

UMassD SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007, Vol. 1



A University and Community Collaboration for Local, Regional, and Global Sustainability...

Welcome from the Center By Susan Jennings

When we first began the latest in a series of discussions about creating a sustainability minor and center at UMass Dartmouth, it would have been impossible to predict how *An Inconvenient Truth* and the 2007 Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) would finally move global warming into political and community consciousness. Those same events have also moved sustainability from one in a series of possible paths toward the future into a moral imperative.

Sustainability--with its intertwined threads of social justice, economic viability, and ecological soundness-- is broadly defined as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to care for themselves.' While a focus on sustainability echoes traditions of self-reliance, economy, reuse, and simplicity, it also casts forward to an exciting future of design and new possibilities for the configuration of industries and cities. In this new world, revolutionary wave technologies, redeveloped brownfields, biodiesel school buses, and materials designed through biomimicry share center stage with small-scale gardening, oral history projects, compost bins, and rainwater collection systems.

Sustainability, above all, is a hopeful dialogue that brings everyone to the table. You can read about how sustainability is percolating through the UMD community in the articles that follow.

For each of the projects described in these pages, there are dozens more springing up, with sometimes unlikely instigators and champions:

- Dave Chapman and Howard Windham's design students, for example, have created an entire series of promotional materials (featured on myspace.com/windspace) urging UMD to adopt windpower.
- The facilities and purchasing departments recently hired a Charlton business student to investigate green purchasing.

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Integrating
Knowledge & Awareness

Advocating
Social, Economic & Environmental Balance

Organizing
...for Change

Sustainability Center
UMass Dartmouth
Group I, Room 371
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North Dartmouth, MA 02747

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ON CAMPUS ... Sustainability Highlights

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- Housing is instituting a pilot recycling program and moving toward green cleaning products. Starting next fall, Pine Dale and Ivy Hall will become the test locations for the new "Single Stream Recycling" pilot programs.
- A reading group is discussing Thomas Berry's The Great Work.
- A biology group led by Eli Stahl is envisioning a bioremediation specialty for the university.
- Sustainability Studies is mining the seminal space between disciplines with multi-disciplinary classes on food and consumption as well as future offerings like "The Politics of Everyday Things" and "The Ecology of the UMD Campus."
- Students have designed a "Green Living Guide" and have been helping each other measure their carbon footprints.

Under discussion are bike paths and a hot composting system, a university garden and a green living/learning community, a multi-campus online sustainability program and sustainable living classes for the broader community. We hope that you'll consider contributing to these dialogues by coming to our further spring presentations about the climate challenge and the prospects for a post-oil world. You can also join one of our

To keep up to date with what's going on in our community and the world at large, you can join our mailing list or borrow a book from our library, currently located in Group 1, Room 371.

Looking ahead, you can join community discussions on the development of a regional strategic plan for sustainability. In September, Tony Cortese of Second Nature will be visiting us to kick off these discussions and to help our campus and other local institutions begin to develop plans to reduce--and eventually eliminate--their carbon footprint.

We are grateful for the visionary leadership of Chancellor MacCormack and Provost Garro, who have added impetus and ideas to our goal of institutionalizing our center and minor. To their energies have been added the inspiration of dozens of faculty, administrators, staff, and students—especially those from the Social Change Society and MASS-PIRG--who collectively have made sustainability a force on the UMD campus.

Thanks, especially, to Marina Dippel, who organized, designed, and gathered materials for this newsletter, which we trust will be the first among many that share the bright news of how UMD is rising to its institutional and historical challenge of becoming a sustainable community.

Quotes from Around the World:

"We have not inherited the world from our forefathers -- we have borrowed it from our children."

- Kashmiri proverb

"In the long term, the economy and the environment are the same thing. If it's unenvironmental it is uneconomical. That is the rule of nature."

