



UR GREEN NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
September 15, 2013
Volume 3, Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Caribbean Meatless Monday
September 16
5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Douglass Dining Hall

Grassroots General Interest Meeting
September 16
8:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Ruth Merrill Center, Wilson Commons

Clothing Exchange
September 18
12:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Hirst Lounge, Wilson Commons

LEED Green Associate Sustainability Training
September 18
5:30 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.
Havens Lounge, Wilson Commons

“Do It In The Dark” Event
September 27
3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Hirst Lounge, Wilson Commons

Earth and Environmental Sciences Talk: “The Adventure of the Geosciences: Atmospheric and Oceanographic Expeditions into Climate Change”
October 11
3:00 p.m.
Lander Auditorium

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

Student Coordinators Lead Initiative to Enhance EcoReps Program

EcoReps, a “green living” program formally launched at the University in 2009, consists of incoming freshmen that aim to educate their fellow residents on environmental issues. Dispersed throughout freshman dorms, EcoReps learn about sustainability through a bi-weekly course, then share and act upon their knowledge.

Over the summer, EcoReps program coordinators Ulrik Soderstrom '16 and Tyler Trine '16 met to discuss and consider several initiatives. Both felt the program had further potential to flourish, so they sought out methods to more fully engage the EcoReps. In an effort to improve the organization’s structure and provide a richer experience for participants, Soderstrom and Trine incorporated two new tiers: committees and monthly debates.

In the past, the curriculum consisted of class attendance and the creation of a research paper. This time around, Soderstrom and Trine replaced the research paper with committees, which consist of five to six students and will key in on areas such as food, energy, recycling and waste, communications, and auxiliary issues.

While the committees help apply structure to the program, the debates act as a way for the students to gauge their ongoing investigations in their respective committees. “[EcoReps] will still need to do research,” Trine said. “But now we will call upon them to process the product of their research critically” as well as communicate it to a broader audience. Dispersed throughout the year, debates fall into the categories of food, earth, water, and air. The first debate, to be held on October 28, centers on food production and will be open to the public.

Although the program generally houses 30 students, this year only 26 EcoReps traverse freshman dorms. According to EcoReps student director Brittany Flittner '15, the program saw a decrease in applicants for the year. Trine attributes this to the fact that the program switched over to a solely online application process.

However, he remains optimistic. “I do not view this as inherently disadvantageous,” he said. “Our applicants on the whole proved more invested in the subject since they sought out the opportunity themselves.” Nevertheless, over the course of this year, the team will continue devising strategies to entice incoming students to the program.



GREEN!

HIGHLIGHTS

Students Place First in National Geothermal Competition

A team of University students placed first in the National Geothermal Student Competition, an annual inter-collegiate contest sponsored by U.S. Department of Energy that promotes geothermal energy development for clean energy solution.



The students, undergraduates Kidus Alemayehu '15 and Leah Sabbeth '13 and graduate students David Brink-Roby and Taylor Walsh, were challenged with crafting a

business plan to develop a geothermal enterprise. The competition was held in Reno, Nevada from June 26 to June 27.

Their winning idea – titled “Inferno Energy” – was a company that uses the heat from coal fires to produce geothermal energy.

“Our project builds on existing geothermal energy,” Walsh said. “Coal fires are a huge source of pollution and almost no research is

done in that area. The ideas we present will be targets for our continuing academic research.”

The group received an award of \$5,000 to execute their business

plan; the money will go towards conducting research and furthering their studies.

Earth and environmental sciences professor Gautam Mitra served as the team’s advisor. “They did the project all on their own, without having it interfere with their regular research work,” Mitra said. “Plus, they beat out programs from western schools that specialize in geothermal development. It was a very impressive achievement.”

The Oregon Institute of Technology, University of South Dakota, and California Polytechnic University, Pomona placed second, third, and fourth in the competition, respectively.

CONTACTS & RESOURCES:

Sustainability @ the University of Rochester

Facilities
[The Green Dandelion](#)

Dining Services
[Team Green](#)

SA Student Sustainability Coordinator
[Michael Silverstein](#)

The Environmental Sustainability UCIS
[Karen Berger](#)
[Daniel Reichman](#)

Council on Sustainability
[Leila Nadin](#)
[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.

Upcoming Opportunity for Certified LEED Training

Interested in sustainable infrastructure design? On September 18, Grassroots is partnering with LeadingGREEN, a Canadian company specializing in this field, to host an LEED Green Associate Sustainability Training session. Held in the Stocker Engineering Building, the

session will be a one-day crash course on evaluating the energy efficiency of buildings.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a green-rating point system or scorecard. Points are earned through meeting requirements in factors such as integrated design and energy and water efficiency.

LeadingGREEN strives to provide affordable, live LEED

Green Associate Training. LeadingGREEN’s certification is the “only professional designation which students can earn to show

the world and potential employers their certified green industry knowledge.”



If interested, students can register at the [LeadingGREEN site](#). The course includes 5 hours of in-class training, 5 realistic mock exams

Third Annual ShredFest a Success

For a third successful round, University Facilities and Services sponsored Shred Fest, the annual secure document shredding event. On July 26, students, faculty, and

the University community arrived in Park Lot to drop off personal documents, which ranged from bank statements to medical records to tax returns.

Participants seem to find Shred Fest appealing because it offers a convenient way to keep

information secure while keeping the environment in mind. Documents are placed in locked containers and shredded on site. This year, 114 containers were filled with paper documents, accounting for approximately 23,950 pounds – over 11 tons of paper.

SUSTAINABILITY:

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

United Nations



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