STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area **S**ustainability **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, November 2nd and is open to all. Please come and contribute!

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Nearly $293 Million in Federal Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments. This message announces the availability of nearly $293 million in current or upcoming funding opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including energy efficiency, regional planning, and community education. For full eligibility and application details, please visit:

1. http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=56918. Refer to Sol# FR-5415-N-25.
2. www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.htmlhttp://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=56858. Refer to Sol# FR-5415-N-08.
3. http://www.epa.gov/networkg/grants/. Refer to Sol# EPA-OEI-11-01.
4. http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=56894. Refer to Sol# FR-5415-N-07.
5. http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=58143.
6. http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm
7. http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=56016. Refer to Sol# NOAA-SEC-OED-2011-2002608.
8. http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm or access the draft grant application guidelines at: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/proposal_guides/fy11guidelines.pdf
9. http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate

The Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to assist with the installation of equipment for ethanol and biodiesel at

retail gas stations and bulk fuel terminals. Click http://energyindependence.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=13714&locid=160 for more information and to download the request for applications. Applications will be accepted until funds are expended. Also, here is additional information on installing biofuels infrastructure at retail gas stations:

1. Growth Energy http://www.growthenergy.org/
2. American Lung Association of Wisconsin http://www.lungusa.org/associations/states/wisconsin/
3. Wisconsin Clean Cities - Southeast Area http://www.wicleancities.org/wicleancities/WELCOME.html
4. E85 Business Resources http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/ethanol/station_infrastructure.html
5. Biodiesel Handling and Use Handbook http://www.nrel.gov/vehiclesandfuels/npbf/pdfs/43672.pdf
6. WI Department of Commerce Ethanol and Biodiesel Information http://commerce.wi.gov/ER/ER-BST-PL-ProgramLetterList.html
7. Compatible Equipment List – Ethanol http://www.epa.gov/OUST/altfuels/ethabt.htm and Biodiesel http://www.epa.gov/OUST/altfuels/biocompat.htm
8. Federal Tax Incentive http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/laws/law/US/351 (50% of cost of installation up to $50,000 until 12/31/2010)
9. State Tax Incentive http://www.revenue.wi.gov/forms/draft/10ic-071.pdf (25% of the cost of installation, up to $5,000)

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Environmental Council of the States, and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable are co-sponsoring the 5th annual symposium in Madison, November 1-4, 2010. The symposium will be held November 2 and 3 with optional workshops and tours scheduled for November 1 and 4.This year's symposium theme is Environmental Protection for a Changing Climate and Greener Economy. Topics include green products, green workforce development, clean energy, and sustainable and resilient communities, among many others. Speakers include Andrew Winston, author of The Green Recovery and co-author of Green to Gold; and Michelle Moore, federal environmental executive, Executive Office of The President. Click here for more information and to register.

Save Money through Green Purchasing and Enter NACo's 2011 County Greener Office Competition. Tuesday, November 9, 2 - 3:15p. EDT. Join this webinar to learn green purchasing strategies available to help you immediately start saving money and

resources. Also, find out how your county can participate in NACo's Green Office Competition. The register, click here. Contact: Cindy Wasser ·202.942.4274

How Can Smart Growth Put Your County On a Path to a Green Economy? Thursday, October 14, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT. Join this NACo webinar to explore the innovative land use and design strategies available for promoting green economic development and develop comprehensive plans and building policies to create jobs and save money. To register, click here. Contact: Cindy Wasser ·202.942.4274

Simple Green IT Strategies to Save Your County Money and Protect Resources. Thursday, October 28, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT. Join this NACo webinar to learn how to harness the IT resources that already exist within your county to save money and protect valuable county resources. To register, click here. Contact: Cindy Wasser ·202.942.4274

BUILDINGS

"UW-Stout selects selects energy-efficient, durable Wausau windows for Hovlid Hall," Earth Times, Oct. 25. A campus-wide celebration kicked off the re-opening of Hovlid Hall, the newly renovated and expanded residential facility on the University of Wisconsin-Stout campus. To ensure long-term, low-maintenance performance, the renovation included new, energy-efficient windows from Wausau Window and Wall Systems...

