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Tufts *Sustainability in Action!* gets green



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Watch and be worried. Very worried.

350.org's Bill McKibben on the Late Show with David Letterman

Office of Sustainability Newsletter September 3, 2010

Dear Tufts Environmental,

Summer is drawing to a close, but activities here at the Office of Sustainability are revving up for the new school year. Just two days ago, we welcomed into the Tufts community the next generation of leaders on campus: the class of 2014. In this week's newsletter, you can read about the Office of Sustainability's engagement with new students during Orientation. We've also included articles about the Solar Road Trip, which is scheduled to reach Boston this week, and various fun outdoor events such as a boat tour, river day, and local foods and music festival. So, enjoy the end of your summer!

-Emily

Header photo: A "zero-waste" station at this year's freshmen orientation lunch on the President's Lawn.



If you are one of the 4 million plus people that watch the Late Show with David Letterman every night, then you've already seen the clip below with 350.org founder Bill McKibben. If not, check it out-Bill lays out the case for the need to get back to 350 ppm, talks about the momentum building for 10/10/10, and announces the upcoming road trip to take one of President Carter's original solar panels back to the White House.

[Click here](#) to watch the clip.

What is 350?

350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Scientists measure carbon dioxide in "parts per million" (ppm), so 350ppm is the number humanity needs to get below as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change. To get there, we need a different kind of PPM-a "people powered movement" that is made of people like you in every corner of the planet. Learn more at

OOS News

Composting and recycling at matriculation meals introduce freshmen to life at Tufts



On Wednesday, staff and interns from the Office of Sustainability, TIE, and TuftsRecycles! teamed up to help incoming freshmen and their families properly compost and recycle the remains of food from the special orientation lunch and dinner on the President's Lawn. Two years ago was the first time that food waste was composted during freshman orientation, and this year Tufts Dining, The Facilities Department, the Tufts Institute of the Environment and the Office of Sustainability, in coordination with the Orientation Committee, 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).

The overall sentiment among the staff and interns who worked at the event was that both those who organized and those who ate at the lunch and dinner were very responsive to efforts to cut down and eliminate waste. For example, this year all condiments, such as salad dressing and ketchup, were served in user friendly squeeze bottles, reducing waste from individually wrapped condiments. Additionally, most students and their families stopped to read the signs explaining how to separate their plastic water bottles from their compostable food, plates, napkins, and utensils, leading to very little contamination and an easier time for the folks staffing the waste stations.

"It made me feel really hopeful for the future," said Dawn Quirk, coordinator of TuftsRecycles! "I think it was a good way to introduce recycling and composting to the new class

350.org.

Job Opportunities

[Sustainability Coordinator](#), Clark U

[Sustainability Coordinator](#), The New School

[Compost Sales and Production Coordinator](#), Intervale Compost Products, Burlington, VT

[Graduate Student Assistant](#), Citizenship and Public Service Scholars Program, Tisch College, Tufts University

[Sustainability Communications Coordinator](#), University of Maryland

[Sustainability Enhancement Coordinator](#), University of Maryland

[Social Marketing Intern](#), Vermont Green Youth Program, Montpelier, VT

[Youth Development Coordinator](#), Bikes Not Bombs, Boston, MA

[Recycling Program Manager](#), Arizona State U (Job ID: 24965)

[AmeriCorps Land Trust Positions](#), Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow

of Tufts students."

Weatherization training opportunity

On Sunday, September 12th, starting at 9am, [HEET](#) will be holding a weatherization "barnraising" in Newtonville (see [map](#)). Libby will be attending this event, which is a great opportunity to learn some home weatherization skills (for free!) while meeting interesting people from Tufts and the local area. If you would like to carpool meet Libby at [TIE](#) at 8am. She says, "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."

This event is part of Tufts [10/10/10](#) efforts (see more details in the events section below).



Tina tries to be helpful in the efforts to remove a dishwasher in order to airseal the holes in the wall behind it at a September 2009 HEET barnraising.

Free Organic & Bio-Dynamic Wine Tasting

October 3, 2010 2-5 pm
Urban Grape (7 Boylston Street Chestnut Hill, MA 02467)

Tufts' own Eco-Ambassador turned [Girly Green Girl](#) is hosting a free Organic & Bio-Dynamic wine tasting at Urban Grape in Chestnut Hill, MA. Owners, T.J & Hadley, are incredibly wonderful and knowledgeable people who

[Energy Engineer](#),
University of North
Carolina Chapel Hill

[Assistant Superintendent
of Charles River Valley
MU](#), The Trustees of
Reservations, Dover, MA

[Maintenance Technician](#),
The Trustees of
Reservations, North
Andover, MA

[Holyoke Office Assistant](#),
The Trustees of
Reservations, Holyoke,
MA

[Director of the Center for
Engagement and
Enterprise](#), The Trustees
of Reservations, Ipswich,
MA

[Campus Sustainability
Coordinator](#), Texas A&M U

[More job listings from TIE](#)

[Career resources at OOS](#)

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would like
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share a passion for sustainable wine. Bring a friend!

