

# UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

March 31, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 10



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

April 1  
8:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

### Engineers for a Sustainable World General Interest Meeting

April 2  
7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.  
Goergen 109

### Sustainability Seminar: "Sustainability and Computing"

April 5  
2:00 — 3:00 p.m.  
Dewey Hall 2-110D

### Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

April 8  
8:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

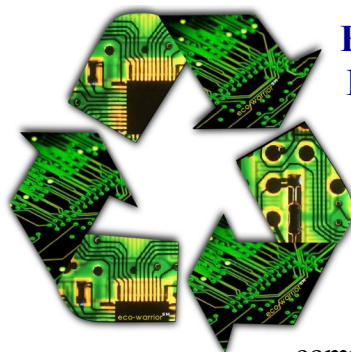
### Biodiesel Meeting

April 9  
7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.  
Hylan 201

### Sustainability Seminar: "Assessing Transmissions from the Transport of Sand, Water, and Waste in High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Activities"

April 19  
2:00 — 3:00 p.m.  
Dewey Hall 2-110D

## SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT



### Bytes and Ecological Footprint: Upcoming Talk Explores Computing and Sustainability

Fusing his passion for environmentalism and his profession as a computer scientist, Professor Michael Scott will discuss computing as both an environmentally beneficial and detrimental force in a talk titled "Sustainability and Computing" on Friday, April 5. Scott will shine light on how computing, a double-edged sword, has the capacity to be both problematic yet also helpful in spurring environmental headway.

The talk will explore computing in a tri-fold manner: first, by considering the impact of computer production, including the costs associated with manufacturing and disposal; second, by measuring the energy consumption of electronics during their operational cycle; lastly, by employing the technology itself to increase energy efficiency and to take a step closer to addressing environmental issues with sustainable solutions.

Many electronic devices contain high levels of toxic substances, including lead, cadmium, and brominated flame retardants. Furthermore, rapid transformations in technology have resulted in an increasing surplus of electronic waste. Also referred to as e-waste, these piles of discarded electronics continue to grow in number, rendering proper disposal a crucial operation.

Additionally, during their life cycle, computers consume a huge amount of energy, at an estimated figure of "roughly two percent of the carbon footprint of the human race, and growing," according to Scott. Scott hopes listeners will walk away with questions such as, "How many electronic devices do I own? How often do I use them?" and "What is the carbon footprint of a Google search? A YouTube download?"

Ultimately, however, computing has the potential to answer some of the most difficult sustainability problems of the day. "Much of the potential for large-scale improvements in energy efficiency – in transportation, buildings, the power grid, and more – is being driven by computer modeling," Scott remarks. "Many other problems – from wildlife management, to pollution assessment and abatement, to alternative energy development, to the pricing of carbon offsets – are also deeply dependent on computer solutions." If executed correctly, computing can act as driving force in finding real-world solutions to sustainability questions.

Sponsored by UCIS, the talk will be held in Dewey Hall 2-110D. Explore sustainability through a computational lens!



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Good Food Collective Summer Program Returns

The Good Food Collective, a year-round program that delivers local food to communities, will recommence its weekly distribution of organic vegetables and fresh fruit from June to September at the University.

Similar to a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

project, members pay in advance of the growing season and receive a weekly “share” of the harvest.

Possible pick up locations include UR Medical Center’s Saunders Building, South Wedge and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Members can choose from

a base share or a family share, which can feed up to a family of two to four. Explore the [list of foods the summer share](#) comprises, or see [other locations](#) the program delivers to.

The Good Food Collective strives to nurture a “relationship with a farm and a willingness to be a part of an agricultural adventure.” As a project of Headwater Foods, Good Food works towards a “more socially and environmentally just food system.”



### CONTACTS & RESOURCES:

#### Sustainability @ the University of Rochester

Facilities  
[The Green Dandelion](#)

Dining Services  
[Team Green](#)

SA Student Sustainability Coordinator  
[Siobhan McLaughlin](#)

The Environmental Sustainability UCIS  
[Karen Berger](#)  
[Daniel Reichman](#)

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.

### Interdisciplinary Sustainability Conference Approaches

The SUNY College of Brockport is organizing a one-day research conference on Sustainability titled “Environmental, Economic, and Social Sustainability: An Interdisciplinary Approach” on Saturday, April 20.

Researchers from a variety of

SUNY campuses as well as other local colleges will present ongoing sustainability projects and discuss general trends in sustainability research.

Topics will include community outreach efforts and the STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating Survey) approach. Program Directors from National Science Foundation (NSF) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will also discuss grants and funding opportunities, in addition to

fielding specific funding questions.

Sponsored by the SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines Program, the conference aims to maximize the potential for collaborative sustainability-related research, facilitate faculty exchange, and allow for the “development of collaborative multi-campus lines” of sustainability research. To view the agenda or register, visit the [Brockport website](#).

### Application for City Cycles Coordinator Available

Interested in becoming a City Cycles coordinator? City Cycles is a free bicycle-lending program, providing students with the opportunity to rent a bicycle to travel on campus and beyond.

Since its inception in 2004 by two undergraduates at the University,

the program has flourished as one of the most popular services of the Students’ Association (SA). The City Cycles Coordinator position is considered a “great opportunity for those interested in business and entrepreneurship.”

If interested, apply for the position [here](#). For more information, contact the SA President [Roshal Patel](#).



The program is jointly administered by the Projects and Services Committee and the Ticket and Transportation Coordinator for Wilson Common Student Activities.

### 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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