Tufts Sustainability in Action!

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News and Innovations

Mushrooms are the new Packing Peanuts
Researchers have developed a new biodegradable alternative to packing Styrofoam:

Office of Sustainability Newsletter August 13, 2010

Dear Tufts Environmental,

This week we've got some really great tidbits on local conservation efforts, as well as some really cool videos and innovations on the left side-bar. Also, don't forget to apply to be an Eco-Rep (students) or sign up to be an Eco-Ambassador (faculty)!

Thanks and enjoy!

-Jason

Header photo: A beautiful sunset taken at Fresh Pond, just minutes away from campus. Photo by Michael Doire, whose efforts at 200 Boston Ave were featured last week.

OOS News

Local Communities turning to...
mushrooms. **Ecovative Design**, a company that specializes in green alternatives to every-day products, such as insulation and now packaging. This new packaging is grown (yes, grown) by using agricultural byproducts, making the entire product compostable. It uses just 1/8th the energy that normal packaging products use to create, and releases 1/10th of the CO2 in the process. Additionally, because it requires waste from other industries to produce it, it turns that waste into a usable product, which is always a good thing. To learn more, visit the company website (above). Also, be sure to watch this super cool video on how this product is made!

### Preservation over Development

Massachusetts has the third highest population density in the country, with 810 people per square mile. Up until recently, many communities were focused on developing as much of what little land they had. However, there has been several area towns that have defied this mindset. Ipswich, Massachusetts has recently categorized 250 acres of land as protected, making their total protected land about 50% of all land in Ipswich. Not bad considering the average protected land percentage in towns north of Boston is only 15%.

In addition to Ipswich's efforts, Woburn is also looking to increase their protected land by another 80 acres, and Newbury has shown aptitude in creating a high percentage of open space in their own community. Read the full article on these communities' efforts [here](#).

### 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](#).

**Got Skeptic Friends?**

The Union of Concerned Scientists have put together a great video that explains very clearly why we know climate change is caused by humans. Check it out [here](#).

**Book Club Meeting**
The OOS Summer Book Club is meeting on: **August 23, from 12 to 1 pm**, in the **Office of Sustainability**. The book to be discussed is *Bottled and Sold: The Story Behind Our Obsession With Bottled Water*, by Peter Gleick.

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**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 an 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](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...). Or just [sign up now](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...)!  

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**Job Opportunities**

- **Program Manager & Analyst, Sustainability**, CA Technologies, Framingham MA

- **Social Marketing Position**, Denver's Department of Environmental Health, Denver CO

- **Executive Director**, The New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

- **Sustainability Coordinator**, U California Riverside

- **Campus Progress Internship**, Washington DC

- **TGIF Grant Manager/Campus Sustainability**

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**Upcoming Events**

**Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. Summer Conference**

**August 13-15, 2010**

**U Mass Amherst Campus**

Over 200 workshops, dozens of exhibitors, a Teen Conference, Children's Program, an Afternoon Fair with farm animals, live music, auction, and an ALL-LOCAL dinner. Stay on campus in the dorms or camp in a tent under the stars.

Keynote speakers Sally Fallon Morell of the Weston A. Price Foundation, and Dr. Fernando Funes, of the Cuban Association of Agronomists and Foresters. For more information contact: NOFA/Mass, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre, MA 01005, 978-355-2853, info@nofasummerconference.org. [More information](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...).
Calendar of NOFA/ Farm-Based Events in Massachusetts

Medford Wind Turbine Tour

August 17, 2010 - 1:00 PM
McGlynn School, Medford

Don't forget to sign up to come tour the Medford wind turbine!

Join the Eco-Ambassadors as they tour a wind turbine right here in Medford.

The tour will begin at the McGlynn school, where we will first listen to a short presentation about the permitting and installation of the turbine, and then we will visit the turbine up close.

You can either meet us at the McGlynn school (3002 Mystic Valley Pkwy Medford, MA 02155) at 12:55 pm, or if you would prefer to carpool, meet at the Office Of Sustainability at 12:45 pm.

RSVP to Emily Parker, OOS intern

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.
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 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?**

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**Educational Opportunities**

**Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom Workshops**

**June 30-August 17**

Seekonk, MA

*Teachers*: Join us for one of more of our summer workshops and try out some hands-on activities for the classroom while you explore local farms. Each workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., offers classroom-ready educational activities and focuses on a different area of agriculture with exploration of the work that takes place at that farm. The $30 fee for each workshop includes the
educational program and tour, all educational materials and activities, and ten professional development points with a related classroom activity. Lunch is also included with ten of the twelve workshops. All Workshops run from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. [Website] and [workshop schedules]

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**Fostering Sustainable Behavior Workshop**

**September 13-14, 2010**

University of Toronto; Ontario Canada

This two-day workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to community-based social marketing and how it is being applied throughout the world to foster sustainable behavior. Those who attend the workshop will learn the five steps of community-based social marketing (selecting behaviors, identifying barriers, developing strategies, conducting pilots, and broad scale implementation) and be exposed to numerous case studies illustrating its use. [More information and registration]

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**Groundwork Somerville's Garden Workshop Series**

**¡Salsa!**

**August 18th, 2010**

Edgerly Center garden, 8 Bonair St, Somerville

Want to enjoy making and eating Salsa from garden veggies while getting a free basic salsa dance lesson? Beginner and experienced Salsa dancers are invited to join us and enjoy a fun evening with friends!

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**Business Transportation Workshop**

**August 25, 8:30-10am**

Cambridge City Hall Annex; Cambridge, MA

Join The Sustainable Business Leader Program and the Cambridge Energy Alliance for a free morning workshop on green transportation alternatives for businesses in Cambridge and Somerville.
Presenting will be representatives from: MASSRides, Charles River TMA, MASSBike, Zip Car and Metro Pedal Power. Learn about creative transportation alternatives for your employees, customers and products. RSVP here or contact Emily for more information.

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

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

AASHE Webinar:
Retrofitting Existing Buildings for Energy Efficiency and Demand Response

August 19, 2010 2:00pm - 2:45pm

This is an educational webinar presented by Harry Sim, CEO of Cypress Envirosystems (AASHE Business Leader) and Kirk Dillery, Energy Systems Specialist at Western Michigan University. They will cover campus case studies and savings data related to HVAC, lighting, steam, and compressed air retrofits. This event is designed for building managers, sustainability officers, and those who work with buildings that are 10 years or older. The webinar is free, but attendees must register.

Additional Webinars

September 2: Primer on LEED & Green Project Management, hosted by Nexus

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/

Forward email