

Tufts *Sustainability in Action!* gets green



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News and Action

Climate Change

Office of Sustainability Newsletter August 27, 2010

Greetings!

Hi! Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Emily Parker, one of Tina's other interns here in the Office of Sustainability, and I'll be filling in for Jason in updating and sending out the newsletter for a few weeks (but don't worry, Jason will be back soon!). This week's newsletter has some interesting articles about degradable plastics and a new Green Production Guide for the film and television community. Also included is information about two fun upcoming bicycling events in the Boston area.

Enjoy!

-Emily

Header photo: A photo taken last April at EarthFest, sponsored by OOS, TIE, TuftsRecycles, and ECO.

Could Increase Poverty in Africa and Asia by 20-50%

Over the next 20 years, yield reductions in major crops are likely to increase the cost of living for the urban poor across the continent. Click [here](#) to view the abstract of these findings. Or click on the link below to access the whole PDF file: [Climate Change Increases Poverty Article](#)

Why has the warming climate increased rather than decreased Antarctic sea ice?



Scientists have observed an odd trend over the last few decades: Although the world is warming and some Antarctic glaciers have been melting more quickly, Antarctic sea ice has been increasing on average. Now, two researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology may have figured out the seeming paradox. Click [here](#) to read the abstract of their article. Or click the link below to access the PDF version:

[Warming Climate, Increased Ice Article](#)

Somerville

OOS News

Volunteers Needed for Matriculation Composting

With just a few hours of your time, YOU can help make this year's matriculation zero waste efforts successful. Please give us a hand! Two years ago was the first time food waste was composted during freshman orientation. Read about one intern's take on the mixed results [here](#). The more help we have, the more successful the process will be.

[Tufts Dining](#), The Facilities Department, the [Tufts Institute of the Environment](#) and the [Office of Sustainability](#), in coordination with the [Orientation Committee](#), have worked together to design these meals to be low in waste generation and to be compost friendly (i.e., no plastic films to contaminate the compost). Click [here](#) to learn more about composting at Tufts.

If you are interested in helping us on Wednesday September 1st, please go to our [sign-up webpage](#) to learn more about volunteer duties and to enroll in a shift. We need many people so please consider getting your friends involved! When signing up, please leave your name and phone number/email in the comment box or email us at the "Contact Me" link below after you have signed up for a slot. Thank you!



p.s. you get free food!

Wondering where the nearest Eco-Ambassador is?

We have added a new map and directory to the [Eco-Ambassador website](#) so you can see which departments have Eco-Ambassadors, where they're located on campus (click on the section of the map that covers the campus you're interested in), who they are and what they've been working on. [Here is the direct link.](#)

This list of activities is by no means comprehensive - [let us know](#) what *you're* doing, whether you are an Eco-Ambassador or not (and think about joining the new class of Eco-Ambassadors!)

Update on the Tufts Global Work Party on 10/10/10

Libby has the following update about the upcoming weatherization project for 10/10/10. You might have seen the original announcement for the Tufts Global Work Party

land use survey



[Groundwork Somerville](#)

and other partners are working to make it possible for residents to participate in the land use planning process related to the [Green Line extension](#).

The [Community Corridor Planning Project's](#) Green Working Group developed a [survey](#) to get resident's feedback on environmental issues that might be affected by the green line extension. Click [here](#) for the survey

Interested in learning more? [The Green Working Group](#) is meeting at the Growing Center on Sept 1st at 6:30pm to sort through the survey responses and eat together!

Job Opportunities

[Environmental Analyst IV](#), State of Vermont

[Environmental Technician IV](#), State of Vermont

[Research and Fellow Program Coordinator](#), Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge MA

[Director of Sustainability and Energy Management](#) Oberlin College

[Program Manager & Analyst, Sustainability, CA](#)

(GWP) in the events section of this newsletter describing how on 10/10/10 people all over the country (and the world) will be mobilizing to weatherize homes. It is an initiative of [350.org](#).