"Green roofs becoming trendy in Madison," Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 2. Green roofs are sprouting up on local mixed-use condominium and apartment buildings as well as some public buildings, an effort to promote storm water retention, prevent urban heat buildup, and create appealing green spaces for city dwellers to enjoy...A number of buildings on the UW-Madison campus have green roofs, including Engineering Hall, the Microbial Sciences building and the new Education Building...

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

The 2010 Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council Conference will be held on December 8, 2010 at Miron Construction in Neenah. This conference is the only conference in Wisconsin that is designed to create the opportunity for direct business-to-business sharing of experiences in the sustainability area. Each session at the conference is designed to deliver pragmatic tools or take-away lessons that you can use when you return to work. http://www.bus.wisc.edu/sustainability/council/conference

Sustainable Manufacturing and Green Jobs have been widely discussed and frequently mention Wisconsin activity, Wisconsin businesses and Wisconsin's potential. In the interest of integrating data about Wisconsin, two reports have been jointly prepared by the Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council, the Department of Natural Resources Green Tier Program and the University of Wisconsin School of Business to examine sustainability in manufacturing in Wisconsin and examine green/sustainable jobs information (with a specific Wisconsin focus). Both are intended to provide a basis for informed discussion and neither is intended to advocate for a particular position.
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/sustainability/surveys.htm
http://www.bus.wisc.edu/sustainability/council/greenjobs/

"Grant supports LEED business accelerator," Business Journal of Milwaukee, Sept. 30. The state of Wisconsin has awarded a $5.4 million Economic Development Administration grant to the city of Wauwatosa and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Real Estate Foundation Inc. to build a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified business accelerator and industrial park site to accommodate the region's advanced manufacturing sector...

ENERGY

Green Power Community Challenge will provide technical and other assistance to communities to help them increase their green energy use. All local governments are eligible to participate, once they have become a Green Power Community. Click here for information on how to become a Green Power Community.

"Focusing on Wisconsin's bioenergy future (AUDIO)," Wisconsin Radio Network, Oct. 15. Wisconsin could have a bright future in bioenergy, an emerging technology which has moved well beyond corn-based ethanol to include a wide variety of potential fuel sources.

E15 not worth its weight in corn (opinion): Racine Journal Times, Oct. 19, 2010. Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency gave lie to the old maxim, "Half a loaf is better than none." Not when it comes to ethanol.

A reasonable decision (opinion): Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Oct. 18, 2010. The EPA's decision allowing expanded ethanol-blended gasoline is reasonable, but the agency should move slowly. There are concerns with corn-based ethanol.

"State grants given to help sustainable technology research," Stevens Point Journal, Oct. 8. State grants recently awarded to two Wisconsin businesses and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will help advance and eventually commercialize university

research...Working with the businesses will allow faculty and students at UWSP the chance to turn their work into products and processes that will help Wisconsin businesses...

On October 13, 2010, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) released its fourth annual State Energy Efficiency Scorecard report, which ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia according to their overall energy efficiency. The 2010 scorecard and supporting materials are available at http://www.aceee.org/sector/state-policy/scorecard

"University studies turbine feasibility," UWRF Voice, Oct. 21. A study to explore if wind turbines are feasible for UW-River Falls is nearly half way complete, said Director of Facilities Management Mike Stifter...

"Breaking ground for UW biomass plant," Wisconsin Radio Network, Oct. 25. Work is underway on a biomass power plant at UW Madison. Governor Jim Doyle says the $251 million project to convert the Charter Street Plant on the UW Madison campus from burning coal to burning biomass can help lessen the state's dependence on imported fuels... (Audio report

"Don't burn money at new plant," Editorial, Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 27. The Charter Street Heating Plant project is an exciting one. Instead of burning more than 100,000 tons each year of dirty coal — which pollutes the air, contributes to climate change and sends money out of state — the UW-Madison power plant is being converted to run on biomass including wood waste, corn stalks, switchgrass and other farm-grown fuels from Wisconsin. Yet the project's huge price tag can't be ignored or dismissed. It's more than $250 million to provide enough power to heat and cool some 300 local buildings...

