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# Tufts *Sustainability in Action!* gets green



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## USDA and DOE Award Biomass Research and Development Grants

As part of the Obama Administration's comprehensive plan to address rising gas prices, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom

## May 13, 2011

**Dear Tufts Environmental,**

Congratulations to all you students for once again making it through finals! It's a difficult couple weeks, but we always seem to get through it. Safe travels to everyone headed off campus for the summer, whether you're headed home or elsewhere. Also, a special shout out to my friends who are also seniors- congrats on finishing up a great four years!

If you're planning to hang around at Tufts this summer and are nervous that you won't get to engage in as much environmental fun as the school year, don't be! Summer at Tufts and in the Boston Area is a fairly active time and this newsletter is proof of that, featuring several events and opportunities going on in the next few weeks including Cambridge Climate Change Week, which is a week of daily activities and events hosted by MCAN and its partners.

I'll be taking a hiatus from the newsletter for a week to

Vilsack and U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced a total of \$47 million to fund eight research and development projects that will support the production of biofuels, bioenergy and high-value biobased products from a variety of biomass sources.

The advanced biofuels produced through these projects are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% compared to using fossil fuels. Read more about the grants [here](#).

Have you signed up for Bike Week?



The [Bay State Bike Week](#) is happening next week and the signature event is the MassCommuter Challenge (May 14th-20th). Tufts is participating once again in this friendly competition in which employees, students and residents support their "teams" -based on where they work, go to school or live- by pledging to bike for all or part of trips.

Last year, Tufts University collectively logged:

- 1,196 miles for the week
- 788 miles (66%) for

join in senior week festivities, but don't worry, I'll be back before too long!

Stay green (and have a great summer!)  
-Jason

*Header photo: Students enjoying some sun in between finals this week. Photo by Jerry Wei.*

## Sustainability News

### Bard's C2C Initiative Recap

C2C - a national public policy initiative of the Bard Center for Environmental Policy - hosted 13 video-dialogues between campus and congress on energy, climate and jobs as part of their C2C/Earthweeks activities. Students from California to New Hampshire directly engaged Congressional and Senate offices in critical, informed dialogue about various topics from clean energy solutions to global warming.

The consensus emerged that action at the state level is imperative in order to build a powerful clean energy majority in the US capitol, as there will be no national leadership for the next few years. Fighting at the state level for aggressive EPA regulation, both cleaning up the local environment and protecting the climate, will recapture the political momentum needed to cut global warming pollution.

Learn more about state-level action [here](#) and get involved! You can join [350.org](#)'s next day of action, [Moving Planet](#), coming up on September 24th or find an iMatter March near you. Boston's is happening on May 21st: <http://imattermarch.org/march/location/boston-ma/>

### REPACK! before you go

**Tufts Recycles!** has organized **REPACK!** - Reuse, Recycle, Pack and Clean, OK?- a recycling and waste reduction initiative during move-out. Look for labeled boxes in your dorms and donate **clothing**, unopened and non-perishable **food**, plastic and wood **hangers**, **crutches and air casts**, and **electronics** (NO lamps). Place **carpets** in designated area (look for a sign on the

commuting

- 18 people participated
- 10 of the 18 people biked all 5 days of bike week

There are prizes for "Most commuting miles per person" and the first 3,000 registrants are eligible to win a Bianchi Café Milano bike.

To join our team:

- 1) Click [here](#) to register on the MassCommuter Challenge website.
- 2) Select "I am affiliated with an employer/campus."
- 3) Type "Tufts University" in the box below.

Be sure to follow up with the Bay State Bike Week [main page](#) for information about bicycling events taking place in your area and check out the Mass Commuter Challenge page [on Facebook](#).

## Congrats to OOS frisbee players

Three of the Office of Sustainability interns play on the Tufts women's ultimate frisbee team and last week they earned a trip to **Nationals** in Colorado. The Office of Sustainability wishes them and the rest of the **Elephant Women** as well as the Emen good luck!

wall). All of these items will be collected and either donated or recycled.



For more information on what is being collected, click [here](#).

## Hodgdon Goes Green!

Beginning next fall, keep an eye out for snazzy new reusable bottles at Hodgdon Good-To-Go, which you can use to fill up with water from a new fountain drink machine at Hodgdon (or at the [Hydration Station](#) in the Campus Center) as [wasteful and misleading plastic](#) water bottles are phased out. Bring an extra 50 cents and also pick up a cool reusable bag and leave the wimpy, litter-prone plastic grocery bags behind the counter.



Tufts Against Plastic (TAP), a member of the Tufts Sustainability Collective (TSC), has been working with Dining Services over the past year to help implement these changes.