"Planning for the GWP is going well, though we're still house-less. There's been a promising lead from the housing department in Somerville, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed. If anyone knows of a house or organization whose building may be in need of weatherization, please [let me know!](#) We will definitely have a house for the event, but it might not be right on campus. I'll keep you posted. For those of you who are interested in being team leaders for the [weatherization] on October 10th, there are two opportunities to learn coming up. This coming Monday, August 30th, starting at 4pm, HEET will be weatherizing Grace Church in Medford (see [map](#)). I will be attending this barnraising. If you would like to go together, please meet me at Tufts Institute of the Environment ([TIE](#)) at 3:30pm on Monday so we can all go together (it's about a 15 minute walk).

On Sunday, September 12th, starting at 9am, HEET will be holding a barnraising in Newtonville (see [map](#)). I will also be attending this event. If you would like to go together, please meet me at [TIE](#) at 8am. I will be driving (ironic, I know, but the public transit on a Sunday morning to Newton is terrible) and will have 4 additional spots in my car. [E-mail me](#) to let me know if you'd like to ride with me. [Here is a link](#) to the Google calendar that was created for weatherization opportunities in the area."

-Libby

Featured Articles

Producers Guild of America Launches Green Production Guide Spearheaded by TCP Presenters

[The Climate Project](#)

(TCP) Presenters Mari Jo Winkler, Katie Carpenter, and Lydia Pilcher, co-chairs of the Producers Guild of America Green East (PGA Green), have been a driving force behind the launch of Green Production Guide, an interactive website that provides the film and television community with "green" options for production needs.



The interactive guide, which launched this week, aims to provide entertainment industry professionals with quick access to resources for incorporating sustainable practices into film and TV productions. The seed funding for the project was provided by Disney, Fox, NBC Universal, Sony

[Technologies](#)

Framingham, MA

[Sustainability Coordinator,](#)

Baltimore MD

[Assistant Project](#)[Coordinator,](#) Strategic Energy Innovations, Marin CA[Sustainability Program](#)[Coordinator,](#) Ursinus College[Community Energy](#)[Outreach Manager,](#) Cambridge Energy Alliance, Cambridge MA[Intern,](#) Corporate

Accountability International

[Web Design](#)[Intern](#) (unpaid), Nexus[Social Marketing Position,](#)

Denver's Department of Environmental Health, Denver CO

[Executive Director,](#) The

New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

[TGIF Grant Manager/](#)[Campus Sustainability Coordinator,](#) UC Santa Barbara[More job listings from TIE](#)[Career resources at OOS](#)

Know a friend who would like to get this newsletter?



Got this via a friend? Then [Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Pictures Entertainment, and Warner Bros.

The Green Production Guide provides a carbon calculator and vendor database of more than 1,100 merchants offering sustainable and energy saving products searchable by category, department, and location. Featured services include catering, on-set recycling and composting, cleaning supplies, transportation, and set recycling to name a few. Access to the site and its resources does not require membership in the Producers Guild of America.

Check out the guide [here](#).

BTW - did you know OOS director Tina Woolston was trained as a Climate Project presenter as part of the first group of 1000 Americans that Al Gore trained to give his climate change presentation? So, if you need a climate change presentation - [contact Tina!](#)

The Scoop on Degradable Plastics

(from the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers)

Are all degradable plastics the same?

There are two sets of materials involved in the degradable question. One set of degradable plastics are materials such as PLA (Polylactic Acid) that are unique plastics. The second set is materials of the standard #1 PET and #2 HDPE with special degradable additives included.

Are degradable plastics recyclable with standard PET or HDPE?

No. They're contaminants in the recycling stream. Degradable plastics should be collected so as to not interfere with current PET and HDPE container recycling.

Will degradable bottles break down in a landfill?

Probably not. Some need a high-heat commercial composting operation to break down into polymer level material. Some degradable additives are specifically stated to not work in landfills. Others are claimed to work only after years in the landfill.

But some companies producing degradable additive plastics claim that they are recyclable in today's collection methods...