- Mollie Beattie

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

- Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day

The UMass Dartmouth Sustainability Studies Program

(Minor anticipated Fall '07)

By Dr. Jerry Blitefield

Sustainability is a growing area of study which looks to understand and critique present human behavior for its impacts on future planetary needs and desires. It seeks to address how we can enjoy a comfortable standard of living today while ensuring future generations a comfortable standard of living as well. To do this, Sustainability Studies begins with a basic question: How might what we are doing today affect tomorrow?

“Today” and “tomorrow” can be defined both narrowly and broadly, speaking of *today* literally, as in the next 24 hours (e.g., drinking that cup of Starbucks); or broadly, of *today* in terms of years or decades (e.g., our reliance on carbon based technologies). Similarly, “tomorrow” can be interpreted both narrowly and broadly. Once we have a better awareness of the relationship of today and tomorrow, we will be in a better position to make informed choices, both personally as well as societally, today *for* tomorrow.

The minor, then, is intended to raise questions and raise awareness across the spectrum of academic disciplines here at UMass Dartmouth. As the primary goal of education is to shape thinking, a Sustainability Studies curriculum will stir each discipline to study the ways it may have helped shape current (unsustainable) thinking and practices, and how it might shape future sustainable thinking and practices. Sustainability Studies, then, is not in the sole dominion of any discipline or college. It is best understood as applying to all disciplines, the challenge then being to discover how.

Currently, we are in the process of proposing a Sustainability Studies minor. If approved, the Minor will be earned after 18 credits, distributed accordingly:

SUS 200: Topics in Sustainability (required) – 3 credits

This course is a team taught course which looks at a common theme or event from various disciplinary perspectives. May be repeated once. (Students who pass the current BRF 202, or who pass the Fall '07 BRF 202 course, will be able to waive the SUS 200 requirement)

Four SUS cross-listed courses – 12 credits

(6 credits max in any one discipline; two courses must be at the 300 level). Cross-listed courses can come from any discipline, and will be cross listed with SUS if the course curriculum includes a significant Sustainability Studies component.

For instance, PSC 251 01: World Political Issues & Ideas: The Politics of Everyday Things (Fall '07), will count an SUS course because its instructor has designed the course to address questions of Sustainability.

SUS 450: Seminar in Sustainability Studies – 3 credits

This will serve as the capstone course to the minor. Students will pool their knowledge and create a semester long project which will result in some kind of public demonstration, e.g., a symposium or workshop.

At this point, we are moving the minor proposal through the approving process, and with the strong support of students, faculty, and administration, we are confident the minor will be approved.

With that approval on the horizon, our needs must then shift toward building a curriculum. To do this, we must develop a catalogue of courses from across the university with which Sustainability Studies can cross-list. And so we seek faculty – regardless of department – willing to incorporate a level of sustainable critique or sustainable perspective into an existing course (or even propose an entirely new course with sustainability at its core).

If you are a faculty member and would like to discuss the prospects of having Sustainability Studies cross-list with one or more of your courses, or would simply like to know more about sustainability in general, the minor in specific, or other matters concerning a Sustainability Studies curriculum, please get in touch with us.

If you are a student and would like to see Sustainability Studies courses within your major, contact your favorite professor(s) and pitch the idea to have a course or two cross-listed. Better yet, if you can gather together a few of your peers to make that pitch, your request will be even more considerable.

We are convinced that the Sustainability Studies minor can become one of the most vibrant academic programs on campus. But more than simply serving our faculty and students, by sending informed and motivated graduates into our communities, we will also be helping townships and cities across the state. But only with your help. Whether faculty or student, we need you. Please contact us so that together we can move the Sustainability Studies Program forward.

For further info or to offer suggestions, please contact Dr. Jerry Blitefield at 508-910-6601, or, at jblitefield@umassd.edu

Grey Campus to be Painted Green...

By Adam Al-Harbi

Students are thinking creatively about 'green' projects on campus, and faculty are doing their share to help. Sculpture professors are getting behind student-proposed initiatives to integrate art projects where only reused junk is allowed, while Housing is making an effort to set aside a portion of the reopening Cedar Dell as a 'green-living' community. When UMD staff work to facilitate the proposals of eager environmentalist students, they give the rather encouraging message that "they will build it if you come."

