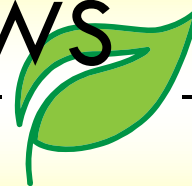


# UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
March 11, 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 11



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

March 12, March 19  
8:00—9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

### Sustainability Seminar: “Greening ‘Fort Apache’ - Appropriate Technology as Environmental Justice in South Bronx”

March 15  
12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Gowen Room, Wilson Commons

### Women’s History Month Film Series: “Mother, Caring for 7 Billion”

March 21  
7:00—9:00 p.m.  
Hoyt Auditorium  
This screening explores the issue of population growth and its surrounding environmental, humanitarian, and social crises.

### Engineers for a Sustainable World Meeting

March 21, March 28  
8:00—9:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 507, Wilson Commons

### “Recharging Your Batteries”: Arunas Chesonis Gives a Talk on Sustainable Energy Development

March 23  
2:00—3:00 p.m.  
Schlegel Hall, Room 207  
Attendees must register in advance online or call (585) 276-3500.

### Sustainability Seminar: “What do you see?” Documenting Climate Change in Upstate New York”

March 29  
12:30—1:30 p.m.  
Gowen Room, Wilson Commons

## SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT



### UR Biodiesel Project Continues Stride

Nearly three years ago, four undergraduate students teamed up to achieve an impressive goal to convert excess oil generated by campus dining halls into biodiesel fuel, which would power University shuttle buses.

Founders Chris Babcock '07, David Borrelli '09, Dan Fink '09, and Eric Weissmann '10 submitted the biodiesel project to an entrepreneurial competition in 2006 and offered the idea as a money-saving strategy for the University. Prior to this, the University paid to have the waste product removed.

Since then the idea has blossomed, resulting in the creation of the UR Biodiesel lab, located on Wilson Boulevard behind the Security building. Once an unused garage, the location has been transformed into a full-fledged laboratory in which the waste oil is filtered, pumped into a processor, dewatered and reacted with methanol and a lye catalyst to form biodiesel. The biodiesel is washed to remove byproducts and sent to dry, thereafter ready for use in a diesel engine.

Maintenance and management of the lab is almost entirely handled by undergraduate students, who work in the lab seven days a week and run every step from filtering to drying to producing biodiesel. In fact, the whole operation is student run with very minimal interference and limited monetary support from University administration.

The fuel created in the lab then powers the UR Biodiesel bus, which travels on the Green Line. The bus runs on a B-20 blend, a mix of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent regular gas. The rest of the fuel not used by the bus is given to on-campus construction companies such as AEY, one of the University’s contractors.



UR Biodiesel Lab Manager and senior Mathias Ferber views the project as “very successful,” adding that it is most valuable as a learning experience for students, with the production of biodiesel as an added plus. Indeed, the project invites and engages students from multidisciplinary disciplines, and encourages them to seek potential careers in the renewable energy field.

For the future, UR Biodiesel Chairperson and junior Ellen Sadri hopes to build an additional lab if the current lab’s biodiesel becomes certified. However, she adds, there are “many more opportunities than just buses” with the use of the fuel, explaining that in other instances, such as furnaces to heat homes, biodiesel can be used without mixing it with petroleum product. No matter where the biodiesel ends up, the project is testament to the University’s devotion to the field of renewable resources.

*Additional reporting courtesy of Leah Bulleti, '13.*



## HIGHLIGHTS

### URMC Building Recognized for Green Design



URMC's Saunders Research Building recently received Gold certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a rating program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

The certification process is based on an evaluation of a building's planning and design, energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, indoor environmental air quality, and construction criteria. The first building at the University to

receive such recognition, Saunders is particularly constructed to maximize exposure to sunlight. This and other energy saving systems and design elements produce an estimated 18 percent reduction in utility costs. Other various green features include: a reduction in water usage by 43 percent; a diversion of over 700 tons of construction waste; and a more effective rain garden and parking lot to filter storm water and reduce runoff. For more detailed information, visit the [URMC site](#).

### University Given Grant to Study, Analyze Waterfront

According to recent reports, the University will receive roughly \$125,000 from the Health Impact Project in order to assess the health impacts of the city's waterfront areas and

city projects and policies. The grant will fund findings by the University's Environmental Health Sciences Center, with support from architectural firm Clark Patterson Lee.

The study will analyze issues such as air, water pollution, and fish contamination and will explore opportunities for

improved waterfront access. This will, in effect, help update the city's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The program includes the Genesee River north from the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario, the Port of Rochester, and Durand Eastman Beach. The project will run through June 2013.

### Enter the "Defeat Trash with Design" Art Contest

Artistic? Put those creative design skills to work by entering the Defeat Trash with Design art contest, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environmental Finance Center. Students that create a winning poster design that informs and encourages



students about recycling and waste can win a trip to New York City. Students also gain the opportunity to meet with top officials from the EPA. Designs must be submitted by May 1, and first round winners will be announced in June. The contest is open only to undergraduate and graduate students in New Jersey, New York or Puerto Rico. Poster message must focus on one of three themes: waste reduction; recycling; and anti-litter. Visit [Students Vs. Trash](#) for details.

## CONTACTS & RESOURCES:

### Sustainability @ the University of Rochester

#### Facilities

[The Green Dandelion](#)

#### Dining Services

[Team Green](#)

#### SA Student Sustainability Coordinator

[Will Finnie](#)

#### The Environmental Sustainability UCIS

[Karen Berger](#)

#### Council on Sustainability

[Karen Berger](#)

[Cam Schauf](#)

#### Sustainability within the community:

[Center for Environmental Information](#)

[EnvironmentRochester.com](#)

#### E&E Publishing, LLC

Environment & Energy Publishing (E&E) is the leading source for comprehensive, daily coverage of environmental and energy policy and markets.

## SUSTAINABILITY:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

[United Nations](#)



# UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

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