According to Steve Alexander, Executive Director of the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers, "These claims of recyclability are unfounded, untested and possibly misleading as outlined by the Federal Trade Commission's Green Guide. No third party testing data has confirmed these statements of recyclability. We urge companies claiming recyclability to share such supporting data with the recycling community."

Why can't bottles with degradable additive be recycled with standard plastic?

The additives change the expectations for a plastic. Bottles with degradable additives can be ground and melted like

another bottle but with reduced quality and service life expectations.

Are bio-based plastics, PLA, and degradable plastics all the same thing?

No. PLA and other bio-based plastics are made from plant materials, often corn. Not all bio-based plastics are degradable. Some petroleum-based plastics can biodegrade. Degradable additives are claimed to work in many resins. A degraded material is an opportunity lost to reuse a valuable resource.

But isn't it a good idea to look for a non-petroleum plastic product?

On September 11, 2009 Resource Recycling Magazine reported: New research from Germany is adding fuel to the conventional versus biodegradable plastic resin battle. The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IFEU) has released the results of a new study, comparing the environmental impact of traditional polyethylene bags and their biodegradable counterparts available in France and Germany. After taking into account the raw material production process, transportation factors and recyclability, the study concluded that PE bags are less damaging to the environment than biodegradable bags. Furthermore, IFEU researchers concluded that bags made from recycled material have the smallest environmental impact.

What should I do?

Ask producers of bio-based and oxy-degradable plastics to prove that their material does what is claimed and is safe to recycle. Ask for proof that carpets from recycled PET and highway culvert pipes from recycled HDPE will have their full expected service life if the degradable additives are included with the plastic.. If you are part of a university or industry setting where you can control purchases, work with recyclers to be sure that a material is recyclable before its introduced for sale in your facility.

For more information, see the [Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers website](#).

On-Campus Opportunities

Become an Eco-Rep!

Apply by September 12th

Eco-Representatives are residential students who help raise awareness about ecological issues, encourage environmentally responsible behavior in their hall mates and peers, and plan related events and activities.

The time commitment is 2-5 hours a week and Eco-Reps earn \$25 per week.

For the complete job description see: [Eco-Reps Job Description](#).

 Eco-Rep with poster 2005

[Learn more about Eco-Reps.](#)

Sign-up to become an Eco-Ambassador!

The Office of Sustainability is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 Eco-Ambassador Program.

Eco-Ambassadors are a group of staff (and faculty) members who work to make their offices more sustainable and act as sustainability resources within their departments.

Eco-Ambassadors meet once per month throughout the entire academic year. Individuals who attend 8 sessions are eligible to receive a grant for a office greening initiative. All interested staff from any Tufts campus are invited to become Eco-Ambassadors and assist in the greening of a campus office.



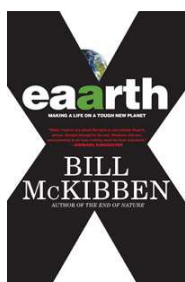
For more information go to our [Eco-Ambassador page](#).

Or just [sign up now!](#)

Upcoming Events

Bill McKibben Book Talk

August 29, 2010 7:30pm
Cary Hall, Lexington MA



Bill McKibben is visiting Lexington to talk about his newest book [Eaarth](#), a book about the changes we will have to make in the face of global climate change. Bill McKibben is a well respected and outspoken climate change activist, as well as the founder of [350.org](#). This is an excellent opportunity to hear him speak

and hear his views on climate change and the environmental movement.

BlueGreen Alliance Tour Comes to New England

The BlueGreen Alliance launched a nationwide bus tour on August 16th aimed at urging Senate action on comprehensive legislation that will create and save millions of jobs across the country building the clean energy economy. The Job's Not Done Tour, a three-week, 17-state, 30-city tour, will reach New England on **August 31** and **September 1**.

August 31: Springfield, MA; Concord, NH; Portown, ME

September 1: Boston, MA; Hartford, CT; Allentown, PA

Read more about the tour in this [press release](#), and check out the [full schedule](#).