In the News this week

Peace Corps to Tackle Grassroots Energy Issues



The Peace Corps announced on August 19 that the U.S. Department of State will provide \$1 million to fund the program in support of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). The money will help Peace Corps efforts that increase rural access to energy, mitigate the effects of

climate change, and support the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in Central and South American communities.

Under the partnership, Peace Corps volunteers will work with members of local communities to build infrastructure to support environmentally friendly energy and to educate communities on climate change and energy conservation. Volunteers will train host-country citizens to install, operate, and maintain energy-efficient technologies, including alternative fuels, biodigesters, solar water heaters, photovoltaic devices, solar and fuel-efficient stoves, and wind or mini hydroelectric power generation. These efforts will make clean energy more accessible to rural communities, reduce carbon emissions, and provide opportunities for individuals to generate income.

This is the most recent initiative for ECPA, which has expanded since President Obama invited all Western Hemisphere countries to join during the Fifth Summit of the Americas in April 2009. In spring, DOE announced a series of ECPA partnerships to address clean energy and energy security in the Western Hemisphere, including launching an Energy Innovation Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, developing biomass resources in Columbia, and cooperating with Argentina on clean energy technologies. The Peace Corps' initial ECPA-related efforts will be implemented in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Suriname. See the Peace Corps [press release](#), [the ECPA Web site](#), and the [April 21 edition of EERE Network News](#).

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](#).

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

September 12th deadline to sign up to become an Eco-Ambassador!

If you've been thinking about how to improve the 'greenness' of your office, [sign up now](#) to become an Eco-Ambassador.

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. Sessions held on all 3 campuses.



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

Registration deadline is September 12th.

Upcoming Events

Bill McKibben and Solar Road Trip in Boston

September 7, 2010 **5:30 pm**

Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston

In 1979 Jimmy Carter installed solar panels on the White House.



President Carter inspecting a solar heating panel installed on the roof of the White House. Photo courtesy Jimmy Carter Library.

In 1986 Ronald Reagan removed them.

Next week, Bill McKibben and a team of students from Unity College in Maine will be traveling to Washington D.C. to deliver one of the original Carter panels to President Obama, asking him to reinstall solar on the White House, and to follow this symbolic gesture with substantial legislative action.

It's called "the Solar Road Trip," and you'll be able to celebrate with them when the panel makes a stop in Boston on its way to D.C.

Schedule:

5:30pm

- Bicycle pedal-powered climate rock band, [Melodeego](#)

6:00pm - Guest Speakers, including Bill McKibben, Tony Cortese of [Second Nature](#), representatives from

[Students for a Just and Stable Future](#) and [Interfaith Power and Light](#)

7:00pm

- Screening of "A Road Not Taken," a new documentary that tells the story of the original Carter White House solar panel installation. [See trailer.](#)

Please join McKibben, Unity College students, the Carter solar panel, and local organizations in Boston on September 7 to show that Massachusetts supports a clean energy future! [Click here](#) for more information on the Solar Road Trip.



National Climate Seminar Conference Call With Bill McKibben

September 8, 2010 12 pm

The National Climate Seminar begins our fall schedule of conference-call seminars with Bill McKibben discussing his most recent book, [EAARTH](#).

Join us at noon eastern, on the 8th as we confront our future on a hotter planet. Later in the semester: [David Orr](#), [Michael Mann](#), [Juliet Schor](#) and more.

Call in: 712-432-3100; code 253385.

Local Roots Food and Music Festival

September 11, 2010 5-10pm

**The Growing Center: 22 Vinal Ave,
Somerville (Union Square)**

Come support Groundwork Somerville at our annual Local Roots Food and Music Festival! This incredibly fun fundraiser helps to sustain our green community efforts

such as the Green Team youth jobs program and school yard gardens programming.

There will be several local musicians showcasing their talents, as well as food from Redbones BBQ and Dave's Fresh Pasta that will make your mouth water. In addition to great food and music there will be several incredible and unique door prizes such as locally made syrup, Groundwork Somerville gear and a grand mystery prize donated by a local business! Also several other local organizations such as Somerville Local First and The Swapaholics will be there to showcase their own community and sustainability efforts.

Suggested donation of \$20.

For more information about Groundworks Somerville's events and programs, [click here](#).

River Day 2010

September 12, 2010 12-5pm
Lowell, Sudbury

The purpose of River Day is to draw attention to the significant role rivers play in the Fifth Congressional District - from powering the industrial revolution to offering residents recreation, clean drinking water and great natural beauty. The rivers are a great source of inspiration and can be a tremendous vehicle for education on the necessity of preserving our natural resources and the importance of volunteerism and environmental stewardship.

