



# weber green

Weber State University's Environmental Issues Committee -

## Our Mission

The Environmental Issues Committee shall help facilitate the modeling of best practices for economic and environmental sustainability at WSU. The committee shall serve as a local and state-wide source for scientifically based information and for leadership on environmental issues affecting Utah, the Wasatch Front, and WSU Campus Committees.

## Your Green Link

news and information

April 2014

### Announcements

- ◆ WSU was recognized in the 2014 Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. For more information check out: <http://www.princetonreview.com/green-guide.aspx>
- ◆ The Environmental Ambassadors received the Outstanding Club Service Award from the Center for Community Engaged Learning in March
- ◆ WSU received Rocky Mountain Power's Wattsmart Business Partner of the Year Award in March
- ◆ Sustainability Faculty Retreat to be held at Alta Lodge from April 30—May 2, 2014
- ◆ Don't miss the Live Green SLC! Festival on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Go to: <http://livegreenslc.com/>

## Announcing 2013-2014 Sustainability Research Awards

The Environmental Issues Committee announces this year's Faculty and Student Sustainability Research Award winners:

- Faculty award winner is Therese Grijalva, whose submission is entitled *Discounting the Distant Future: An Experimental Investigation*.
- Student winners are Taylor Nelson and Anna Hodshire. Taylor's project is *Survey for Helenalin in Utah Asteraceae Species*. Anna's project is *Using Python Programming to Model Utah's Air Pollution Sources*.

Thank you to all participants. There were many excellent submissions; decisions were not easy. Congratulations to the winners!

## WSU is RMP Business Partner of the Year!

On March 26, 2014, Rocky Mountain Power recognized WSU as the 2014 Wattsmart Business Partner of the Year. WSU received this award for its successful and aggressive energy efficiency program. Over the past five years WSU has reduced its electrical consumption by 30% while adding more than 10% to the University's square footage.

WSU has invested over \$3.8 million dollars in 59 energy and water efficiency projects; the projects saved WSU over \$1.2 million in FY 2013 alone in avoided utility costs.

For more information on WSU's award, please visit:

<http://www.weber.edu/sustainability/Topics/News.html>

## 5th Annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit Great Success!

---

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit took place on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in WSU's Shepherd Union Building. Roughly 500 people attended the keynote, among them students, faculty, staff, government and city employees, interested public, and sustainability professionals. Over 300 people attended the full conference.

WSU President Chuck Wight opened the Summit, stressing the fragility of humankind and the importance of sustainability in ensuring the perpetuity of future generations. Morning speaker Dr. C Arden Pope provided a comprehensive discussion on the health effects associated with short-term and long-term exposure to air pollution, debunking claims by several legislators that the harmful effects of breathing fine particulate air pollution is a "secret science."



It was a pleasure to have former Governor of Utah Olene S. Walker introduce Summit keynote speaker Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. Thankfully, Governor Walker was able to track down her friend Jewell at the Western Governor's Summit and ask her to speak at this event. (Governor Walker, the first female governor of Utah, will continue her legacy through the Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service at Weber State.) Secretary Jewell's keynote address covered a number of topics, including climate issues, energy efficiency, the dry spell in the West, and her experience with sustainability as CEO at REI. A notable point of her talk concerned youth and the environment and the important role the new generation of millennials will play in shaping our future's sustainability. She emphasized our moral imperative to engage the next generation in environmental issues through education, employment, and volunteer opportunities on public lands; it is critical for young people to enjoy unrestricted play in nature in order to foster their creativity and an appreciation for the natural world.

The Summit featured two new tracks, air quality and green building. The air quality track provided some solutions to Utah's air quality problem through the lens of policy and government, individual behavior change, and community engagement. The green building track highlighted several impressive sustainable buildings in Utah such as Architectural Nexus' LEED double platinum building in SLC (LEED NC and O&M), one of only seven double platinum buildings in the world. The Summit's other three tracks were sustainability in higher education, waste and recycling, and energy.

The student sustainability poster competition featured 20 entries from students attending several colleges and universities. The winning poster topics covered such intriguing topics as edible campus aquaponics, the impacts of visual education on recycling, community solar power, and student behavior and bottled water usage. The competition was a great success and will be featured at the Summit next year.

