



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

February 2014

Are you worried that Utah:

- Often has the most polluted air in the United States?
- Reports the highest rate of both autism and childhood asthma in the nation?
- Suffers 2,000 deaths each year attributable to air pollution?
- Requires residents to breathe air that inflicts lung damage equivalent to chain smoking?

Then see page 3 for what to do.

Also upcoming:

Wednesday February 26th at 12:30, Wildcat Lounge, a talk by John Kelly "Hybrid Vehicles and Electric Cars"

Friday March 21, Noon, Wildcat Theater, Panel discussion "Mormonism and Environmentalism"

Upcoming Screenings of *Idle Threat* & Two Student Short-Films

The EIC and the Center for Community Engaged Learning are co-sponsoring a screening and discussion of *Idle Threat* on **February 12 at 12:30** in the Wildcat Theater of the Shepherd Union. The film details the determination, challenges and triumphs of one man's efforts to reduce air pollution in his home of New York City by targeting the lack of enforcement of its anti-idling laws. The 37-minute film will be preceded by two WSU student-short films related to idling and air quality in Utah.

A second showing and discussion of the film will occur in the evening at 6:30 pm in the Shepherd Union Ballroom A, in conjunction with Ogden City's Idle-Free week. A representative from the Weber/Morgan Health Department will be conducting a Q&A session following the film.

Reminder of WSU's Idle-Free & Smoke-Free Policies

In case you were not yet aware, in response to efforts by students and faculty, WSU passed two policies in 2013 aimed at improving air quality on campus. One of these is to create an idle-free campus (PPM 5-49). Engine idling is terribly polluting and a waste of fuel resources. WSU community members are not supposed to allow their engines to idle for more than two minutes. The other policy creates smoke-free zones (PPM 5-48) on the core of campus in addition to the pre-existing restriction of smoking within 25 feet of buildings.

This link will show you a map of the smoke-free zones:

<http://www.weber.edu/wsuiimages/ppm/PDFs/smoke%20free%20zones%20map.jpg>.

Intermountain Sustainability Summit

March 6-7

Featuring
keynote
speaker **U.S.
Secretary of
the Interior
Sally Jewell**

**Student
Poster**

Proposals

Due:

February 25!

The Intermountain Sustainability Summit, held in Weber State's Shepherd Union Building, is coming up on its 5th year. Starting as a fairly small conference in 2010, the Sustainability Summit has grown to represent one of the premier sustainability events in Utah. The summit provides exceptional educational programs, networking, and trade show opportunities for students, sustainability professionals, politicians, government officials, and interested public.

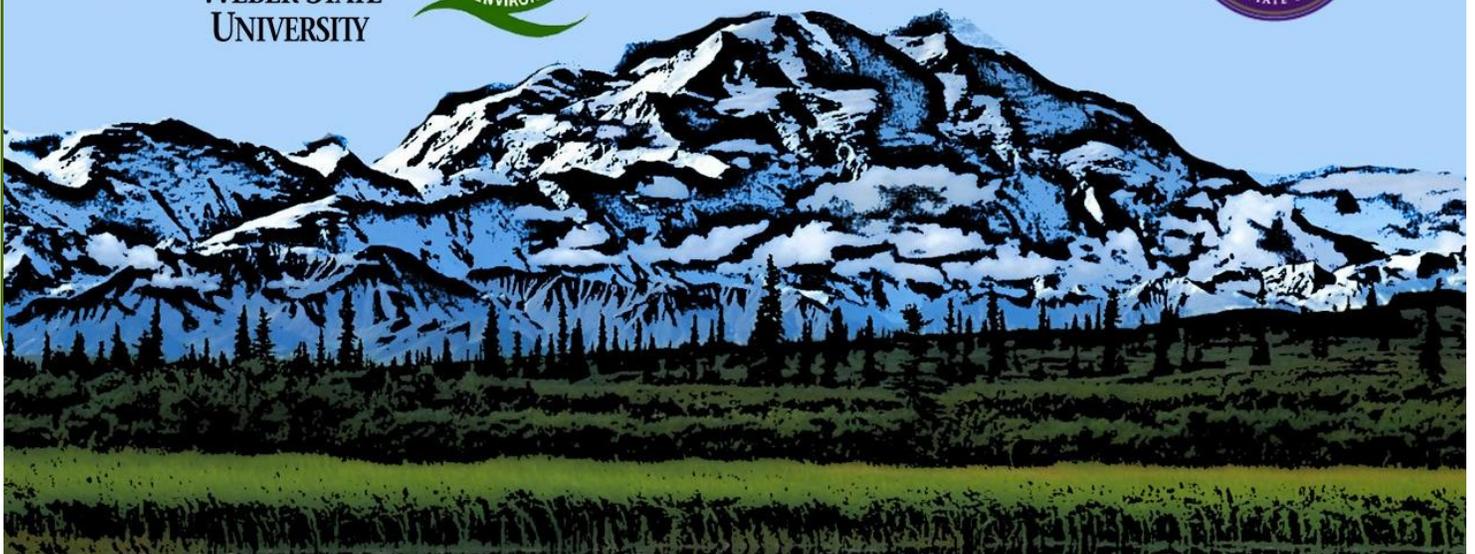
The 5th Annual Intermountain Sustainability Summit will be held on **Thursday, March 6th, and Friday, March 7th, 2014**. The first day of the conference will feature sessions covering a range of sustainability topics including renewable and alternative energy, green building, water and air quality, and waste and recycling. On Thursday, the summit will host a student poster session highlighting student research in the area of sustainability. Students whose poster proposals are accepted will receive free admittance to the conference and will also be eligible to win a cash prize for exceptional work. In order to have as many submissions as possible, faculty are encouraged to have students submit posters as a course assignment.

