

STEAM

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

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, UW Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. / La Universidad de Wisconsin-Extensión, un empleador con igualdad de oportunidades y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA), proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en empleo y programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título IX (Title IX) y de la Ley para Americanos con Discapacidades (ADA).

TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES

[Transit Options Lead to Increased Retail Sales in New York City.](#) A recent report by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) analyzed the retail activity around bike lanes, pedestrian plazas and slow zones that have recently been developed. DOT found an increase of as much as 49% in retail sales at some downtown businesses since bike lanes were initiated in the fall of 2007...

[Meteorological bomb or climate change: Experts eye Sandy's cause.](#) Recent research indicates that greenhouse gases have raised the chances of some events, such as the Texas heatwave of 2011 or a European heatwave in 2003 that killed perhaps 70,000 people. Scientists said it was too early to know if there was a link for Sandy. All debate aside, US states still reeling from Sandy say they need to take a lesson from the increased threat of monster storms. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said he has no doubt there are more extreme weather events.

[Inequalities and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.](#) United Nations. Income inequalities between and within countries have worsened in recent decades. Gender inequalities are narrowing at a snail's pace. Citizenship and location continue to determine life chances, despite the increasing integration of economies. Policy instruments to promote equality of *outcome* have largely been neglected in the name of approaches to claim to create "equality of *opportunity*"... Current social discontent and distrust of government highlight the urgency of addressing inequality head-on: it should be high on the post-2015 development agenda, both as a goal in itself and reflected in targets for other goals.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit the [calendar of 2012 EPA grant opportunities](#) that may be of particular interest to communities.

CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES/INCENTIVES

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Announces Environmental Education Grant Program. The Board anticipates awarding \$65,000 for general environmental education grants, \$55,000 for water education grants, \$90,000 for forestry grants, and \$90,000 for school forest grants. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents (any age) and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education (EE). Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, nonstock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Proposals are due February 9, 2013. For an application packet or more information about the program see the Board's website at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb> or contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, at 715/346-3805, email: weeb@uwsp.edu

EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING

The US Economic Development Administration recently released "The Triple Bottom Line Tool:" <http://www.tbltool.org/>.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT

[UW-Stevens Point's Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology is offering solutions through student research](#), Wausau Daily Herald, Oct. 11. The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology teaches innovation...A current project of both the organization and its student employees is the creation of the building blocks of rubber from forestry residue...

[University of Wisconsin-Madison: New biorenewables technology moves closer to marketplace](#), 4-Traders, Oct. 22. A licensing agreement for a novel renewable chemical and biofuel production method between Hyrax Energy and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation promises to accelerate commercial development of the technology and lead to high-quality U.S. jobs.

BUILDING

[Price, value of green certification up for debate](#), Oshkosh Northwestern, Oct. 27.
To LEED or not to LEED, that is Oshkosh's question...there remains a debate over the value of winning the LEED stamp of approval from the U.S. Green Building Council...

ENERGY

[BREAKING NEWS - Kewaunee nuclear plant to close next year.](#)

Wind Energy: Who Holds the Power? Developers building wind farms and transmission systems through North Dakota tried to settle with residents one-on-one, to divide and conquer. But the people of Hazen organized and [negotiated their own terms](#).

[Group solar buying project moves forward in central Wisconsin.](#) The program used federal grant money to develop group buying programs for residential solar energy systems....Homeowners who purchase solar equipment as a group can receive discounts of 10 to 20 percent compared to individual purchasers...

ENVIRONMENT

The Washington Post has produced [an article on the role that organized crime](#) plays in the destruction of rain forests around the world.

[Climate change is already damaging global economy, report finds.](#) Economic impact of global warming is costing the world more than \$1.2 trillion a year, wiping 1.6% annually from global GDP.

[Chicago Alleys Filtering Rainwater.](#) The city of Chicago has been spearheading an initiative to green its alleyways, using new porous asphalt to filter rainwater, keeping it from polluting the city's rivers and streams. The alley rainwater project has been used as a model for other cities looking for creative ways to encourage sustainable urban development.

[How No-Flush Toilets Can Help Make a Healthier World.](#) The stakes are enormous. Water-borne diseases such as typhoid, hepatitis, amoebic dysentery, and garden-variety diarrhea kill 1.5 million people each year, most of them children. Globally, 1.2 billion people — approximately 600 million of them in India — are still defecating in the open.

[Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems.](#) The EPA and 16 partner organizations have published four papers that highlight how decentralized wastewater treatment

systems can be sustainable and appropriate options for communities and homeowners. The papers provide information on the benefits and types of decentralized onsite approaches for collection, treatment, dispersal, and reuse of wastewater.

FOOD

Getting Started with Farm to School: An Introduction of the Farm to School Toolkit presented by Vanessa Herald and Jennifer Blazek. We apologize for the technical difficulties you experienced as we continue to work out the glitches with Blackboard. For your reference and viewing pleasure our presenters re-recorded this webinar and you can now access the archive (40 min) as well as resources and slides at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/cfsi/farm-to-school/>.

TRANSPORTATION

[Bicycling Brings Economic Benefits Across the Nation](#). Bike recreation and bicycle tourism are having a significant impact on state and local economies in the US, according to new data from the League of American Bicyclists. The League's updated report, *Bicycle Means Business: The Economic Benefits of Bicycle Infrastructure* found that bike recreation and tourism contribute an estimated \$924 million per year to Wisconsin, plus \$409 million in health benefits.

[Next Generation Consulting newsletter](#). Contains some interesting thoughts on energy and transportation infrastructure.

[Methods for Estimating the Environmental Health Impacts of SRTS Programs](#). In this new publication, Safe Routes to Schools explores the relationship between environmental health and school travel, the environmental health impacts of school travel, and the impact of school travel on local air quality and carbon dioxide emissions.

*Your county
extension office*



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