With our infamous Cedar Dell due to reopen in the fall, faculty and students alike are pushing for a section to be reserved for environmentally-concerned residents.

"It just makes sense, grouping like-minded people with common goals," said Student Activities Director Jamie Jacquart. "Also, the Dell has a better social layout than most other dorms. It could be an area where kids live and learn together as part of a close community." The Dell makes sense as a green-living dorm for a number of reasons, including the many possible uses of the large, mostly-ignored field adjacent to the Cedar Dell Pond. The campus side of the pond is filled with litter, including chairs and mattresses, and is due for a clean-up; the fields could be used for hot-compost heaps and similar projects; and the overgrown paths could be kept up for community use. "Lights, even benches could make the area much more appealing," Jacquart said.

"UMass is a microcosm of the real world," commented senior Tom Petsas, vice president of the Social Change Society and one of the major student proponents for green-living dorms. "Change only happens when we help each other." Petsas, along with Junior Steve Murray, also of Social Change, explained that the idea for "green dorms" originated as an energy efficiency plan for the construction of the recently-completed Woodlawn Commons residence halls. Though these original goals remained largely unimplemented due to budget and time constraints, creativity has kept the idea alive, albeit in a form that depends on the students, rather than the administration, for success.

Petsas and Murray also discussed plans to encourage bicycle use on campus. With few areas on campus available to store bikes, and reports of bicycles vandalized when left

"UMass is a microcosm of the real world. Change only happens when we help each other", commented senior Tom Petsas, Vice President of the Social Change Society.

overnight at those bike racks that do exist, Petsas and Murray spoke of a possible bike center on campus. There, bikes could be repaired, maintained, and taught about, with the help- and benefit- of local bike shops. With enough student interest and support, a bike center would benefit everything from energy and pollution problems to the growing parking crisis, a problem that is causing not only frustration but increased parking fees. "If [the administration] shows us they care, we'll show them we care," Murray said.

Another project in the works is that of getting an existing bike path, which is soon to be extended from Mattapoisett to Fairhaven, to run through the UMass Dartmouth campus.

The idea for a 'recycled art' exhibit championing the concept of 'one's man's waste' as 'another man's treasure' cannot be attributed to any single person. Assignments of this persuasion have occasionally been implemented in the past through courses such as 3D Workshop, but generally only on a small scale, and often using products that could be easily recycled anyhow.

A 'Recycled Art' Exhibit



"Certain common art making materials- such as newsprint paper and base metals- are so routinely recycled that they'd hardly raise an eyebrow," said Foundation Studio Arts Director Bruce Maddocks. But "other projects... like that bull's head sculpture by Picasso that's mostly made of bicycle parts, have a more manifest recycled content," more appropriate to a future exhibit of 'recycled art'. Maddocks referred to the proposal as "a lovely idea -- it's both worthwhile and, I think, practical."

By Adam Al-Harbi

Reprinted from the Torch

An aluminum soda can had this to say as it skimmed through the blue, circular opening of its new temporary home: "CLANG!" Yes, our metal friend provided audible consent to its own recycling, martyred with that sound still fading sweetly on its silver tongue. But 'Al Uminum Frances III', my personal "spirit guide" of social change, is not the only one on campus working to reverse destructive trends associated with waste production. Indeed, Al's "CLANG!" is but one of many sounds arising from the UMass Dartmouth community in regards to new waste reduction programs and the public education required therein.

"Of the 3,041 tons of waste our campus produced last year, only 70 tons were paper products that got recycled," explained Dave Ferguson of Facilities, during the awareness-raising event 'A Mindful Look at Campus Waste and Recycling.' Hosted in the library browsing area by junior biology major Lauren Watka, 'A Mindful Look' brought together students, faculty, and local activists to outline current projects and discuss upcoming plans. The presentation featured a panel of speakers ranging from our own Carl Peterson of Food Services to Dartmouth Recycling's Marissa Perez-Dormitzer.

