



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Engineers for a Sustainable World /UR BioDiesel General Interest Meeting

February 1
8 p.m. — ESW
9 p.m. — BioDiesel
Goergen 108

Feel Fabulous Heart Health Dinner

February 1
5:00—8:00 p.m.
Frederick Douglass Dining Center

Bi-Weekly Earth Fest Meeting (Grassroots)

February 3
4:00—5:00 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

February 6
8:30—9:30 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

The Deepwater Horizon Disaster — An Inside Perspective

February 17
3:30—5:00 p.m.
Sloan Auditorium, Goergen Hall

Join Donald C. Winter for his talk on the analysis of the causes of the deepwater horizon explosion.

•As an initiative of Green Team, Meatless Monday dinners at Douglass Dining Center begin on January 23rd.

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Rochester Water Brigades: Building a Better Understanding of Clean Water Systems

A newly founded organization on campus, the Rochester Water Brigades travelled to El Canton, Honduras this January in order to build and implement a clean water system. Seniors and co-founders Palida Noor and Tyia Clark led a team of 17 members on the six-day trip to work alongside the community.

Rochester Water Brigades is affiliated with Global Water Brigades, an international organization that works to provide greater access to reliable, sustainable sources of clean water. Global Water Brigades falls under Global Brigades, the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization.

The team travelled to Honduras primarily because of the need for better water infrastructure. In El Canton, a person routinely has access to less than five gallons of water per day, while the average American will use about 100 gallons of water per day. In Honduras, nearly one-fifth of the rural population lacks access to safe drinking water. According to the site of Rochester Water Brigades, during the dry season, families must walk long distances in search of auxiliary water sources, and that water is often overrun with deadly bacteria.

"As Americans, we just take water so much for a granted, and we don't even think about it that much," Noor said. "[The community of Honduras] know the value of their water... They understand the value of every drop so well... I wish we had more of that [in America]."

The team focused on two key projects: implementation of a water system and an educational project about watershed protection. Despite the language barrier between the team and the local community, students worked alongside community members, axe picking and digging in order to create trenches that would act as the tunnel system for the infrastructure. After hours of strenuous effort – at one point, the team of students alone dug almost 90 meters into the ground – groups got together to weld the pipes together. Through these same pipes water would flow to different divisions of the community. According to Clark,

the system the team built "was the source of water for [approximately] 65 to 70 percent of the houses in El Canton."

The watershed acts as the source of water, which then flows through a water tank that filters it in order to remove any parasites. Creating and maintaining a clean water infrastructure – which would in turn help eradicate water-related illnesses – was of vital importance.

On the last day in Honduras, the group visited a local school to speak to children about the importance of watershed protection. "Targeting children was the best way to make sure they know how to maintain their water supply and why it's important to ensure that future generations will keep the water [system] clean," Noor said.



Photo Courtesy of Tyia Clark

While this semester will focus more specifically on member recruitment and educational awareness – spreading the knowledge about what they learned on the trip, Clark and Noor are confident that there will be future trips such as this one – perhaps even bi-annually. For now, the

challenge is to pique student interest. The team is ecstatic with their trip and what they learned. "In terms of sustainability, it's truly incredible how much [the community in the Honduras] doesn't waste – they find a use for everything they have," Noor said.



Photo Courtesy of Paul Sozio



HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Tournament Rallies for Recycling

Kicking off on Saturday, Feb. 5, the Annual RecycleMania tournament is a competition among colleges and universities to inspire and promote students and staff alike to lower the waste generated on campus by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Over 300 participating schools report their results weekly and are ranked by the amount

of recyclables (by total and per capita), the recycling rate, and the reduction in amount of waste. In 2010, the University ranked in the top 10 percent of competing schools in a number

of categories, including the collection of the largest combined amount of paper and the largest overall recycling rate.



Throughout the eight-week period, there will be a plethora of activities ranging from recycling races on Feb. 4, tours of the local recycling center, and an open mic night. In addition, anyone can win an eco-friendly prize by answering a weekly trivia question posted in the Weekly Buzz!

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.

U of R Ranks in Game Day Challenge



The University recently ranked second in the category of Greenhouse Gas Reduction and third in Recycling in the "Game Day Challenge."

An initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wastewise program, the Game Day challenge is a competition among colleges

and universities to measure waste reduction at school sponsored football games.

Through this contest, the EPA hopes to lower the waste generated at these games, increase participation among the entire community and heighten awareness of waste reduction programs.

Bins Allocated Across Campus of Medical Center

34 new outdoor recycling receptacles have been installed throughout the URMC campus. These receptacles are made out of approximately 98 percent recycled content steel, which is known for its durability. Initiated by the Operations Subcommittee of the University Sustainability Council, this project is

emblematic of the University's efforts to foster green practices.

More specifically, there were seven new double MegaCan receptacles, fifteen recycling couplets and twelve Dual-Flow containers. These receptacles offer the opportunity to recycle plastic, metal and glass items with ease. The receptacles can be moved and placed anywhere, but are generally located in high-traffic areas of URMC. The team working on this

project concentrated on both environmental and financial sustainability.



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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