

UR GREEN NEWS



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
November 11, 2012
Volume 2, Issue 5



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting

November 12, November 19
8:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

UR Biodiesel Research Meeting

November 12, November 19
8:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.
Goergen 110

Recycle the Runway

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

Landfill Tour

November 16
3 p.m.
Meet outside ITS, Rush Rhees Library
Register by emailing Amy Kadrie.

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

November 16
3 p.m.
Hutchison 229

Earth and Environmental Sciences Seminar: “The Deep Hydrosphere”

November 30
3 p.m.
Hutchison 229

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Undergraduate Students Share Experience with Summer Sustainability Internships at the University



The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, also known as STARS, is a voluntary sustainability auditing framework for institutions of higher learning and measures the sustainability efforts of universities and colleges. This summer, two undergraduate students were chosen as part of the University’s summer sustainability internship program to help set University sustainability standards to be on par with STARS criteria.

Alanna Scheinerman, a senior studying Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES), and Dan Lucas, a junior studying Economics, were selected out of at least 30 applicants for positions within the program. Scheinerman worked for Pat Beaumont, Director of Support Operations, to assist in gathering and organizing data for the “Operations” component of STARS. Lucas worked for Professor of EES and Coordinator of UCIS Karen Berger to complete the “Academic and Research” component by collecting and evaluating data on University sustainability-related teaching and research activity.

Both students were provided with on-campus residence during the two months they worked. Scheinerman was charged with amassing information on topics such as energy use, water use, building efficiency, and greenhouse gas emissions. After Scheinerman primarily gathered information from personal interviews, emails, and phone calls from various sources, she condensed what she found and compiled the raw data on STARS online. Lucas examined coursework and research at the University and reported on various findings in order to measure whether the University met qualifications. He also fulfilled this by searching websites and speaking with faculty and administrative staff.

Scheinerman and Lucas found that their collaboration with the people who run the University – those who are “behind the scenes” – was the best part of the experience. The team meetings, during which they discussed the progress of their respective sections, were instrumental. “I hadn’t realized the scope of complexity of this assessment,” Lucas said. “We had people from Facilities, the Medical Center, the Provost’s Office, you name it. Basically every part of the institution was represented ... Most undergrads here forget to think beyond the River Campus, but UR is much bigger than that.”

Scheinerman echoed a similar sentiment. “I could see that they were dedicated to their jobs and to the University. I also really enjoyed finding out the details of the University’s workings. Students often don’t realize just how much effort the University puts into sustainable initiatives.”



HIGHLIGHTS

Global Water Brigades Hosts First Annual Water Week

UR Global Water Brigades will be holding its first annual Water Week from Nov. 12 to Nov. 15. The organization hopes that the week will remind students about the privileges of clean water as they help raise money to work toward improving water quality in Honduras. The Brigades will also be selling water bottles for \$5 with the inscription "I'd Tap That" as a way to promote the

use of drinking tap water with sustainable and re-usable water bottles, rather than plastic disposable water bottles. All proceeds from this sale will benefit communities in Honduras.

Along with Students for a Democratic Society, the Brigades will co-sponsor a movie showing on November 14 of "Blue Gold," a documentary highlighting the world's dwindling water supply and how activists around the world are trying to make a difference.



On Nov. 15, RIT Professor John Waud will speak to students about his experience in Chiapas, Mexico and his conservation work to make affordable drinking water available in villages. The talk will be held in Morey 321 at 5:00 p.m. A list of the remaining events can be found on the [Facebook page](#).

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.

Grassroots Holds "UR Unplugged" Event

Last week, Grassroots held "UR Unplugged," a weeklong competition to promote energy awareness and inspire students to decrease energy consumption. The competition was held between hall councils

and dorms; Theta Chi came in first place, and the Alpha Delta Phi house was recognized for the most outstanding decrease in energy for a single dorm building.

The week began with a Meatless Monday dinner, hosted by Team Green, during which energy reduction

methods were discussed. On Tuesday, the lights in Hirst Lounge were turned off, and on Wednesday, students had the chance to make s'mores over enviro-logs — environmentally friendly waxed cardboard fire logs. The week was concluded with a celebration of games on the field.

Apply to be a "Lead Now" Fellow

Initiated by SustainUS, a non-profit organization that aims to advance sustainable development and youth empowerment, the Lead Now Fellowship is a new program to support emerging young leaders interested in developing their own projects that will catalyze change

toward sustainable development. Fellows will be awarded \$1,000 and provided with trainings, mentorship, and various opportunities to help launch their ideas. Proposals can range from innovative community initiatives to a statewide campaign to projects with an international reach. SustainUS intends to "draw from our diverse network of alumni and allies to

mentor and support a group of young social innovators to help them launch a round of youth-led initiatives in 2013." The application window is open and will close November 30. Find out more and apply before the deadline on the [SustainUS site](#).



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

