

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

October 2013

At a Glance

Chip Ward on ecological citizenship Tuesday, November 5, 2013, Wildcat Theater, 12:00 pm.

LEED Platinum Building Tour of Architectural Nexus in SLC, Friday November 8, 2013 from 1:30-4:00 pm. RSVP.

Call 801-626-6326

LEED Platinum Home with Ground Source Heat Pump Tour. Friday, November 15, 2013 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. RSVP to jfarner@weber.edu

Students Compete to Save the World!

“Do you have what it takes to save the world?”

Nine teams of students are competing to win \$50 iTunes gift cards by reporting the highest score in the fiendishly difficult, award-winning computer strategy game Fate of the World. Players take on the role of leader of the fictional Global Environmental Organization (GEO) and are tasked with steering the world through the challenges of the coming century and beyond. To win (or avoid losing), they must tame global warming and its impacts while maintaining a thriving (or at least, not withering) global economy - all while trying not to make too many politically unpopular decisions. Some players have had their game character, the GEO leader, assassinated, thus losing the game. Others have, through inattention, allowed nuclear war to start, sometimes releasing massive amounts of methane from the Arctic, condemning the Earth to a hothouse future -- also losing the game. Besides being fun, the Fate of the World challenge is a research project by Dan Bedford, a professor in the Geography Department. The objective is to see if "gamification" of global warming issues makes them more real to the players. The success of the project so far has led Bedford to plan on using Fate of the World in a spring semester class, GEOG PS 1400 The Science of Global Warming.

Engaged Learning Series – “On Air” this year

Following last year's "Water Works" series, issues of air are WSU's focus from the newly launched Engaged Learning Series, which is coordinated through the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL). The EIC is co-sponsoring a number of films, speakers and panels to highlight the Wasatch Front's poor air quality and its effect on all living things. Upcoming events include:

Please, No More Environmentalists: Embodiment as a Path to Ecological Citizenship: Chip Ward Tuesday, November 5, 2013, Wildcat Theater, 12:00 pm
Utah author and activist Chip Ward will discuss our individual connections to the environment and the need for an engaged citizenry.

Discussion Panel on Campus Sustainability:
Wednesday, November 13, 2013, Wildcat Theater, 12:30 pm
Learn about the past and future campus sustainability efforts related to air.

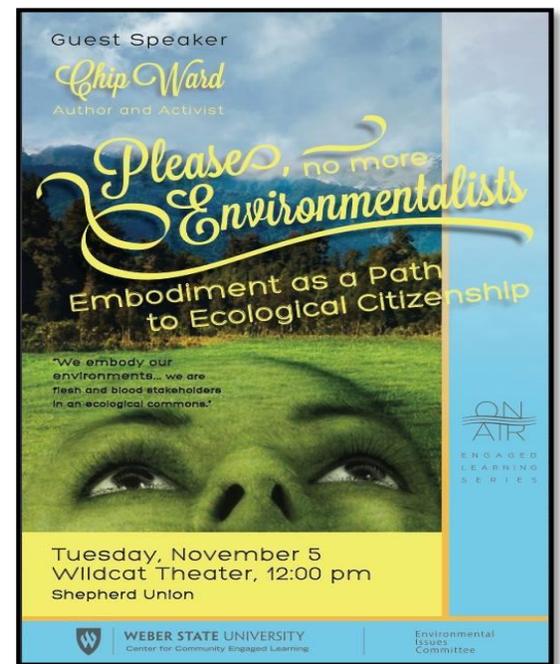
Visit <http://weber.edu/ccel/els.html> for the full calendar of events.

Intermountain Sustainability Summit

The Intermountain Sustainability Summit (ISS), held in Weber State's Shepherd Union Building, is approaching its 5th year. Starting as a fairly small conference in 2010, the ISS 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 ISS will be held on Thursday, March 6th, and Friday, March 7th, 2014. Thursday will feature sessions covering such topics as renewable and alternative energy, green building, water and air quality, and waste and recycling. The summit will concurrently host a student poster session highlighting student research in sustainability. Students whose poster proposals are accepted will receive free admission to the conference and be eligible to win a cash prize for exceptional work. In order to have many good submissions, faculty are encouraged to have students submit posters as a course assignment.

Friday will feature professional workshops, including Composting 101 and 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.



WSU-SEI Micro Hydro Course (10/28-11/1)

The WSU College of Applied Science and Technology was proud to collaborate with both Solar Energy International (SEI) and Gardner Engineering to host a week-long, Micro-Hydro design and installation training seminar that was held from October 28 – November 1. SEI is a Department of Energy accredited instructional facility in alternative energy systems and has provided training to over 30,000 people since 1991. Ken Gardner, owner of Gardner Engineering in South Ogden, was the course instructor. Gardner Engineering is a leading alternative energy system integrator with residential and commercial installations, including Hill Air Force Base and Weber State University.

The Micro-Hydro course was offered by SEI in response to the recent passage of HR267 and HR678, which will increase small hydro-electric energy installations and promote growth in the alternative energy economic sector. The Engineering Technology Department at WSU is pleased to expand partnerships with established leaders in the alternative energy industry.