The Fourth Annual River Day event will have three stops along the rivers in the Fifth District. The first stop will be at **noon in Methuen at Riverwalk Park on Osgood Street** where we will meet with city officials and Groundwork Lawrence volunteers to discuss their efforts to expand and clean up the Spicket River Greenway.

The second stop will be in **Lowell at 1 p.m.** where we will paddle on the **Concord River at Muldoon Park** and then visit the newly-completed Concord River Greenway with volunteers from the Spindle City Corps, the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Girls Inc., to discuss their efforts to revive this once brown and blighted greenway.

The final stop will be at **3 p.m. at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center on Hudson**

Road in Sudbury where we will tour this newly-completed, green building and meet with students from the area to talk about their involvement with the Refuge.

To join us, please RSVP to Jane Adams in my Acton office by email Jane.Adams@mail.house.gov or call 978.263-1951.

Boat Tour of the Lower Mystic River

**September 16, 2010
5:15-7:15 pm
Constitution Way,
Medford**



Join the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for a boat tour of the Lower Mystic River. We will explore new developments and budding parks on old brownfields, as well as what is in store for the future that will make the Lower Mystic a resource for Boston area residents to cherish. Registration is required and space is limited. MetroFuture will cover half the cost of the tour, lowering the cost to participants to \$10. Click [here](#) to register or for more information.

Launch Conference: Campus2Congress

**September 24, 2010 3 pm-9 pm
Williams College Center for Environmental
Studies, Stetson Court Williamstown, MA
01267**

C2C is launching this fall, with a mini-conference at the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies on 9/24. Join us for a brainstorm on how we can:

1. Every year, engage educators at 1,000 colleges, universities and high schools, and
2. Every year, involve 50,000 students in direct video and conference-call dialogue with Congress, with Corporations and with Cities, on clean energy solutions to global warming.

Economist Juliet Schor, author of *Plentitude*, will

keynote. To register for the conference, please contact jofrench@bard.edu. There is no charge to attend.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Campus2Congress.

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 workshopers 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

Green Building and Design Courses at UMass Amherst

Fall Courses

Stay up to date or gain new skills through these green building courses:

Sustainable Building & LEED: This hybrid course provides a hands-on, multi-media learning environment for students to expand their knowledge of sustainability in the building world. Students will have the option to attend field trips and attend lectures from specialists in the field or view video recordings of the field trips and the guest lectures online. A LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) -- preparation component is woven into the structure of the course to answer an industry need for LEED accredited professionals in the fields of construction, engineering, and architectural design.

Geothermal Heat Pumps: Concept to Completion. Meets at UMass Medical School, Worcester. An intensive 2-day workshop designed to teach you to effectively and efficiently design and install geothermal heat pumps that meet state regulations and Massachusetts homeowner and business needs. Special discount: \$100 discount if you register by 10/31/10.

Sustainable Sites - Online: LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS SEPTEMBER 7th - SIGN UP TODAY. An exploration into the fundamentals of landscape design with particular attention to integrating both existing and new buildings

sustainably into their landscapes. Students investigate sustainable design strategies that address the ecological, water, energy and food system links between buildings and their supporting sites, as exemplified by the LEED rating system and Sustainable Sites Initiative. Topics include geology, hydrology, soils, vegetation, design principles, green roofs, green walls/vertical gardens, rainwater collection systems, native planting, edible landscapes, sustainable forestry practices and the human dimension of landscape architecture. Course will be primarily lecture format leading to a student design project to be presented digitally (e.g. in powerpoint or pdf format).

For more information and to register, [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
7th Floor
Boston, MA
38 Chauncy St.

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

Algae Webinar (DOE Biomass Program)

September 8, 2010 2-4:30 pm

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Biomass Program is hosting a Webinar on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, from 2:00-4:30 p.m. EDT entitled "The Promise and Challenge of Algae as a Renewable Source of Biofuels." This Web conference marks the first in the Biomass Program's Webinar series, which will cover many of the program's activities and feature "Hot Topics" discussions relevant to the development of

renewable fuels, power, and products from biomass resources.

This Webinar will focus on the program's approach to algal biofuels research and development and will include presentations from four of its recently funded consortia, comprised of more than 65 partners across the United States. This session will also discuss highlights from the [National Algal Biofuels Technology Roadmap](#), which was released by DOE in June 2010.

This Webinar is free to all participants, but be sure to [register](#) in advance to secure your spot. You will receive the URL, password, and phone number via e-mail prior to the Webinar. You will need this information in order to connect.

National Campus2Congress Webinar

September 29, 2010 3pm

Join us for a National C2C Webinar. To register or for more information, send an e-mail to climate@bard.edu. We need your ideas on how we can build a permanent and growing national organization, including tens of thousands of faculty, students and staff, in regular dialogue with key decision-makers on climate.

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

For more information, and to register for the webinars, [click here](#).

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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