"Future of biomass questioned as UW-Madison breaks ground on new plant," Wisconsin Public Radio, Oct. 26. Governor Doyle has broken ground on the bio-mass power plant project at UW-Madison. The move comes as the idea to get electricity from burning wood chips, corn stalks and switch grass remains controversial elsewhere...

"Boldt Co. awarded $250 million biomass conversion project," WisBusiness, Oct. 25. The Boldt Company and its joint venture partner, AMEC, an international engineering and project management company, has been awarded a contract by the Wisconsin Department of Administration for the conversion of a coal-fired power plant on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus from coal-burning to biomass...

"Two Wisconsin power plants convert to biomass," Biomass Magazine, Oct. 27. Two biomass power conversion projects in Wisconsin are progressing, one already operating

and the other just beginning its transformation...Meanwhile, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has broken ground for the conversion of its Charter Street Heating Plant from coal to biomass...

U.S. signs lease for first major offshore wind farm, Reuters. A power-generating windmill turbine operates in a wind farm on Backbone Mountain near Thomas, West Virginia August 28, 2006. By Ayesha Rascoe ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (Reuters) - US Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Wednesday formally signed the ...

ENVIRONMENT

'We Are Destroying Life on Earth,' UN Conference Claims, Fox News. A recent UN biodiversity study said global environmental damage caused by human activity in 2008 totaled $6.6 trillion. A UN biodiversity conference aims to address a simple problem: "We are destroying life on Earth," said the head of the UN ...

"University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor to oversee Great Lakes," Gannett News Wisconsin, Oct. 28. To Michael Hansen, it is an appointment, not a re-appointment. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point fisheries professor was named last week by President Barack Obama to the U.S. section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Though he first was named to the post in 2004 by President George W. Bush, getting the call to serve again under a new administration is just as exciting as the first time. With a new political party in office, it's like being part of a brand-new panel, he said...

"Estuary garners federal status," Superior Telegram, Oct. 27. It's official. After 12 years of planning and partnerships, the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve was designated Tuesday with a round of speeches, signatures and smiles at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Despite the stormy weather, UWS Interim Chancellor Christopher Markwood quoted a phrase often used by his predecessor, Julius Erlenbach. "It is a beautiful day in Superior," he said...

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11481740. Hungary says it will cost tens of millions of dollars and take at least a year to clean up the damage caused by a spill of toxic, red industrial sludge.

UN biodiversity conference that aims to save species opens in Japan, The Canadian Press.

Saving nature, economies at stake in Japan U.N., talks, Reuters.

FOOD

"Growing gifts - Community gardens serve to educate, donate to food bank," Racine Journal Times, Oct. 1. There are about 255 master gardener volunteers through the University of Wisconsin-Extension horticulture program gardening throughout Racine and Kenosha counties. Between 25 to 30 volunteers tend the two community gardens that serve two-fold goals: educate the public on urban gardening and produce fresh harvest for the Racine County Food Bank...

SUSTAINABILITY

"On Campus: University of Wisconsin-Madison earns an 'A' in sustainability," Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 27. UW-Madison was one of seven schools to earn the top grade, an 'A', in an independent college sustainability ranking. The College Sustainability Report Card graded 322 schools in the U.S. and Canada. The other schools that earned an 'A' are: Brown University, Dickinson College, Oberlin College, Pomona College, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Yale University...

"Amid continuing controversy, a new Green Report Card rates colleges again," Chronicle of Higher Education, Oct. 27. The Sustainable Endowments Institute has released its 2011 Green Report Card, its attempt to assess the environmental sensibilities of a limited number of mostly well-endowed institutions...

TRANSPORTATION

"Monona Terrace to host alternative vehicle expo Nov. 5," Wisconsin State Journal, Oct. 22. In a separate event also on Nov. 5, UW-Madison students from the Energy Hub student group will offer a free conference for students on transportation and energy in the upper level of Monona Terrace from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will cover issues including the challenges of enabling the nation's power grid to handle electric cars and understanding the supply chain for biomass fuels. Students must register in advance at uwehub.org...