

## STEAM

The monthly newsletter of the Green Lake Area Sustainability Team

Energy and Environment news from January 2012

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

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**

**NACo: 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. Contact: [Cindy Wasser](#) · 202.942.4274

**NACo: Green Purchasing.** Counties can cut environmental impacts of computer and office equipment by employing "green" practices to their purchase, use and end-of-life management. [Read More](#)

**NACo: Sustainable Jails: Ripe Opportunities for Saving County Resources.** Savvy county officials are investing in energy upgrades and reusable, durable materials at county facilities, and the payback is significant. Join this webinar to hear from industry and county leaders at the forefront of sustainable correctional facilities. [Register and Learn More](#)

**Counties welcome renewable energy development but regret its costs.** For all of solar energy's benefits, some counties worry that costs might outweigh benefits to the local economy. [Read More](#)

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

[Technical Guidance Manual for Sustainable Neighborhoods](#). The system is used to evaluate and amend land use regulations, plans, and policies to promote more environmentally sound and economically robust communities.

## **BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT**

[Green Energy: Subsidies, Initiatives and New Efficiency Expected to Drive Greater Profits](#). Companies that are researching and developing new and efficient ways to produce renewable energy can expect greater profits in the coming years. Governments are also providing subsidies and initiatives to boost the development and production of renewable energy, fostering accelerated growth within the industry. ..

## **ENERGY**

[Wisconsin Towns Association calls for moratorium on construction of new wind turbines](#). A group of government leaders wants to halt the spread of huge wind farms around the state. The Wisconsin Towns Association voted Monday to adopt a resolution calling on the state of Wisconsin and the Public Service Commission to enact a moratorium on the construction of industrial wind turbines "until further studies are done, solutions are found and the state's wind siting rule is modified."...

[There's a new way to help farmers do green energy](#). Third-party-owned renewable energy systems have become an effective method to promote the growth and production of green energy at no additional cost to ratepayers or taxpayers.

**Community Shared Solar Project Development Tool.** Community-shared solar energy holds great potential for increasing investment in solar power by customers that cannot host a system onsite. So-called "solar gardens" allow for participation in collectively owned system and provide payments for the electricity generated by the system. The University of Oregon's updated and expanded [Community Solar Tool](#) is a web-based decision support tool designed to help community groups, businesses, nonprofits, government and utilities in Oregon and elsewhere select the best business model and design for constructing and operating a community solar system.

[Study suggests wind turbines' low-frequency noise could cause health woes](#).

[KI Installs Largest Solar Energy Array In Northeast Wisconsin](#). The new 115 kilowatt (kW) array comprised of 480 PV solar panels, covering approximately 22,820 square feet of rooftop space converts sunlight into electricity, producing approximately 152,640 kilowatt hours (kWh) of clean energy annually while displacing 108 metric tons carbon dioxide emissions.

[New `micro hybrid` two-battery system will boost mileage](#). Johnson Controls Inc. is introducing a battery system that combines lead-acid and lithium-ion batteries inside a car to boost gas mileage and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**[Cities Reacting to Climate Change](#)**. A new report by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) highlights 20 local governments across the country that are taking the initiative to combat global warming... Almost two-thirds are pursuing adaptation planning for climate change, compared to 68 percent of cities globally.

**[U.S. National Climate Assessment](#)**. This third national assessment by 13 federal agencies finds that climate change is introducing societal and business risks to the nation's cities, but also presents economic opportunities...Comprehensive urban planning, engineering and new technology will present almost limitless opportunities for adaptation to and mitigation of these new risks.

**[Rayovac gets charge out of protecting environment](#)**. Staying ahead of the regulatory curve is something all businesses need to think about, but when it comes to the environment, it can be equally important to pay proper respect to consumer sentiment and one's own conscience...

## **FOOD**

**[Feeding Cities: Food Security in a Rapidly Urbanizing World](#)**. **March 13-15, 2013 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. This international conference will examine the critical relationship between urbanization and food security throughout the world, and strategies to provide a sustainable, nutritious, and affordable diet to the world's burgeoning urban population.

**[Food Systems Profile Project online portal](#)**. We hope you will help to spread the word about the portal by sharing this with colleagues working in food systems in your area. The [web portal tool](#) features printable county profiles and maps for a twelve state region, food systems resources by topic, and template discussion tools to help county educators make use of the profile in a community setting

## **RECYCLING**

**[Study: 98% of Wisconsin pharmaceutical waste improperly disposed](#)**.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**[Rural Transportation Topic Guide](#)**. The guide highlights the importance of assessing transportation needs based on demographic trends in rural areas, assessing existing transportation coverage and service gaps, and conducting comprehensive public engagement.

**[Nearly 1 Million Natural Gas Trucks and Buses Will Be Sold from 2012 to 2019](#)**.

**China`s green drivers.** China's government announced another bold move to ease traffic congestion and reduce carbon emissions: the authorities want 60% of all motor-vehicle use in towns and cities to be public transportation, and the government in Beijing is urging regional governments to use more zero-emission and alternative-energy vehicles.

**LPG ranks highly for Phoenix Taxis.** Without even knowing it, many customers of an environmentally friendly taxi firm Phoenix Taxis in Northumberland are helping to reduce the impact on the planet when they take a trip in one of its many autogas LPG converted cars....

**Bike 'Green Lanes' on the Increase.** The number of protected bike lanes in the U.S. doubled in 2012 and is on track to double again next year, according to Bikes Belong.

<p><i>Your county extension office</i></p>  <p><b>UW EXTENSION</b> Cooperative Extension Green Lake County</p>	<p><b>Jason Kauffeld</b> <b>Community Development Educator</b> Green Lake County UW-Extension 571 County Road A Box 3188 (Mailing Address) Green Lake, WI 54941 Phone: 920-294-4036 Fax: 920-294-4176 Email: <a href="mailto:jason.kauffeld@ces.uwex.edu">jason.kauffeld@ces.uwex.edu</a>  <a href="http://greenlake.uwex.edu">http://greenlake.uwex.edu</a></p>
<p>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).</p>	