Ms. Perez-Dormitzer began the event by speaking in depth about a huge 'cloud' of floating garbage, twice the size of Texas, that has been brought together by currents in the Pacific Ocean. While mostly composed of washed out litter, the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" contains everything from medical waste to thousands of Nike sneakers and rubber duckies fallen from cargo ships.

"There's really no such thing as 'waste,'" Ms. Perez-Dormitzer said. Instead of biodegrading, plastic only photodegrades, breaking down in sunlight into small plastic polymers which attract toxic chemicals like DDT. In the ocean, these plastic particles tend to resemble tiny, colorful plankton, and are eaten by fish and birds, often filling their stomachs until they die of starvation or becoming part of the food we eat. "All the garbage from New Bedford and Dartmouth-which includes the university- goes to New Bedford's Crapo Hill Landfill," where it remains. "Waste doesn't go away."

Many of the faculty members who spoke at the event expressed a desire to do more than their required duties, to help the community and take actions that Ferguson called simply "socially correct. We all need to take an active role."

Carl Peterson and the Resident Dining staff are examples of faculty going above and beyond.

"Between Res. Caf. and the Campus Store, we produce between three and six 800-pound bales of trash a week," said Peterson. All Sodex-Ho paper is recyclable, and materials like empty plastic tubs are redistributed each week to those who can use them, including local composters, "but kids waste a lot of food." Peterson spoke about being in the early planning stages of providing food waste as compost to local farms and possibly even having an on-campus hot compost heap, but he noted that daily pickups would be necessary to avoid pests and keep working areas clear. A project currently in process is the weighing of food left on students' plates, to calculate the amount of daily waste. "It's about education," Peterson said.

With residence halls now accounting for over half of the annual waste produced on campus, Eric Lyonnais of Housing spoke about plans for an upcoming dormitory recycling program. "We would like to provide every room with a bag or bin, which students could bring to designated areas in their building." The program would most likely begin in Pine Dale, Maple Ridge, and Ivy, and then grow from there. Also being considered is the installation of mechanical recycling machines, like those found in many supermarkets, which could "possibly give deposits in the form of snack money," Lyonnais said.

"A Mindful Look" was sponsored by The Consortium for the Advancement of Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship, and also by the Center for Sustainability. "Sustainability" is a broad subject, covering everything from environmental protection and clean energy to food distribution, and there

Adam Al-Harbi is a 3rd year English major, an aspiring writer, poet, and journalist.

'Writing about sustainability at Umass Dartmouth has given me a chance to use language mindfully and freely, to influence the world positively.'

IN THE COMMUNITY... *Sustainable Farming*

“Growing Community at Kettlepond Farm”

by Angela Possinger

This morning, while I fed the cats and chickens at Kettlepond Farm in Berkley, MA, I took a moment just to look out over the landscape. The farm was beautiful and revealed in its careful maintenance and nurture the dedication the previous farmer, Max, showed to the land and how we, as caring neighbors, family and friends, are working to continue that dedication, love, and care.

It is very important to Max's family and my family, as neighbors, that the farm remains a viable farm and does not fall into disrepair; hence, we decided that action should be taken. My mother, Nancy, and myself, Angela, asked our friends Paul Bertler and Curtis Feather, who we met while volunteering at Heifer Project's Overlook Farm, to come live at the farm and work at maintaining the property, and possibly start a garden and livestock operation. Paul and Curtis agreed to come, and from there the project took off! The landowner agreed to have Paul and Curtis live at the farm without paying rent while working the land. Paul and Curtis were both very interested in beginning an organic vegetable garden and marketing the produce through **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** – an agreement between a grower and the consumer. The consumer purchases a share at the beginning of the season, giving the grower start-up money, and then received a share of the farm's produce each week.

In order to begin the garden, a huge amount of land preparation was necessary, including tilling with a vintage 1949 Rototiller that my father, John, enthusiastically,



Packing CSA Shares

repaired. Seeds were started in a neighbor's greenhouse; tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant were started in the farmhouse basement!



Baby Salad Mix and Cabbage

Eventually, though at first it seemed impossible, the garden became abundantly successful and enough vegetables were produced to begin a 17-member CSA.

