

UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
December 4, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 7



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

December 5
8:30–9:30 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

Sustainability Seminar: “Consequences of Historical Agriculture and Land-Use Practices of Forest Communities of Monroe County, New York”

December 8
12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Gowen Room, Wilson Commons

GreenSpace General Meeting

December 14
9—10 p.m.
Burton 1 Lounge

Free Lecture: “Drilling Marcellus Shale and its Impact on the Geology and the People”

January 11
6—7:30 p.m.
Strasenburgh Planetarium at the Rochester Museum and Science Center

For more information, visit <http://www.warner.rochester.edu/newsevents/story/852/>

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

URMC Strives to Promote Sustainability and Collaboration

Each year, the University allocates roughly \$22 million to be spent for utilities – electricity, water and natural gas – at the University’s Medical Center (URMC). Facilities at the Center continuously searches for innovative and sustainable ways to work with this budget.

The recent construction of the Saunders Research Building is one testament of sustainable design in mind. It is the University’s first building to formally receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, and boasts green features like energy-efficient glass windows, light-sensors, and low-maintenance landscaping. Even during construction sustainability was kept in mind: unused drywall scraps were ground up for reuse as soil, and excess metal, brick, and concrete supplies were recycled and spared from landfills.



Similarly, the creation of the Clinical and Translational Science Building (CTSB) had a recorded overall recycling utilization rate of 60.3 percent in February 2011. The majority of these recycled materials included 371 tons of asphalt and almost 50 tons of concrete. In fact, this is demonstrative of recycling at University as a whole, as the University’s 2010 recycling utilization rate was measured at 32.2 percent. The University calculated recycling rate by comparing the weight of recycled and reused material to the weight of University’s total waste and recycling combined.

Apart from design and production, URMC devotes time to collaborating with environmentally conscious organizations. For over ten years and since the local non-profit organization’s inception, URMC has partnered with InterVol to donate unused medical supplies that can be redistributed to countries and people, such as those living in Haiti and Belize. Indeed, Strong Memorial and Highland Hospital were one of the biggest contributors of recycled medical supplies to InterVol.

Other initiatives range from hosting a paper material disposal event to reforming Strong Memorial Hospital into a mercury-free institution. The utility systems of the medical center hospital and one of two medical center research buildings were upgraded to increase efficiency, resulting in a 30 percent decrease in make-up water usage. According to Operations Manager at Strong Memorial Hospital Tanya Henry, the Facilities department routinely looks for ways to make improvements.

While the listed achievements were completed in the long-run, Facilities at URMC works everyday with the environment in mind and continues to “look for creative ways to implement recycling programs wherever possible,” Henry said. In the case that complaints arise, Facilities tries to schedule time to meet with customers that voice concerns.

As for the future, only time will tell what new ways URMC will discover to make the Center a more sustainable area to work in, not just for faculty and staff but for patients and visitors as well.

A variety of sources were referred to in the production of this article, including: sustainablehospitals.org; greenreportcard.org; The Green Dandelion blog; University Facilities page; and the URMC site. An inside view of practices at the Center will be explored further in an upcoming issue.



HIGHLIGHTS

World Record in Solar Conversion Set by Optical Engineering Team

An optical engineering team at the University climbed to world record status after achieving a light-to-electricity conversion efficiency of 38.5 percent. Led by Professor of Optical Engineering Duncan Moore, the team began building multiple prototypes in 2005 and continued to test them over the years. The team collaborated with

DuPont, a science-based products and services company, ultimately settling on using only one air-glass interface. This approach limited the loss of light as fewer photons are reflected back from the solar cell surface. However, as Professor Moore points out, a high efficiency percentage is important but not enough – a process to drive down the production cost must be found as well. Congratulations to the team!

Pictured to the right is an assembly of the prototypes.

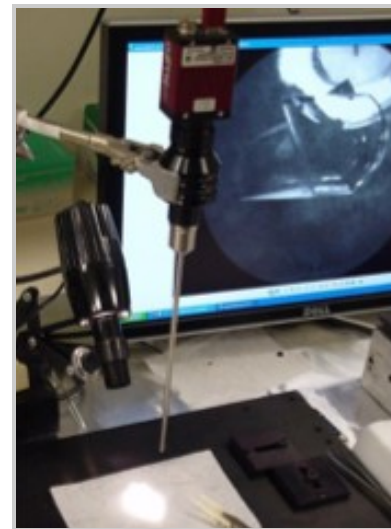


Photo Courtesy of Greg Schmidt

Terracycle Collection Bins Dispersed Throughout Wilson Commons

Three collection bins, intended specifically for hard-to-recycle items such as candy wrappers and cookie packages, have been set up in Wilson Commons by Engineers for Sustainable World (ESW).

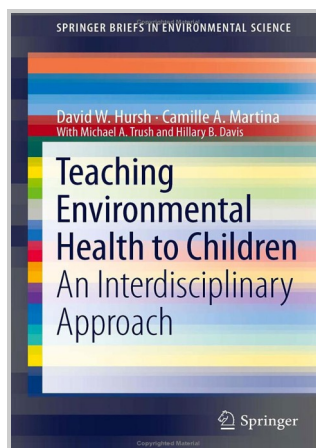
ESW then hands over what is collected to Terracycle, a free waste collection program that turns the waste into sellable products such as backpacks and folders, available at major retailers such as Whole Foods Market. Sponsored by Wilson Commons Student Activities, Facilities & Services, and Dining Services, this is the first year ESW has participated in this program. “ESW is always looking for innovative

ways to encourage recycling,” events coordinator Elizabeth Bradley said.



Current, Previous University Staff Publish Environmental Health Novel

Teaching Environmental Health to Children: An Interdisciplinary Approach is a new novel authored by Warner School of Education’s current Professor David Hursh



and alumnae Camille Martina ’05 (PhD) and Hillary Davis ’84 (EdD), as well as Professor Michael Rush of Johns Hopkins Center in Urban Environmental Health. The book provides a view of how schools can educate children about everyday toxic materials that pollute the environment, and how students can reduce the health risk of themselves and of those around them.

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



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