introduced panelists from the city, county and UW-Stout who reported on recent efforts...

## TRANSPORTATION

"[Local university rolls out rent-a-bike program](#)," WQOW-TV, Nov. 4.

A local university rolls out a new program that will make it easier for students to pedal to class. UW-Stout students and staff in charge of the university's new bike rental program say it's an easy and cheap way to get to class. Students seem to be listening. Stout hopes more students will choose two wheels instead of four to get around...

[Southeast Express](#). The cost of a gallon of gas averages \$3 nationwide. This is a fact that I thought would have all the concerned commuters brushing off their pitchforks, getting ready for a little torchlight 10K. But no. Here in Wisconsin, we are doing the opposite: fighting a regional innovation that might save energy and jobs as gasoline starts on a new leg upwards. [Full Story>>](#)