

UR GREEN NEWS



THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S BIWEEKLY SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 12

GAME DAY RECYCLING CHALLENGE

1:00 P.M.
FAUVER STADIUM

NOVEMBER 1

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE WASHINGTON, D.C.

"NCSE CONVENES A NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND GLOBAL FORUM ON SCIENCE, POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT ANNUALLY. OUR CONFERENCES BRING TOGETHER ACADEMIC, GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, SCIENTIFIC, AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS TO FIND SCIENCE-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS TO THE COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FACING SOCIETY.

THE 14TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD JANUARY 28-30, 2014 IN WASHINGTON DC WITH THE THEME OF BUILDING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS."

JULIA SKLAR '14 EDITOR

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SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

New study abroad program offers hands-on sustainability education in Costa Rica

Student motivation to learn about and implement sustainable living goes beyond the microcosm of the campus. This semester, for the first time, the Center for Study Abroad & Interdepartmental Programs is offering the Social & Environmental Change Program in San José, Costa Rica. The program, run through the Institute for the International Education of Students, offers a hands-on, experiential learning base, which acts in harmony with many of the classroom topics covered at UR.

"We are covering a lot of information that I have been exposed to at UR through my major; however, we are getting to re-learn this information firsthand," says senior Melissa Kullman, who is currently in Costa Rica with the first group of UR students to partake in this program.

Even as an Environment and Society major, intern for UR Recycling Coordinator Amy Kadrie, and member of Team Green, Kullman still feels that this program is providing her with a distinct experience that she could not have had on campus.

"We have visited banana, pineapple, and coffee plantations and have gotten to develop a new relationship with our food and where it comes from," she says. "We are getting to not only see but also

participate in the concepts that most of us have been learning about in a classroom setting for years."

The program works with EARTH University in Guácimo, Costa Rica, an agricultural school that focuses on sustainable development. The campus is located in the center of a tropical rainforest and offers students the chance to handle crops at the campus' farms, work with animals, and manage compost. The campus is also completely carbon neutral.

Although much of the program is grounded in hands-on experience, students are still required to take classes; Kullman is currently taking two

classes, one in sustainable business practices and one in human rights.

Ultimately the students on this program will return to UR to act as veritable ambassadors for new approaches to on-campus sustainability practices, but Kullman also hopes to bring back a general mentality that can be applied to more than just sustainable behavior.

"The Costa Rican national slogan is 'pura vida' — it literally translates to 'pure life,' but is intended to mean 'everything's fine,' 'it's all good,' or 'peace.' I hope to incorporate the Costa Rican sense of calm in my life when I return to the United States. ♦



PHOTO BY MELISSA KULLMAN
A clearly labeled and sorted waste receptical in Costa Rica makes it easy for the average person to contribute to local recycling initiatives.



CONTACTS & RESOURCES

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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

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Meliora Weekend Game Day Recycling Challenge targets waste at sporting events

If you’ve ever been to a sports game, then you know how much detritus can accumulate in and around the stands, whether it’s paper, food, or a variety of other wasted objects. To combat this, UR will be participating in the Game Day Recycling Challenge (GDRC) at Saturday’s 1 p.m. home football game.

Recycling Rangers, who will be wearing bright green shirts, will be managing zero waste stations in Fauver Stadium in order to help people sort their recyclables into the correct bin. To help GDRC to reach its full potential, all concession items offered at this Saturday’s game will be

recyclable and compostable.

“In an effort to reach the widest audience, we have



COURTESY OF GAMEDAYCHALLENGE.COM

chosen to track the data during our homecoming/Meliora Weekend game this Saturday,

as it is typically the most well attended game,” says UR’s Recycling Coordinator Amy Kadrie.

Not only will this event focus on recycling material waste, but it will also address composting unwanted food. At the end of the game, the Recycling Rangers, along with volunteer members of the Men’s Baseball Team, will help clear the stands of any leftover litter, sorting it into the correct bin.

By participating in GDRC, UR will be joining 63 other colleges and universities across the US in constructively handling waste management at sporting events. ♦

New bus route aims to cut down on carbon emissions from campus commuters

In an effort to reduce the emissions of commuters to campus, there is now a new, efficient 30-minute bus route servicing URMC staff living in Southeast Rochester. The goal of this new route, called Bus 52-Park, is to encourage staff to utilize public transportation to get to work, rather than their own individual cars.

The initiative is similar to the idea of carpooling, in that a group of people riding in one vehicle causes less carbon emission than if each person individually rode in a separate car.

In order to provide incentive and encouragement for this hoped-for shift in commuter

behavior, URMC has passed out 100 free bus passes to staff

“In order to provide incentive and encouragement for this hoped-for shift in behavior, URMC has passed out 100 free bus passes to current parking permit holders.

members who currently hold parking permits. Regularly, however, the bus fare will

only be an affordable \$1.

An additional support for the new bus route is the Occasional Parker Program, which now allows staff members to purchase a parking permit that can be used for a total of 26 individual parking instances, rather than a full-time permit. This makes the bus a viable option even for those employees who aren’t quite sure if they can commit to consistently riding the new route.

UR and the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority collectively designed and implemented Route 52, marking the first time the two entities have joined forces. ♦