

UR GREEN NEWS



THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S BIWEEKLY SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 16 - 22

**RECYCLEMANIA WEEK 3:
ENERGY CONSERVATION**

FEBRUARY 20

**NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION RESEARCH
PROPOSALS DUE**

FEBRUARY 21

**BASKETBALL GAME DAY
RECYCLING CHALLENGE**
8:00 P.M.
GOERGEN ATHLETIC CENTER,
PALESTRA
FREE

**FEBRUARY 23 -
MARCH 1**

**RECYCLEMANIA WEEK 4:
AGRICULTURE**

FEBRUARY 28

**PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A
HEALTHIER TOMORROW**
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
WILSON COMMONS
FREE



JULIA SKLAR '14 • EDITOR

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CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

National Recyclemania competition off and running for the sixth year in a row

On Jan. 19, the University of Rochester began its sixth annual run of participating in the national recycling competition, RecycleMania Tournament.

The competition is open to colleges and universities across the United States and Canada, and is meant to serve as encouragement to bolster activity for campus recycling programs. There are several ways in which schools can participate, but UR has always entered the Competition Division, meaning that the university is ranked in comparison to other participating universities in terms of success during the competition.

Although the official competition kicked off in mid-January, the first two weeks of participation were used for practice, in order to ensure that data tracking and event planning go smoothly. The actual data collection began on Feb. 2 and will continue

for eight weeks.

Despite not placing in the competition, last year's participation set the bar quite high for this year: The school prevented the equivalent of 1,190 metric tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere through its recycling efforts just during RecycleMania.

The prize categories in which a participating

paper, cardboard, bottles, and cans, regardless of school population; and, lastly, Targeted Materials, which goes to the school that weighs in with the highest gross tonnage of recycled paper, corrugated cardboard, bottles, cans, food, and electronics.

UR's participation in this event is largely student-driven. The RecycleMania Planning Committee is comprised of Team Green interns and the student group Grassroots, while eight other groups are co-sponsoring, including GreenSpace, UR Microfarm, and EcoReps.

In order to generate support for the competition, the eight-week run is rife with campus events open to the community. Each week's events comes with a different theme. Some highlights will include a basketball game day recycling challenge at 8 p.m. on Feb. 21, during energy conservation week, and plastic water bottle crafting during get creative week, starting Mar. 2. ♦



COURTESY OF RECYCLEMANIACS.ORG

university can place are Grand Champion, for the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste generation; Per Capita Classic, which recognizes the school with the largest amount of recycled paper; Waste Minimization, which goes to the school with the least amount of solid waste per person; Gorilla Prize, for the largest weight of recycled



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

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES
NSF seeking research proposals

The National Science Foundation is looking for research proposals to be submitted to the Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems by Feb. 20.

The research should tackle an area of engineering that would enhance human well-being, while also sustaining environmental systems and economic conditions.

The four areas of research that are supported include industrial ecology, which

might model life cycle assessments or materials flow analysis; green engineering, which could focus on sustainable manufacturing processes; ecological engineering, which could include stream restoration in urban areas; and lastly, earth systems engineering, which would look at global concerns, such as green house gas emissions.

Award funding averages around \$100,000 and lasts one to three years. ♦

Join Climate Action Lab

SustainUS is looking for spring and summer fellows to join the new sustainable advocacy group, Climate Action Lab, in Washington, D.C.

Fellows receive housing and meals, shared with each other, and a modest travel and living stipend. This is in exchange for running a campaign to bolster political support for global climate action and a reduction in US emissions. ♦

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT
UR snags award for green cleaning practices



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University of Rochester Environmental Service Workers stand in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, which, along with the River Campus, was awarded the Green Cleaning Award for its sustainable cleaning practices.

UR’s River Campus and School of Medicine and Dentistry have been awarded the Green Cleaning Award in recognition of their sustainable cleaning practices.

On both campuses, waste removal is done through trio bins, which have compartments for paper and cardboard; plastics, metal, and glass;

and trash. Also present on both campuses are specially trained staff, called Environmental Service Workers, who use non-aerosolized cleaners that are also Green Seal-certified, EcoLogo-approved, or that meet minimum volatile organic compound levels.

The River Campus is known for the addition of

biodegradable feminine hygiene disposal bags, called the Scensibles System, which stop these products from being flushed.

Many of these practices have been instituted overtime at the behest of the University Council on Environmental Sustainability, which was established in 2007. ♦