At the farm, varied selections of heirloom and traditional organically grown vegetables were produced. The farm aims to grow their produce in a sustainable way, ensuring that the quality of the land and the surrounding environment is maintained into the future.

The vegetables were grown organically, without the use of pesticides or fertilizers. The use of compost, organic fertilizers, and cover crops helped maintain soil quality. Drip irrigation helped limit the amount of water used in irrigating the plants. Pests were controlled organically by using row covers, plant location, plants

such as buckwheat and marigolds that attract beneficial insects, manual pest control, and organic pest control materials such as fine clay. The farm also limited its impact by using recycled building materials that were left from old projects, and standard recycling and composting of any farm waste.

The Community Supported Agriculture program was a unique opportunity for the community to be closely involved with the farm. Each of the shareholders comes out to the farm to receive their week's supply of produce, eliminating the need for the food to be excessively packaged and/or shipped.

We are looking forward to next year, planning to double the CSA membership, and continuing to improve the condition of the farm. Educational programs at the farm are being planned. My mother, Nancy, has been very involved in meeting and talking with many people at UMass Dartmouth and has found much interest in possible outreach, education, research, and alternative energy experiments.

Come out to visit! We also would greatly appreciate any volunteer help. With gifts of shared talents brought to the farm, it is possible that an education can be brought to many people concerning sustainable systems at the farm and in our own lives, as well as possible progress in making the surrounding communities more sustainable.

Would you like to be a part of this adventure?

Kettlepond Farm
181 Bayview Ave.
Berkley, MA 02779
774-210-0468 (Angela)

IN THE COMMUNITY... *Green Building Partnerships*

“Affordable Homes That Are Affordable To Live In” by Gerald Lemay

What happens when a collaboration is formed between Habitat for Humanity, an international organization that has built more than 200,000 safe, decent, affordable homes throughout the world, and an organization that has experience in designing and building sustainable solar homes? You get an affordable home that is also affordable to live in. And that’s exactly what a dedicated group of students, staff and faculty at the University of Massachusetts is working towards.

It all started when 17 UMD students visited Loudon County HFH during spring break 2003 to work with Tennessee volunteers on the construction of a solar home. Senior Christine Leary was one of those students and today she is co-president of the University’s HFH student chapter. Then there was the Solar Decathlon Project. Of the countless students who worked on the Solar Decathlon project from summer 2003 to fall 2005, some 40 of our students traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate with 17 other universities in the 2005 Solar Decathlon, an international contest sponsored by the United States Department of Energy. Students like Ted Petsas, Adriane Schaefer, Mike Guilmette, and Gulinda Loum, helped to make that project a reality.

We wanted these experiences to have a purpose, in addition to raising awareness. And today our purpose still makes good sense.

As D. Steven White, a colleague in the Department of Marketing and International Business, so aptly states, “It’s a meaningful tradeoff of fixed costs for variable costs.” To paraphrase Steve, a home’s mortgage or rent is a regular expense, a fixed cost, something we budget and get used to paying. If someone pays 10-20% more for their solar home or solar renovation, their fixed cost will increase slightly but they are well on their way to taming the rampaging out-of-control variable cost of ever-increasing energy charges for heating, cooling, lighting, etc. And that’s why building with sustainable solar technologies is making sense and becoming commonplace.

Just ask designer-builder Tim Lyden of Fortress Green Building Supply in North Dartmouth, MA. Tim is a trained installer of insulated concrete forms. This technology was used for the crawlspace-foundation for the last home built by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth and it will be one of the technologies used for the current sustainable solar home being built on Braley Road, Plymouth, with the Greater Plymouth affiliate.

Site preparation is complete for what will be the first sustainable solar home built with a HFH affiliate in Massachusetts. In addition to insulated concrete forms, the home will feature structural insulated panels, excellent window and doors, a heat recovery ventilator, radiant floor heating, evacuated tube solar hot water panels, and solar slate photovoltaic panels.