## In The News

### 2010 STARS Annual Review

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) released its first annual



## The Grab Bag:

Check out this short video overview of "the Cube," a 3 meter by 3 meter by 3 meter house for one, designed to mitigate as much environmental impact as possible. This little box of a house packs a huge amount of sustainability in a small package, with sustainable lighting, solar panels, and and all around cool design.



A tour of the Cube

## Survey Winner announced

Congratulations to Katherine McManus, who won the \$30 cash prize for filling out the Eco-Reps Survey for Dorm Residents.

"STARS: A Year in Review" on April 14, 2011. This report details the sustainability efforts found in the inaugural submissions to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, Rating & System (STARS), such as sustainability research opportunities, sustainable dining efforts, and campus-wide social justice initiatives.

- Of the first 37 submissions, which came from a variety of institution types, eight earned a Gold Rating, 19 earned Silver, nine earned Bronze, and one earned a Reporter Rating.
- Seven of the eight STARS Gold institutions scored more than 17 of the 18 possible points in the Co-Curricular Education subcategory, which focuses on non-academic programming that supports sustainability learning.
- On average, 58% of the applicable points in the water subcategory were earned by STARS Participants.
- Ten institutions earned 100% of the points available in both the Diversity and Affordability subcategory and the Coordination and Planning subcategory, which together include a total of 13 sustainability indicators.
- A total of 71 sustainability innovations were reported (nearly two per institution)

Currently, Tufts is in the process of reporting to STARS and is about 90% of the way there. Check back next year to see what rating Tufts earns!



## On-Campus Events

New:

### Eco-Ambassadors Genzyme building tour

**June 15, 9:30-10:30 am**

Thank you to all who participated! Your feedback is very important to us.

## Job Opportunities

Interested in biking, community organizing, climate justice, & a sustainable future? [Apply](#) to join the Climate Summer bike team in 2011. (MA)

[Property Manager](#),  
Conservation Common,  
Holyoke, MA

[Park\(ing\) Day coordinator](#), Feet  
First, San Francisco

[Technical Assistance and  
Incubator Farm Site  
Coordinator](#), New Entry, Lowell

[Summer Internship Youth  
Energy Efficiency Project](#),  
Cambridge, MA

[Conservation Project Manager](#),  
Gulf of Mexico and Southeast  
Oceans Program, Austin

[GIS Assistant](#), GIS Lab, Tufts  
Medford Campus

[More job listings from TIE](#)

[Career resources at OOS](#)

Interested in taking a tour and learning about one of the most environmentally responsible office buildings ever built in the United States? The Tufts University Eco-Ambassadors will be taking a tour of the Genzyme Center on June 15th from 9:30-10:30 am, and you are invited to join us.

When constructing its new corporate headquarters in 2000, Genzyme Corporation, one of the world's foremost biotechnology companies, made a commitment to combine sophisticated technology and innovative design to meet or exceed the requirements set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) System. From rooftop gardens that reduce rainwater run-off to a sophisticated system that uses waste steam from a nearby power plant to cool the building, decisions at every level were evaluated from an environmental perspective. Join us for a walking tour of the Genzyme Center to learn more about the building's innovative features and numerous awards.

If you are interested in attending, **please fill out this short survey by June 7th at noon**, so that we may have an accurate count of attendance:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHXWTXJ>

For more information about the Genzyme Center, visit:

<http://www.genzymecenter.com/>

## Previously Mentioned:

### [Bike Week Appreciation Breakfast](#)

**May 20, 8:30 AM-10:00 AM**

**The Office of Sustainability**

**Miller Hall- Rear, Medford Campus**

## Off-Campus events

New:

### **The People's Rally for Healthy Air**

**May 20, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Sen. Brown's District Office**

## Interesting Links:

### Educational:

- [The Office of Sustainability](#)
- [Tufts Institute for the Environment](#)
- [Environmental Studies Program](#)
- [The UEP School](#)

### Blogs:

- [Tufts Bikes](#)
- [The Veg Table](#)
- [Girly Green Girl](#)

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**15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA**

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## Cambridge Climate Change Week

**May 13-21**

**Various Locations in Cambridge**

Next week is Climate Change Week in Cambridge, and so there are tons of awesome events coming up for it. Here's just a sampling (make sure to follow this link to [the MCAN website](#) to find out more!)

Friday, May 13, 7:30pm: Kickoff Event Climate Change: Is Green Consumption a Solution? With Heather Rogers, author of Green Gone Wrong. A Cambridge Forum event, introduced by Tim Weiskel. First Parish Church, 1446 Mass. Ave., Cambridge (Harvard Square)

Saturday, May 14: National Give Your Stuff Away Day. Time and location to be confirmed.