A series of professional workshops will be held on the second day of the summit, including a composting 101 workshop as well as a LEED course for those pursuing a professional LEED credential. Information regarding poster submission guidelines and the summit in general can be found at www.intermountainsustainabilitysummit.com.

Hosted

By:

**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Panel on Air Quality Offers Advice on How to Solve the Problem

Weber State University's Environmental Issue's Committee and the Center for Community Engaged Learning hosted the "Utah Air Quality Expert Panel Discussion" January 22nd at 12:30 p.m. in the Shepherd Union Wildcat Theater. The event was part of the year-long "On Air Series" and featured a panel composed of four local air quality experts who represent diverse interests:

Matt Pacenza, policy director for HEAL Utah

Rep. Joel Briscoe, minority caucus manager for the Utah State Legislature

Susan Soleil, executive director of Utah Interfaith Power and Light

Carl Ingwell, director of the University of Utah's Student Clean Air Network

Associate professor of geography Eric Ewert moderated the event. "We envisioned this panel as less about hand-wringing over the poor quality of our air, and more about what citizens and residents can do to fix it," Ewert said. The panel members shared their involvement in improving and protecting Utah's air quality, responded to questions from Ewert, and then fielded many questions from an audience that included more than 100 participants. A handout was distributed during the event that listed websites, phone apps, and ways to get involved right away (this information is also provided here, below). All four panelists later spoke at the "Clean Air, No Excuses" rally on the state capitol steps January 25th. That rally, the largest of its kind in Utah history, drew 5000 people who implored their legislators to "either clean up our air or clean out your desks!" Sixteen bills dealing with air quality are now proposed for the 2014 legislative session.

"As the issue of air quality continues to be a concern in Northern Utah, we [were] excited to bring together this panel of expert voices as part of our year-long campus focus on air to help us find concrete ways to make a difference," said Sarah Steimel, assistant professor of communications and Engaged Learning Series coordinator.

Concerned about our poor air quality? Learn more through these **Websites**:

-Utah Physicians For a Healthy Environment: <http://www.uphe.org/>

-Utah Moms For Clean Air: <http://blog.utahmomsforcleanair.org/>

-Breathe Utah: <http://www.breatheutah.org/>

-Athletes For Clean Air Group: <https://www.facebook.com/athletesforcleanair>

-LDS Environmental Stewardship and Conservation: <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/environmental-stewardship-conservation>

-Utah Department of Environmental Quality: <http://www.deq.utah.gov/>

Things To Do:

-Find and write your Representative: <http://le.utah.gov/house2/representatives.jsp>

-Download the Utah Air Quality App: <http://www.airquality.utah.gov/>

-Write a letter to the editor; talk to your family and friends; and most importantly, reduce your contribution to air pollution, because all positive change must begin with individual actions.

Glass Recycling—Stewart Stadium

Contrary to popular belief, glass recycling is offered in Ogden City and on the WSU Campus. As of last October, the City of Ogden has established the following four community drop-off locations:

- ◆ Bonneville Park: Located at 360 Monroe Blvd.
- ◆ Green Waste Site: Located at 1845 Monroe Blvd.
- ◆ Ogden High School south parking lot: Located at 2828 Harrison Blvd.
- ◆ Weber State University Stewart Stadium parking lot: Located in the south west corner.

To find out how the glass is being processed and used, check out Momentum Recycling's Glass page at: <http://www.momentumrecycling.com/glass-plant.php>



U-Haul Car Share Program Update

The U-Haul Car Share program has been very successful thus far this year. The WSU student intern working for U-Haul participated in Welcome Week in August. He displayed one of the vehicles and provided information to the students about the program. He has been working very hard to get the word out to the campus community about the car share program.

There have been some exciting changes with the U-Haul Car Share program. There is no longer a start up fee to begin the program and a new mobile reservation app has been developed and is available on most smart phones.