Dedication of the Kingston home, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Spring 2005

The students who participated in the Solar Decathlon are quite familiar with these technologies. In addition to Tim Lyden, the collaboration is fortunate to have the help of Plymouth, MA, solar expert, Steve Pitney, who also had his hand in the successful UMass Dartmouth Solar Decathlon Project.

There’s still a lot to do on this HFH project so if any of this interests you, please contact us at 508.999.8535 or glemay@umassd.edu

Gerald Lemay, PhD, PE is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

He is also a former project leader and faculty advisor for the UMass Dartmouth entry in the 2005 Solar Decathlon, and is the founder and CEO of the Massachusetts-registered nonprofit corporation Lemay Solar Homes Corp that designs and builds sustainable solar homes with Habitat for Humanity.

CALL TO ACTION

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Umass Dartmouth Sustainability Working Groups

- Agriculture
- Recycling
- Transportation
- Renewable Energy

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Sustainability Discussion – Join our sustainability mailing list to share your opinion and get the latest updates on sustainability happenings at UMass Dartmouth campus. Contact Susan Jennings at sjennings@umassd.edu.

Interested in writing for change? Contribute to the next issue of Sustainability Newsletter. Also, we are looking forward to your feedback, ideas, and topic suggestions. Please contact Marina Dippel at mdippel@umassd.edu

The Social Change Society is a new student group on campus that focuses on human rights, economic justice and sustainability. Their mission is to connect UMD individuals and the community to the idea of global responsibility through action and awareness initiatives.

This year several sustainability initiatives are also underway including a Green Living Guide for students which outlines ways that UMD students can be sustainable in their daily lives and within the UMD community. The group works closely with the sustainability Institute on the post-oil conference and other energy, recycling, food, and transportation issues. Other issues on agenda on are Darfur, modern day slavery, the free speech zone at UMD, and a fun, interactive workshop series for students. Social Change Society has meetings on Mondays at 5pm in room 007 in the campus center.

Leadership opportunities are available and all are encouraged to come and check us out and find out more how they can get involved! For more information, e-mail UMDSocialChange@gmail.com

MassPIRG Umass Dartmouth Chapter

The environment is being degraded, consumers are being taking advantage of, and the government isn't listening. UMD hosts a MASSPIRG chapter, where you can put your conscience to work on issues you care about...

UMass Dartmouth chapter office is on the 2nd floor of the Campus Center. Check out www.masspirg.org. To join, e-mail Mary Hathaway at m1hathaway@umassd.edu, or call 508-999-8169.

Weekly meetings are from 05:00 PM to 06:00 PM at MassPirg office room 205 in the Campus Center.

Sustainability Resources

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Make a career out of your concerns about global warming, pollution, and sustainable economic development:

- **Environmental Fellowships:**
The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) provides a comprehensive guide to fellowship opportunities for faculty, students, and community service leaders.
<http://www.elpnet.org/fellowships.php>
- **Research in Solid Waste Management**
Environmental Research and Fellowship Foundation awards several grants each year for research or education in topics pertaining with any aspect of solid waste management. For more information, please visit
<http://www.erefdn.org/guide.html>
- **Alcoa Foundation's Conservation & Sustainability Fellowship Program**
Deadline: May 31, 2007
<http://www.alcoafoundationfellows.org>

Practitioner Fellowships provide a non-degree opportunity for qualified mid-level professionals from NGOs (and in some cases, government) to conduct approved six- to twelve-month intensive applied research projects in conservation and sustainability. Fellows work from their home organization and are mentored remotely by an expert from a selected Sustainability Institute.

Topic areas are in Conservation of Fragile Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Climate Change and Energy, Sustainability, Livelihoods and Economic Growth and Integrating Sustainability into Public Policy and Governance.