Thursday, May 19, afternoon: City Sprouts Open Garden at an elementary school to be announced. [www.citysprouts.org](http://www.citysprouts.org).

Friday, May 20, 7:30pm: Fred Small concert at First Parish in Cambridge UU, 1446 Mass. Ave. Many of his songs have an environmental theme. <http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/>

Saturday, May 21, Noon - 3:30pm: Climate Week Finale: ActionFest. Action oriented booths, speakers, commitments project, food. Celebrate our community's efforts and commit to specific actions you will take to fight climate change. Cambridge College, 1000 Mass Ave.

## Previously Mentioned:

[Deep Energy Retrofit Open House](#)

**May 21, 10:30 AM-1:30 PM**

**2 Bromfield Street, Quincy, MA**

**[2011 Student Sustainability Film Festival: Now Accepting Submissions](#)**

**May 14, 2011**

## **Educational Opportunities**

**New:**

**WEBINAR: Re-Commissioning Existing Buildings for Energy Conservation PLUS New Window Coating & Low Cost Energy Monitoring for Municipal - Institutional & Commercial Buildings**

**May 24th, 12:00pm**

There will be 3 presentations on some interesting solutions for reducing energy usage in existing municipal, institutional and commercial buildings. Featured Presentation: Re-Commissioning for Comfort & Energy, Presented by Greg Bradshaw, Bradshaw Building Solutions, Inc.

The Re-Commissioning (also called Retro-Commissioning or existing building commissioning) process provides low cost, high return operating improvements that reduce operating costs for existing buildings, improves energy performance, tenant comfort and indoor air quality. This presentation covers the goals, strategies, challenges and benefits of successful re-commissioning of existing facilities.

Just turn on your computer to view over the Internet and listen either via your computer or the phone. This Free Webinar is hosted by Energy Forefront and sponsored by Arbogast Energy Auditing, Solar Tracking Tree, SkyBuilt Power, Steffes Corporation, and Bella Energy

To REGISTER/LEARN go to <http://Energyforefront.com/event>

NO COST TO ATTEND

## Previously Mentioned:

(Click the links for more information)

### 2011 Student Training for Environmental Protection

**July 8th-15th**

**Prince William Forest, Washington, D.C.**

This is a week long environmental leadership program in beautiful Prince William Forest, just outside of Washington, D.C. This event promises to be one of the most pivotal events that you'll ever attend; upon completion, you'll be ready to effectively tackle just about any environmental (or even social) issue that you choose.

The week that you spend in Prince William Forest has the potential to be one of the best weeks of your life; you'll meet awesome new people, eat delicious food, get to hang out in a beautiful setting, and best of all, you'll learn the skills that you'll need to be an awesome environmental organizer.

Sound good? I hope so. Join us this July for the best thing to happen since Harry defeated Voldemort. To learn more and to apply, go to <http://www.gmu.edu/org/environment/step.html>. There is no application deadline but don't delay, space is limited to 25 participants and applications are already coming in.

### UVM Summer Course: Shelter, Energy, Food, and Community: Life Skills and Knowledge for a Re-Scaled Economy

"Re-localization" groups are emerging across the country, but they are especially active in Vermont. This course will explore the history and philosophy of community and individual self-reliance - and will practice those skills necessary for individuals seeking to live in a self-reliant community. The course will meet each weekday from May 31st to June 10th.

Contact Steve Libby at [slibby@uvm.edu](mailto:slibby@uvm.edu) or register for NR 185 at <http://learn.uvm.edu/courselistsummer/>



### **[4th Annual Tufts Environmental Literacy Institute](#)**

**May 23-27, 2011**

**Tufts Institute of the Environment, Tufts University  
Medford Campus**

### **[SunShot Initiative Fellowships](#)**

The *SunShot Fellows* will have a key leadership role in guiding the implementation of energy policies to help achieve the goal of cost competitive installed solar by 2020. For more information and application materials, visit [this link](#).

### **[Wild Gift fellowship](#)**

Wild Gift is a fellowship available to young, energetic and talented leaders aged 21-30 who are working to promote the stewardship of wild nature and the development of sustainable communities. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply. The deadline for application is June 1, 2011.

### **[Metta Earth Leadership Training: Generation Now](#)**

**July 11- August 7, 2011**

**Metta Earth Institute, Lincoln, VT**

### **[Seventh Annual Summer Institute for Social Marketing and Health Communications](#)**

**Week of July 10, 2011**

**Emerson College, Boston**

### **The Bard Center for Environmental Policy [Masters in Environmental Policy or Climate Science and Policy](#)**

See you next week!

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

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Tufts Institute of the Environment | Tufts University Miller Hall | 210 Packard Ave | Medford | MA | 02155