

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Joe Bean Coffee Demo
January 30
Hillside Market POD

Movie Screening: "Dirt"
January 31
8 p.m.
Dewey 1101

Iron Chef Challenge
February 1
11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Danforth Dining Hall

Grassroots Weekly General Interest Meeting
February 4
8:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

Global Water Brigades Presentation: Water Conservation
February 6
7 p.m.
Dewey 1101

Clothing Exchange
February 7
12 p.m.—4 p.m.
Hirst Lounge, Wilson Commons

"Ban the Bottle" Panel
February 7
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Gowen Room, Wilson Commons

Movie Screening: "Flow"
February 7
8:00 p.m.
Dewey 1101

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Team Green Proposes Plastic Water Bottle Ban on River Campus



Team Green, a group of students working on sustainable initiatives for Dining Services, is currently exploring a possible ban on the sale of plastic water bottles. One of the first steps of the initiative is an informational panel on February 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. held in the Gowen Room of Wilson Commons.

Over 90 colleges in the United States have adopted "[Ban the Bottle](#)," a campaign that seeks to ban the sale of plastic water bottles with the goal of reducing unneeded waste in landfills. "While Team Green has always encouraged the use of reusable water bottles, it was not until this past year that [the ban] became more feasible [for the University]," Team Green Manager senior Rachel Goldstein said.

Water taste tests with over 100 participants have been conducted by the team to compare tap water to major bottled water brands. A water fountain audit, in order to map out the locations of water refill stations and fix any issues with on-campus water fountains, was also conducted.

Team Green Marketing Intern junior Melissa Kullman adds that variants of the ban are possible and that other institutions have "adopted plans that differ widely." As part of their research, Team Green will continue benchmarking with other colleges.

According to Goldstein, the University "uses 106,000 bottles per year on the River Campus. Some may consider that small, but the 106,000 bottles will still end up in a landfill, or in the ocean, or perhaps in the fish that you have for dinner. We believe in taking action, regardless of how small that one action may appear to be."

Some questions that may be raised at the panel include: What is the evidence that banning bottles will accomplish what its proponents say it will? Is it okay to impose the will of some on the lifestyle of all? What would the next course of action be if, due to health precautions, campus water fountains couldn't be used?

Concerns on the concept of a ban also exist. Economics Professor Michael Rizzo stated that this promotes "a worldview where if you don't like something, you should ban it. That's not just bad economics and perhaps bad environmentalism; it is bad politics."

While Team Green continues further research, the decision will be ultimately left to the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Human Resources, headed by Ron Paprocki. Attend the panel to learn more or voice your opinion.



HIGHLIGHTS

Joe Bean Coffee Offered in Hillside Market



Now available in Hillside Market, Joe Bean Coffee is organic fair trade coffee created by “artisan micro-roasters” that focuses on responsible and sustainable sourcing. The company will be offering samples to taste their coffee on January 30 in the Hillside POD.

As defined by FINE, an informal association of four

international fair trade networks, fair trade denotes a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency, and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to producers and workers. Learn more about Joe Bean Coffee on their [homepage](#).

Hobart and William Smith Colleges Sponsor Spring Film Series

Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS) will be sponsoring a series of spring films and discussions, free and open to the public, centered on the environment and sustainability.

Friday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m.

in the Albright Auditorium, Lansing Hall, the college will air “Brunswick,” a film about landscape change told through the story of a farmer’s life-long connection to his now-threatened land. The film’s story takes place in Brunswick, N.Y. and explores “the challenge of balancing economic growth with the preservation of rural character.”

The film will be accompanied

by a discussion with Filmmaker Nate Simms, Finger Lakes Land Trust Director of Land Protection David Diaz, and Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies Jessica Hayes-Conroy.

HWS is located on 10 St. Clair Street, Geneva, NY. A map of the campus is located [here](#). Check back to the next issue to see the remaining films in the line-up.

Upcoming Sustainability Seminar: “Negotiating the Spaces of Fair Trade in South Africa’s Wine Industry”

On Friday, February 1, Alison Montgomery will present a talk titled “Negotiating the Spaces of Fair Trade in South Africa’s Wine Industry.” Montgomery is a pre-doctoral fellow at the University’s Frederick Douglass Institute of

African and African-American Studies. Her research focuses “on policies flows and transformations” within the fair trade movement in South Africa, specifically in the wine industry.

Her research was guided by two questions: 1) How do the various stakeholders within the fair trade system influence policy transformation within both fair trade and Western Cape agrarian reform efforts; and 2) What do these negotiations and power plays mean for the ways in which

policy is implemented and for on-the-ground realities such as business sustainability and farm worker livelihoods? Montgomery worked with a variety of stakeholders in order to address these questions.

The seminar will be held in 2-110D Dewey Hall from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. and is sponsored by the University Cluster for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental Sustainability (UCIS), Department of Anthropology, and the Department of Earth and Environment Sciences.

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](#)

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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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