Harbor to the Bay

September 25, 2010
Boston, Provincetown, Sagamore



Looking for a challenge or a way to lend a hand? Harbor to the Bay is looking for 68- or 125-mile riders and volunteers for Saturday, September 25.

Harbor to the Bay is a one day bike ride from Boston to Provincetown that improves community awareness and care for people living with HIV and AIDS. Our mission is to give 100% of what we raise to our beneficiaries! No politics, no elaborate production -- just a dedicated group of individuals who want to ride and make a difference in our community. This is a grass roots initiative, and we are solely run by volunteers!

On Saturday, **September 25, 2010**, riders will have 3 options:

Ride from Boston to Provincetown
Ride from Boston to Sagamore
Ride from Sagamore to Provincetown

Check out the [Harbor to the Bay website](#). To register as a rider or volunteer, [click here](#).

Hub on Wheels and Boloco Block Party

**September 26, 2010 7 am-5:30 pm
Boston, MA**



Hub On Wheels (HOW) was founded in 2005 with three goals: create an important civic event, showcase Boston's neighborhoods and parks, and raise money for important causes. Each year the ride brings together participants, hundreds of volunteers, and numerous local businesses in celebration of Boston and bicycling. With routes looping through Downtown, the Back Bay, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, and South Boston, it presents a truly unique way to see our great city.

Hub On Wheels is Boston's largest city-sponsored sporting event. The ride is fully supported and safe, with three routes: 10, 30, or 50 miles of harbor views and hidden pathways, river greenways and Boston's wonderful and eclectic neighborhoods. Storrow Drive is completely car-free, as is the entire 10 mile route. Marshals along all routes make sure there's plenty of space to ride. Tech support and ride snacks are free of charge.

For more information, and to register, check out the [Hub on Wheels website](#).

Additionally, on **September 26th**, Boloco will take over City Hall Plaza for a fun-filled day of bike demos, live music, kids games and activities, and of course, plenty of inspired burritos! Located in the heart of Boston's Government Center, the Boloco Block Party will be open from the time the first cyclists take off in the Hub on Wheels citywide ride to the instant that the last professional riders cross the finish line. All are welcome, so please stop by and join in the festivities!

Massachusetts Green Career Conference

October 1, 2010

Marlborough, MA

Green Workforce Training and Associates are hosting the second Massachusetts Green Career Conference on Friday, October 1, 2010 in the Marlborough Holiday Inn conference center. This exciting conference offers green career guidance and resources to ~400 green job seekers, career/workforce professionals, academic, business and government staff. Everyone wanting to know about the greening economy and careers will find this conference timely, practical and valuable. Register for the event [here](#).

Boston Local Food Festival

October 2, 2010

Wharf on Fort Point Channel in Boston

This is a celebration of local food from the Boston-Massachusetts-New England area. Festival-goers can engage with farmers, chefs and entrepreneurs, learn from workshops and demonstrations, and enjoy activities and local music. Boston Local Food Festival is an entertaining and fun way to increase the availability of healthy local food, encourage regional agriculture, which builds our local economy, and protect our environment by reducing transportation pollution. [More information](#)

Global Work Party

October 10, 2010

Tufts University

Do you like the environment? Do you hate climate change? Do you want to do something about it?

Here's your chance! On October 10th, 2010, Tufts Institute of the Environment will host A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions, in conjunction with [thousands of other events around the world](#).

Imagine: bike repair workshoppers in San Francisco, school insulating teams in London, waste-land-to-veggies-gardeners in New Zealand, and solar panel installers in Kenya. And most importantly, YOU at TUFTS!

For one of the Global Work Party projects, Tufts is partnering with [HEET](#) (Home Energy Efficiency Team) to weatherize a building on or near the Tufts campus using student, staff and faculty





volunteers. It could be a frat house, a local non-profit's headquarters, or maybe even the building you live or work in!