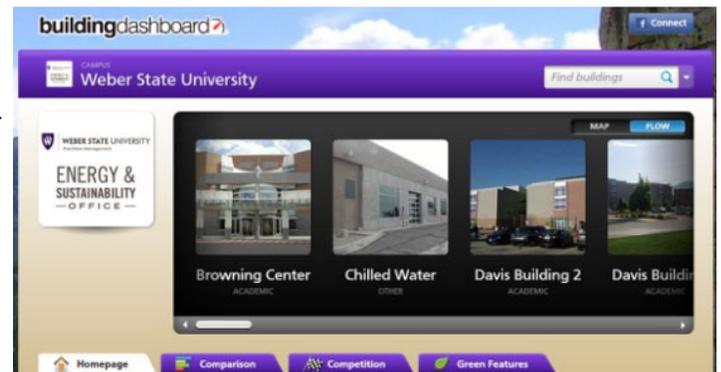
The Friday workshops drew many students and sustainability professionals. The LEED GA and AP workshops were most attended. Other workshops focused on aerated composting, where attendees could check out WSU's food composting facilities, and one titled "Navigating Utah's Political System," taught by former WSU student Turner C. Bitton.

The tentative dates for next year's Summit are March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Put the event on your calendar.

# Real-time WSU Energy & Water Consumption Data Now Available

The Energy & Sustainability Office takes seriously the old adage “You can’t manage what you don’t measure.” This past year the Office completed a project to install utility meters on every major campus building. The meters give information on building-level electricity, culinary water, chilled water, and steam consumption in real time. Solar energy production information is also being metered. Meter data can be viewed on WSU’s new Lucid Dashboard located online at: [www.buildingdashboard.net/weber](http://www.buildingdashboard.net/weber). A link to the dashboard is on the Energy & Sustainability Office website: [www.weber.edu/sustainability](http://www.weber.edu/sustainability).

Data can also be seen on the touchscreen kiosks located in the following buildings: Facilities Management, Campus Services, Wildcat Center (Stromberg Complex), Wildcat Village (all three residential life halls), Davis 2, and Davis 3. The Lucid Dashboard displays meter data that is collected every fifteen minutes so energy and water consumption spikes can be detected and resolved immediately. This new information will make it possible for Facilities Management to save the University thousands of dollars in avoided energy and water consumption each year.



## Environmental Ambassadors Updates

### ***“Promoting Sustainability and Environmental Awareness”***

Who, What, Why – The Environmental Ambassadors is a peer-to-peer program that focuses on educating the student population to live and be more aware of the environment and sustainability. It offers a wide variety of leadership opportunities and skill development along with the ability to attend different conferences.



**Club Recognition Award** – Weber State University’s Center for Community Engaged Learning recognized the Environmental Ambassadors with the *Outstanding Club Service Award*. This was given for sustained community engagement with the Weber State community in 2013-14. The ambassadors have been working hard at making the campus more sustainable and students more aware of their behavior as it impacts the environment. This is a great and well-deserved recognition for the ambassadors and their club.

**Dr. Alice Mulder’s GEOG 3060 Class** – This semester, Dr. Mulder and her class have been volunteering with the Environmental Ambassadors on numerous projects and competitions to educate students about becoming more environmentally conscientious.



**Community Garden** – The community garden was moved from Annex 4 to behind Wildcat Village. The ambassadors have helped clear the weeds and leaves to put down new beds.

Over the summer, it will be maintained and vegetables will be grown with help from the Community Garden Volunteers and Facilities Management.



**Waste Audit** – On February 26<sup>th</sup>, a waste audit was conducted in the waterfall plaza. Garbage and recycling bags were collected from the Shepherd Union Building and dumped onto a tarp to be sorted through in order to show students what they could be recycling and what cannot be put into the recycling bins. President Charles A. Wight also

stopped by to check out the sorting and to cheer, “Keep up the good work!”

**Trail Dig** – The Environmental Ambassadors adopted a trail at the 26<sup>th</sup> Street trailhead leading up to Strong’s Canyon to support the Ogden Trails Network. The trail will be regularly maintained and kept clean throughout the year.

## Sustainability Spotlight

---



Congratulations to Breanna Mack for being awarded the WSU Sustainability Spotlight!

Breanna is being recognized for her work to promote recycling at the Sodexo Café. Earlier this semester the Environmental Ambassadors were promoting “Recyclemania,” a waste-reduction campaign aimed to increase and reinforce the practice of recycling at universities nationwide. The Environmental Ambassadors asked Breanna about recycling at Sodexo; she reported that a recycling program for materials used in the café (milk jugs, plastic bottles, cardboard coffee sleeves) did not exist.

After identifying the need for recycling behind the counter, Breanna acted as the champion to implement a recycling program for Sodexo. She partnered with the Environmental Ambassadors to identify areas where recycling would be most utilized and continues to educate her peers on a daily basis about the items that can be recycled.

When she’s not busy recycling and helping others, Breanna likes to practice yoga, read, and write short stories. She is an avid hiker and enjoys being outside. When asked why she felt compelled to make a change in her workplace and encourage recycling, Breanna said, “I really love animals and feel like it’s important to take care of the environment; that’s why I recycle.”

We are inspired by Breanna’s efforts and thank her for helping to make WSU go green!

---