NETWORKING GROUPS

- **South Coast Sustainability Network**
(<http://threeoranges.org/>)
Join and get the chance to meet and network with students and professionals from your area who share the vision of promoting ecological and economic sustainability on the South Coast.
- **NetImpact**
(www.netimpact.org)
NET IMPACT is a global network of leaders committed to using the power of business to improve the world. It is one of the most innovative and influential networks of MBAs, graduate students and professionals in existence today. Net Impact members believe that business can both earn a profit and create positive social change.
- **1Bloc.com**
(www.1bloc.com)
1Bloc is the social network for change markers and innovators. Get updates from the Institute for Social Innovation, explore job and networking opportunities.



Saturday, April 14

Climate Action Day/Step it Up Rally

10-Noon, New Bedford Whaling Museum

Climate Action Activists - make your voice heard! Join UMass Dartmouth, the City of New Bedford, and local environmental non-profit groups in a **Step it Up Rally** at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford. This rally, which calls on congress to address climate change by mandating a carbon emissions reduction of 80% by 2050, is part of a nationwide day of climate action organized by Bill McKibben (Stepitup2007.org). Provost Tony Garro will be speaking about UMD's challenges and commitment; other speakers include Mayor Lang and John Bullard.

We hope you will join with your colleagues and neighbors to attend this important event. A van will be leaving UMD at 9:30 the morning of the rally --contact Deirdre Healy if you'd like a ride. For more information, contact Susan Jennings, ext. 6484 or sjennings@umassd.edu

READING CORNER

- Global Warming Solutions:
<http://www.globalwarmingsolutions.org/>
This Midwest organization lists seven options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and outlines the environmental implications of each.
- Energize America:
<http://www.ea2020.org/>
Energize America put together a 20-point plan developed by informed citizen activists to wean the U.S. from its fossil fuel addiction and provide the U.S. with Energy Security by 2020, and Energy Freedom by 2040.

April 17 - April 19

'A Peek at Peak Oil and Beyond'

On April 17, 18, and 19, a series of panels will discuss America's relationship with oil: past, present, and future. Some geologists speculate that we have already passed "peak oil", the point where we have taken from the ground better than half the total world supply of oil ever able to be extracted and refined.



Tuesday, April 17 -- How did we get here?

12:30 - 1:30 PM Panel Discussion

Board of Trustees Room
(3rd floor of Foster Administration Building)

This panel will explore some of the history between oil, our culture, and our economy, nationally and internationally. It will discuss in broad terms how oil came to be king.

Panelists:

Rob Darst (Political Science), Tim Walker (History), Ray Laoulache (Engineering)

7 PM Screening of "The End of Suburbia"

Group 1, Room 117

Wednesday, April 18 -- Where is "here"?

12:30 - 1:30 PM Panel Discussion

Library Browsing Area

This panel will explore our contemporary relationship with/dependence upon oil, and some possible ramifications. The panel will look at campus energy use as well as oil use more broadly conceived.

Panelists:

Lee Nason (Campus Operations), Randy Hall (Economics), Tom Paine (Philosophy)

7 PM Screening of "Out of Balance"

DION 115

Thursday April 19 -- Where are we going?

12:30 - 1:30 PM Panel Discussion

Library Browsing Area

This panel will explore some possible scenarios what a post-oil world could look like, regionally, nationally, internationally. Could we be headed toward Utopia? Or Dystopia?

7 PM Screening of "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"

Group 1, Room 117

ABOUT US...

OUR MISSION

“The mission of the UMass Dartmouth Sustainability Center is to advance sustainable thinking across the campus and throughout the region, and to develop practices for a sustainable future. Broadly defined, sustainable thinking examines and critiques the ways economic and social systems currently interact in the use and distribution of resources and in the disposal and distribution of waste, and seeks ways to balance contemporary production and consumption against future needs”

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Sustainability Newsletter is designed to promote the latest updates on proposed and current sustainability initiatives at UMass Dartmouth and the local community. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit articles from all disciplines: environmental law, physics, chemistry, business, economics, public policy, public health, and others.

Through the Sustainability Initiative network, the newsletter will reach campus faculty, staff, students, community leaders, public policy officials, local community development organizations, and environmental groups.

If you are interested in contributing to the Sustainability Newsletter, please submit materials about your research or projects to Marina Dippel at mdippel@umassd.edu