With your help, 10/10/10 is going to be the biggest day of practical action to cut carbon that the world has ever seen! There are lots of ways to get involved with Tufts' projects: we need volunteers, team leaders, and enthusiastic energy efficiency advocates; there are different levels of involvement too - from leading an energy efficiency team to just showing up and getting trained on the day of the project.

Please e-mail [Get.to.work.Tufts\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:Get.to.work.Tufts(at)gmail.com) for more information.

October is a few months away still, but in order to make this an awesome work party, we've got to start planning now. **Will you help?**

Educational Opportunities

Sustainable Design Courses

Starts August 30

The Boston Architectural College is hosting online Sustainable Design Courses starting this fall. The BAC offers over thirty graduate level sustainable design classes. Find out more about these courses [here](#), or register for these courses [here](#).

Lunch and LEED: Become a LEED Green Associate

September 1, 2010 12:30-1:30pm

38 Chauncy St. - 7th Floor
Boston, MA

What is the LEED Green Associate credential? How will it help me professionally? Am I eligible to take the exam? How hard is it? What resources are there to help me pass the exam? How do I register for the exam? What are the requirements for maintaining the Green Associate credential?

Come to NEXUS for a 1-hr presentation on the new LEED Green Associate credential and how to pass the exam. Get answers to the above questions and bring questions of your own.

One (1.0) AIA Sustainable Design CEU will be offered for attending this seminar. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).

How to Plan for a Sustainable Community: Eco-municipality Planning and Leadership Training

September 29-Oct 2, 2010
Harvard Square; Cambridge, MA

A 3 ½ -day national training session to increase planner and citizen leadership capacity in communities and their local governments to initiate and lead a change process to become a sustainable community. The objective of the training is to prepare planners and potential local leaders to lead a planning process that involves community sustainability education, bottom-up participatory planning, a comprehensive and systematic approach, and a strategic implementation process to transition to becoming a sustainable community. [20 AICP CM credits will be available]. [More info](#)

LEED & Green Project Management

Oct 21 and 28, 2010 1:30 pm
38 Chauncy St.
7th Floor
Boston, MA

This full-day course is designed for individuals who want to become experts in LEED® and green building implementation and understand how their expertise best integrates into the process to achieve real value for their projects. At the end of this course, participants will be able to identify and approach their role on LEED® projects in a clear and strategic manner, credit-by-credit and phase-to phase. For more information, visit this [website](#).

Campus Ecology Costa Rica

January 4-13, 2011

The National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology program is hosting a ten day expedition to Costa Rica this January. There on the program, students will learn about global warming, sustainable travel and leadership. They will search for all kinds of wildlife and learn about the successful sustainable development

strategies that have made Costa Rica famous for conservation and ecotourism. Also, students will interact with rural community members and give back through service projects. Traveling by foot, boat, canopy walkway and zip-line, they truly experience this wonderful country up close and personal. Along the way, students will engage in discussions about carbon footprints, eco-friendly tourism and Costa Rica's Certification for Sustainable Tourism program.



Follow this [link](#) to the Campus Ecology website for more information regarding the program, as well as application information.

Educational Opportunities- Webinars

Upcoming Webinar: 'A Primer on LEED & Green Project Management'

September 2, 2010 2-3pm, hosted by Nexus

Join Jacob Knowles, LEED AP BD+C, for a free webinar on LEED & Green Project Management. We will explore select key elements for successful sustainable projects such as energy reduction, green specifications, LEED Certification, and lessons learned from past projects. Provides 1.0 GBCI CE. [Register here.](#)

Additional Webinars

[Solectria Renewables webinar series:](#)

Friday, September 17th, 2010 at 2pm - Solar array web-based monitoring

Friday, October 22nd, 2010 at 2pm - How to select the right PV inverter

Friday, November 19th, 2010 at 2pm - Utilizing Solectria Renewables PO Check list

Friday, December 3rd, 2010 at 2pm - Utility-Scale Solar

See you next week. And don't forget to [send in your pictures](#) for the header!

The Tufts Office of Sustainability
<http://sustainability.tufts.edu/>

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