

UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
November 6, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 5



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sustain-A-Bowl

October 14 — November 11
Wilson Commons Gowen Room
ur_sustainabowl@gmail.com

Public Talk: "Nature 2.0: Art, Digital Media and Environment"

November 7
11:00 a.m.
Computer Studies Bldg. 209

Sustainability Seminar: "Epidemiology, Public Health and Sustainability"

November 10
12:30 p.m.
Wilson Commons, Gowen Room

Landfill Tour and Compost Facility

November 11
2:30 p.m.
High Acres Landfill
Bus leaves ITS at 2:30 p.m.

EcoPalooza

November 12
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Wilson Commons, Hirst Lounge

Register for the "National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Environment and Security"

January 18-20
Washington, D.C.
Learn more at <http://www.environmentandsecurity.org/>

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Eco-Art: Where Ecology, Art and Technology Converge

As an Art & Art History professor recently appointed at the University, Cary Peppermint sheds new light on the relationship between ecology, art and technology. On November 7 in the Computer Studies Building, Peppermint will present a public talk titled "Nature 2.0: Art, Digital Media and Environment."

Peppermint first began merging environmental aspects with art in 2003, when he realized that the physical places people live in "were converging with the digital devices and networks [they] use." In 2005, Peppermint began his collaborative project "ecoarttech," which explores environmental issues and convergent technologies from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Peppermint believes it is important to explore these connections, and invites us "to think closely about where we live, who we share these spaces with, and to invent ethical and creative ways of inhabiting these environments so that they may support and offer a quality of life for everyone."

Since the creation of ecoarttech, Peppermint has imagined the environment as a convergent network of biological, cultural and digital spaces. Pictured via the phone above, "Indeterminate Hikes" is a smartphone application that encourages participants to navigate, question and document the possibilities of hybrid ecology – spaces for nature in an urban place like New York City. The project is guided by the belief that ecological awareness can be experienced anywhere, not necessarily in "natural" areas.

Another work is "Eclipse," a net art work completed in 2009 that explores the politics of pollution by altering and corrupting images of U.S. national and state parks based on the air quality of the nearest city within a 65-mile radius. An illustration based off this series is featured below.

Optimistic about a future in which art and the environment merge ever closer, Peppermint said that, "People are more conscious of their environments and their impact upon these environments more than ever before." In fact, Peppermint believes art can be helpful in turning awareness into action.



"We are all interconnected. The health of one affects the health of others. So we have to learn to be more kind, accepting, tolerant and take better care of one another. Art that considers the environments we inhabit is a good vehicle for beginning conversations."

Photo courtesy of ecoarttech.net

Peppermint received a M.F.A from Syracuse University in 1997, and has held previous appointments at Cornell University, Colgate University and the Pratt Institute. His works are in the permanent collections of the Walker Art Center, Rhizome.org at the New Museum for Contemporary Art, Computer Fine Arts and the Whitney Museum of American Art. For more of his work, visit ecoarttech.net.





HIGHLIGHTS

U of R Amasses Environmental Quality Awards

In recognition of the University's sustainability outreach and education efforts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wastewise program presented the University with the 2011 Gold Achievement award in the category of Public Education and Outreach. This follows the 2011 Hugh E. Cumming Environmental

Quality Award presented by The Center for Environmental Initiatives (CEI) to the University on Oct. 26.

The Gold Achievement Award specifically lauds achievements in areas such as climate change, green buildings and beneficial use of secondary materials, while the Environmental Quality Award recognizes the University's "significant contribution to environmental protection, improvement or education" in the Rochester area. Events



Preserving Resources, Preventing Waste

such as E-Cycle Day and media sources like 'The Green Dandelion' blog all helped demonstrate the University's drive for sustainability.

CONTACTS & RESOURCES:

[Sustainability @ the University of Rochester](#)

Facilities
[The Green Dandelion](#)

Dining Services
[Team Green](#)

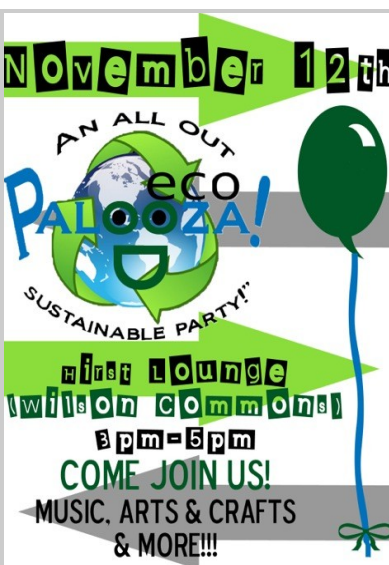
SA Student Sustainability Coordinator
[Will Finnie](#)

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.



EcoPalooza: Music, Arts, Crafts and More

New this year, "EcoPalooza" is an EcoReps-organized event that will incorporate music, arts and crafts in a "sustainable" manner, to be held in Wilson Common's Hirst Lounge from 3 to 5 p.m. on November 12. Co-sponsored by GreenSpace, the event was suggested during an EcoReps discussion about ways to

encourage a greener approach to daily living practices. Activities include an open "green" mic, with a preference in environmentally-themed music. In addition, students can participate in a scavenger hunt to win prizes by searching out green, designated items on campus. All arts and crafts will be composed from green materials, and potential projects include creating recycled jewelry and pinecone bird feeders. Come recycle some fun!

Two, New Fuel-Efficient Cars in Zipcar Lineup

The University has recently enhanced its existing Zipcar fleet of environmentally friendly vehicles by acquiring two new fuel-efficient 2012 Ford Focus cars. Zipcar is a vehicle-sharing



program that offers a convenient transportation solution for students, faculty and staff. The program's all-

inclusive rates cover parking, gas, insurance, maintenance and roadside assistance. As part of Ford's sponsorship, students, faculty or staff joining as new members will receive \$10 off their first year Zipcar membership, and the hourly rate for Ford vehicles will also be reduced by \$1 per hour. For more information, visit [Zipcar at Rochester](#).

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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