You may find more information on the SEI website.

<http://www.solarenergy.org/workshop/micro-hydro-training-micro-hydro-design-installation>

Cash Awards for Sustainability Research

The WSU Alumni Association and Provost's Office are offering cash awards (two \$500 student awards and one \$1,000 faculty award) for exceptional student and faculty sustainability research projects completed in 2013-2014. Projects that have been submitted previously are ineligible. 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 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 (stated 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

Recycling comes to the Wildcat Room!

The Wildcat Room finally has a recycling container to catch all those misplaced receipts heretofore tossed into the trash! One day the right woman for the job was working the cash register when Dan Bedford and Carla Trentelman asked their usual question: Do you have a recycling bin for the receipts yet? The server, named Lauren, said she would get right on it. By the time lunch was finished, Lauren reported to the professors that she had talked to her supervisor and there would be a bin in place by the following Monday.

Sure enough, the next trip to the Wildcat Room revealed a temporary solution, a small bin next to the cash register for receipts. Lauren reported that they were still waiting for the larger purple bin to put on the floor, but in the meantime everyone was using the small bin and emptying it into the larger one in the food court when the Wildcat Room closed daily. *Good for you, Lauren!!! Thank you for your tenacity in making change happen!*

New Introductory Honors Course on Sustainability

An interdisciplinary course has been developed and is being taught this semester by Hal Crimmel (English), Alice Mulder (geography) and Jenn Bodine (Energy and Sustainability Office) on sustainability. The course is designed to provide an overview of contemporary environmental problems, sustainability concepts, theory and practice. Its goals are for students to make connections among disciplines, between their own lives and the physical world, and between their own lives and the social, economic and political spheres. The course also provides an opportunity for students to practice community-engaged learning through an educational project in service to the campus community. This semester the students are focusing their projects primarily on air quality problems to support the Engaged Learning Series "On Air." Students completing the course will be ready next semester to work as WSU Environmental Ambassadors for the Office of Sustainability if they so choose, where they can plan, contribute to, or implement projects that grow out of their academic work.

A New Course for Fall 2013: Thirsty Society: A Sociology of Water

"I think our relationship to water is going to be one of the deciding things of the next century. I don't think water's in any trouble. But we might be."

--Dr. Richard Wolfenden, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Numerous people have asked Carla Trentelman what on earth a class on the sociology of water would be about. It makes sense if one remembers that sociology is interested in the relationships among people, and between people and society. Natural resource sociology, the branch of sociology Trentelman focuses on, adds natural resources to the mix -- in this case, water. Her new course, *Thirsty Society: A Sociology of Water*, examines humans' relationships with water, as

people and as societies: how we use it and think about it, the economics and politics of it, the conflicts over it, and our problems related to it. Sustainability issues are woven throughout the course material. The class also examines issues related to bottled water use, focusing on WSU's Ogden campus. Students are researching the prevalence of bottled water consumption on campus, including positive and negative consequences of that consumption. Utilizing survey research, sales data, and waste data, they will examine water preferences of campus community members and why those preferences exist. They will investigate the amount spent on bottled water on campus, the brands most consumed on campus and the "demographics" of those brands, including where the water comes from and how far it travels to get to WSU. They will also examine the amount of waste generated by the plastic bottles and what happens to that waste (partnering with the Environmental Ambassadors in a Trash Audit). In these ways, the class will ascertain the various "footprints" of the bottled water consumed on campus.

The class is hoping their findings can be used to educate the campus community about the costs and benefits of consuming bottled water as compared to tap water. They will present their findings at various venues over the course of 2013-2014.

Glass Recycling is Finally Here!

At long last glass recycling is available in Ogden City and on the WSU campus. Over the summer the City of Ogden established the following three 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.

In October, WSU added a fourth community glass drop-off site at the Stewart Stadium. 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>.



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 WSU Environmental Ambassadors have been promoting sustainability in a number of creative ways since the beginning of this new school year.

At the start of this fall semester Environmental Ambassadors worked closely with our sustainable campus partner WSU Housing to promote a "*Green Move-In*". A number of volunteers helped to place temporary recycling bins outside of all the residential halls. It was a great way to encourage students to recycle, the efforts helped to recycle *1,529 lbs.* of material.



Fall Tree Planting: on October 25th we partnered with WSU Landscaping to plant *five new trees* on the east side of the Stewart Library. Despite the rainy weather we were successful! During the Tree Planting we took the opportunity to talk about the importance of trees and let everyone know that WSU is registered as an official *Tree Campus*.

Green the Stadium: was a service event in celebration of homecoming week. During the tailgate party Environmental Ambassadors partnered with the *USGBC*

to set out temporary recycling bins, we gave away goodies to educate people on the importance of recycling and had a blast! After we continued the recycling party at the football game. We had an incredible amount of participation from the spectators and food vendors. Together we collected and recycled *895 lbs. of material!*

Sustainability BBQ: as an effort to continue educating students on the topic of recycling we hosted a Sustainability BBQ at the Wildcat Village. 55 students came out to join the fun and festivities, where we played recycling games and enjoyed an outdoor BBQ.