Since the beginning of this school year, there has been a total of 55 reservations made, the vehicles have been used for 147 hours and have been driven 1,777 miles. This is more than double last year's numbers in the first year of the program. We are very excited to see both vehicles being utilized and will continue to promote this service on campus.

Deadline Extended to February 14th for Sustainability Research Awards

The deadline for the sustainability research awards has been extended to February 14th. Students and faculty are eligible to submit their research projects completed in 2013-2014 to compete for two \$500 student awards and one \$1,000 faculty award. Winners will be selected by a subcommittee of the WSU Faculty Senate Environmental Issues Committee.

Eligible faculty submissions include any faculty research project completed in 2013-2014 in the area of sustainability. Eligible student submissions include any research project involving some primary research completed in 2013-2014 in the area of sustainability. (Student projects completed in conjunction with faculty research may apply but the role and work of the student must be clearly explained.)

For consideration, please email a 250-word summary abstract of your research, including an explanation of how the research relates to the WSU Definition of Sustainability Research (described below) and information about how your work impacted the WSU community and the world beyond WSU. Applicants should also provide an electronic copy of the completed project for review.

Sustainability research addresses components of sustainability (e.g., social equity, ecological health, the use of scarce resources and a belief that economic development must consider all of these) or particular goals of sustainable living (e.g., waste reduction, renewable energy, clean resources, climate change adaptation, comprehensive land use planning, or generally, the design of efficient environmental policies or regulations) as it furthers human understanding of complex interconnections between society and nature. At its core, sustainability research recognizes that human/societal and economic health is inextricably linked to a healthy natural world and the sustainable use of resources; it strives toward solutions to these challenges.

Email submissions to Dr. Shaun Hansen by *January 31, 2014*: shaunhansen1@weber.edu

Spotlight on People Promoting Sustainability

Hannah Rice, a Weber State graduate and the current Sustainability Education and Outreach Coordinator for the campus, epitomizes what it means to live and promote a sustainable lifestyle. Her resume looks like the work of a large organization advancing environmental awareness, not the indefatigable efforts of a single individual. While a full-time student, Hannah served as the Student Sustainability Coordinator, founded the Environmental Ambassadors Program, lobbied student government and the university administration to create a student sustainability fee and fund, was instrumental in installing new bike racks and "fix-it" stations throughout campus, oversaw the planting of 100s of trees at the university, and coordinated the replacement of old drinking fountains with new water bottle fill stations, thereby saving 1000s of plastic bottles. With her spare time, Hannah served as the Geography Club Vice President, volunteered as a teacher and advisor in Guatemala, worked with Ogden City to develop bike-friendly urban planning, and, as if to show her commitment, bicycled *across* the U.S., not once but twice! After graduation, Hannah coordinated educational outreach for HEAL Utah, a statewide organization committed to protecting Utahns from air pollution and nuclear contamination, as well as promoting clean energy development. This year Hannah is off to volunteer her talents in Mozambique, Africa. As a terrific liaison among students, faculty, staff, and the community, we hope Hannah plans to spend a long time promoting sustainability at Weber State University.

Environmental Ambassadors

“Promoting Sustainability and Environmental Awareness”

Who we are—Environmental Ambassadors is a peer to peer educational outreach program that is focused on creating a sustainable campus community.

Why become involved— Being involved in the Environmental Ambassadors program offers one a wide variety of opportunities to gain leadership skills, make a difference by contributing to the WSU community, attend conferences & seminars, network with professionals, and much more. The Environmental Ambassadors have been promoting sustainability in a number of creative ways since the beginning of this new school year.

Green the Stadium—The Environmental Ambassadors partnered with the Environmental Club from Utah State University to hold a recycling competition during the basketball game in November. Temporary recycling bins were set out and fans were educated on the importance of recycling. We had a blast and recycled over 557 lbs. of material!

Recyclemania— Weber State University is competing with other schools nationwide to see which school can recycle the most paper, cardboard, cans and bottles, and food waste on a per capita basis; which can produce the least amount of waste; and which recycles the largest percentage of their overall waste stream. In 2013, WSU threw out 900 tons of waste. Of this, 75%, or 675 tons, could have been recycled.

Campus Conservation Nationals— Campus Conservation Nationals (CCN) is the largest electricity and water reduction competition program for colleges and universities in the world. The Wildcat Village Residence Halls will be competing against each other while engaging, educating, motivating, and empowering their students to conserve resources in residence halls with the help of the Environmental Ambassadors.

Dr. Alice Mulder’s GEOG 3060 Class—Dr. Mulder and her class are working with the Environmental Ambassadors this spring semester to help educate the student population about living a more environmental and sustainably aware life. The students have many wonderful opportunities to volunteer with Recyclemania, CCN, and other programs.

