

# UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
October 28, 2012  
Volume 2, Issue 4



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

October 29  
8:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

### UR Biodiesel Research Meeting

October 29  
8:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
Goergen 110

### Sustainability Talk: “Fields, Factories, and Workshops: Green Economic Development on the Smaller-Metro Scale”

November 1  
5:30 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Hawkins-Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library

### RIT Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal Event

November 2  
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
H Lot, RIT  
This event provides a safe and proper way of disposing of unused and unwanted medications.

### SAVVY General Interest Meeting

November 5  
8:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
WC507, Wilson Commons

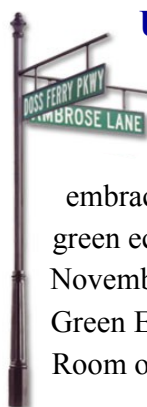
### Recycle the Runway

November 15  
7:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
Interfaith Chapel

### Earth and Environmental Sciences Seminar: “The Response of Arctic Ice Sheets to Abrupt Climate Change”

November 16  
3 p.m.  
Hutchison 229

## SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT



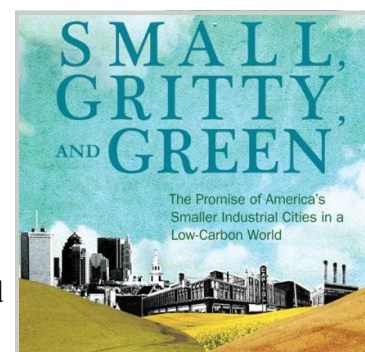
### Upcoming Talk by Alumna Explores Smaller City Potential for a Richer, Greener World

An author, journalist, and never-resting scholar, Catherine Tumber, Ph.D. '92, embraces the dynamic view that small industrial cities have the potential to thrive in a green economy and help pave sustainable economic development for the future. On November 1, Tumber will present a talk titled “Fields, Factories, and Workshops: Green Economic Development on the Smaller-Metro Scale” in the Hawkins-Carlson Room of Rush Rhees Library at 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the University’s Environmental Sustainability Cluster for Interdisciplinary Studies (UCIS), the talk will explore how small-to-midsize industrial cities can play a central role in a greener, low-carbon future as well as spur a process to revitalize the economy. Cities, such as Rochester, “are poised to thrive,” Tumber asserts, “as long as they make use of their strengths: their rich surrounding farmland and inland waterways, their manufacturing heritage, and their vacant industrial properties.” These are assets not shared by their big-city or small-town counterparts, and Tumber believes that they can be crucial tools in the move to local agriculture and the development of renewable energy industries.

Tumber’s time in Rochester, while she was working on her doctorate in History, helped shape these views. Tumber recalls being “steeped in the most important intellectual controversies of the time, thanks to the department’s excellent faculty and students,” adding that she was “especially indebted to [her] advisor, the late Christopher Lasch, whose analysis of the culture of narcissism\* deepened [her] environmentalist conviction there are ‘limits to growth.’” Tumber recounts heading into the city of Rochester and her irritation with the Inner Loop, and “how it blocked foot access to downtown (where you could still shop at department stores). That’s when I first started thinking about the built structure of cities. And I served as a plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking to prevent the construction of Marketplace Mall. Obviously, we lost!”

Tumber’s recently published book, “Small, Gritty, and Green: The Promise of America’s Smaller Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World” examines these ideas and others more extensively. Learn more by attending the talk, which is free and open to all. Parking passes may be purchased at the information booth on Wilson Avenue.



\* “The Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations” by Christopher Lasch



## HIGHLIGHTS

### UR Receives Grant for Renovation of Hutchinson Hall Laboratory

The University recently received a grant of \$36,615 from The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for its renovation of an undergraduate laboratory in Hutchinson Hall. NYSERDA promotes the reduction of energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources. The grant was awarded because the

University had adhered to energy efficient guidelines in purchasing equipment for the new laboratory. Completed within three months for the start of the 2011-2012 school year, the laboratory combined what were once three separate labs. Among the features are new



ductless fume hoods, each of which is large enough to accommodate two students working together. The hoods provide sufficient exhaust for many, but not all, experiments without using electrical energy, and each one saves the University around \$14,000 per year. Also, water-based vacuum pumps were replaced with a central vacuum system, reducing water usage by 15,000 gallons per year. A majority of the light fixtures in the lab are now LED lighting, resulting in additional power saving. To read more, visit [Laboratory Design News](#).

#### 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.

### Register for “Media Space: Film to Smart Phone”

As advising week for the Spring 2013 semester approaches, students are encouraged to register for CAS267/ENG267: “Media

Space: Film to Smart Phone,” a course that examines the ways in which contemporary media shape understandings, perceptions, and imaginations of the environment. Taught by Professor Leila Nadir, the course will explore the role of media in rearranging environmental concerns and its

role as a communication technology. According to the course description, emphasis will be placed on reading critical texts and putting them in dialogue with contemporary new media artifacts. The class will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:25 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. in Dewey Hall.

### Upcoming Landfill Tour Offered

Join the ride for a guided bus tour of Waste Management’s High Acres Landfill on Friday, November 16. Learn about the careful engineering put into place for the protection of the air, water, soil and environmental integrity of the area. The facility features a

methane gas renewable energy plant that produces enough energy to power 9,000 homes. A unique workforce team of falcons help to keep the seagull population under control. Those who attend will also have the opportunity to see the composting operation to which the University sends its food waste and other organic materials. The tour bus will leave the area outside of

ITS, Rush Rhees Library, at 3:00 p.m. Register by emailing [Amy Kadrie](#).



#### SUSTAINABILITY:

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

[United Nations](#)



UNIVERSITY of  
**ROCHESTER**

For information about the newsletter:  
Michaela Kerem ‘15  
Editor  
[mkerem@u.rochester.edu](mailto:mkerem@u.rochester.edu)

