

## STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team

Energy and Environment news from February 2012

Past newsletters at: <http://greenlake.uwex.edu/community-development/sustainability/>

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### **TOP STORIES / RECOMMENDED SITES**

[Wisconsin and National Links for GREEN Resources.](#)

[Funding opportunities listed at Smartgrowth.com.](#)

[Inside the military's clean energy revolution.](#)

[Schools designed with the environment in mind.](#)

[Green energy 101 the basics of alternative energy sources.](#) Green energy is a hot topic. From solar to wind and everything in between, finding sources that don't rely on carbon-based fuels is a key to long-term sustainability. Alternative energy has come a long way in the last decade, but there is still a long way to go...

### **EDUCATION/ HOW TO / TRAINING**

[Sustainable Communities: Strategies for Advancing Smart Growth, Environmental Justice, and Equitable Development.](#) This new EPA publication offers strategies to low-income, minority, and tribal communities to help them shape development that responds to their needs and reflects their values.

### **BUILDINGS**

**New NACo PUBLICATION: Energy Efficient County Buildings.** NACo and the Institute for Building Technology & Safety (IBTS) recently published *Energy Efficient County Buildings: Realizing Money and Energy-Saving Opportunities*, which highlights key research on county energy use. **Download Report.**

## **BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT**

**How GM Makes \$1 Billion A Year By Recycling Waste.** If one man's trash is another man's treasure, General Motors has the revenue to prove it. The automaker generates an eye-popping \$1 billion a year reusing or recycling materials that would otherwise be thrown away...

[Clean energy growth helps Wal-Mart.](#)

## **ENERGY**

New online resource supports sustainable energy use.

<http://energyonwi.uwex.edu> provides information for government officials, businesses and energy providers about current Wisconsin energy projects and needs. Users can post pictures and videos of energy projects, ask questions and take part in discussions on energy topics. The site also identifies funding and educational opportunities.

### **\*\*\*New Website Helps Local Governments Advance Solar Energy Initiatives**

The SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative, has created a [new website](#) to help local governments adopt solar energy. The site includes a resource database, a calendar of events and trainings, a blog, and access to "Ask the Expert" services and technical assistance offerings.

### **Wind power capacity grew 20% globally in 2012, figures show**

World - 2/11/2013 Wind power expanded by almost 20% in 2012 around the world to reach a new peak of 282 gigawatts (GW) of total installed capacity, while solar power reached more than 100GW, having more than doubled in two years....

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**Missoula to be Carbon Neutral by 2025.** The Missoula City Council has adopted a Conservation and Climate Action Plan that sets a goal for the city to become carbon neutral by 2025.

**Free Soy Bio-based Products Available to Counties.** Through its partnership with the United Soybean Board (USB), NACo is proud to offer counties FREE bio-based product packages from some of the most innovative green product producers in the country. Products include: laser printer toner cartridges; maintenance products, including lubricants, cleaners, degreasers, paint and mastic removers; janitorial cleaning supplies. To learn more and request a package, contact Coleman Davis at [cdavis@naco.org](mailto:cdavis@naco.org) or (202)661-8834.

**[Permitting Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Improving Municipal Stormwater Permits and Protecting Water Quality](#)**. American Rivers has released this new guide to permitting approaches that encourage or require low impact development or green infrastructure. The guide combines model permit language with excerpts from comment letters that have helped to drive permit evolution. It is intended to be a resource for community and watershed advocates.

## **FOOD**

**[Food justice and the 'Big 10' food and drink companies.](#)**

**[Sustainable ag questions? We have free answers.](#)** Farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and educators, can contact our experts through our hotline phone service, which is offered both in English and Spanish. The ATTRA website also has more than 300 publications, most of which are available to download at no cost, an archive of recorded webinars, an ecological pest-management database, an internship database, job opportunities, workshop and conference calendars, sustainable ag news and newsletters, and more. The ATTRA hotline numbers are: 800-346-9140 (English) and 800-411-3222 (Spanish). The ATTRA website is: [www.attra.ncat.org](http://www.attra.ncat.org)

**[Local foods movement now a potent force.](#)** Politicians interested in sustained job growth, community development and local economic opportunity would do well to study how this (the Local Foods movement) grew to be so potent.

**[This library lets patrons check out packets of seeds.](#)** A library card gets you a packet of seeds. You then grow the fruits and vegetables, harvest the new seeds from the biggest and best, and **[return those seeds](#)** so the library can lend them out to others.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**[Children Who Walk to School Have Better Concentration.](#)** The study investigated the connections between diet, exercise, and the ability to concentrate for school students of all ages. Among its many results, one really stood out--children have less

concentration if they do not exercise on the way to school. Nationally, as of 2009, only 13 percent of children in the United States walked or biked to school, down from 50 percent in 1969.

**U.S. Army Makes Progress on Vehicle Fleet Efficiency.** As the owner of the largest fleet of vehicles in the world, the U.S. Department of Defense is in a powerful position to promote new technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy. The Army, in particular, has an broad array of projects and programs under way to improve its ground vehicle fleet efficiency....

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