

Sustainable University News and Updates November 2008

The Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is committed to serving as a resource for your institution as you pursue sustainability opportunities on campus. Our office periodically sends out news and updates to alert you about grant opportunities, events, and initiatives related to energy efficiency, water conservation, green building, and other sustainability issues concerning universities and colleges.

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**1. Saint Xavier University Purchases Renewable Energy Credits**

Saint Xavier University has signed an agreement to purchase 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of "Clean Source" alternative energy over the next two years to power its new eco-friendly student residence hall. The energy used to power Mother Agatha O'Brien Hall will prevent the emission of more than 817,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. Saint Xavier's clean energy producers include: The New Hope Power Partnership, a biomass cogeneration facility; Belleville Hydroelectric, a run of river operation that does not obstruct fish migration; Elk River Wind Farm; and the Mass Hill Wind Farm.

For more information, please visit: [www.sxu.edu](http://www.sxu.edu)

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**2. Lewis & Clark Community College Opens Institute for Environmental Sustainability**

Lewis and Clark Community College has opened a new Institute for Environmental Sustainability. LCCC created the IES in conjunction with the statewide efforts of other colleges involved in a pilot program to establish the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network. These colleges include Kankakee, Wilbur Wright, and Heartland community colleges.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.lc.cc.il.us/media/52409/release-ies%20open%20house%2008.pdf>

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### **3. Northwestern University Launches New Sustainability Initiative**

Northwestern University has launched the Initiative for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN), an organization that will support research, teaching, and outreach in the areas of sustainability and energy. ISEN will also provide startup funds for pilot or seed research projects, matching funds for post-doctoral, graduate and undergraduate fellowships, and for major equipment purchases and maintenance. Additionally, four new undergraduate- and graduate-level courses on global issues related to energy and sustainability will be offered starting in the spring quarter. In the longer term, ISEN plans to establish an energy and sustainability minor at the undergraduate level across several schools and to create a master's degree program in energy and sustainability studies.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.isen.northwestern.edu/>

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### **4. Highland Community College Breaks Ground for Wind Turbine Technology Center**

Highland Community College has broken ground for a 5,500 square foot Wind Turbine Technology Center. The Center will be fully available for students beginning in the fall 2009 semester and will provide space to house an Associate's of Applied Science in Wind Turbine Technology. Additionally, the new center will be fitted with specialized tools and supplies through a partnership with Greenlee Textron, Inc.

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.highland.cc.il.us/news\\_events/announcements.asp?newsid=534](http://www.highland.cc.il.us/news_events/announcements.asp?newsid=534)

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### **5. New York Times Features Campus Bike Programs *featuring Saint Xavier University***

The New York Times has published an article entitled, "With Free Bikes, Challenging Car Culture on Campus." The article mentions the University of New England's (ME) and Ripon College's (WI) bike give-away programs, Mercer University's (GA) and Emory University's (GA) bike rental programs, and **Saint Xavier University's** computer-driven bike sharing program. The goal of campus bike programs, according to the article, is to reduce the number of parking spaces needed on campus and to promote a healthier and greener transportation method.

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/education/20bikes.html?\\_r=4&scp=1&sq=&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/education/20bikes.html?_r=4&scp=1&sq=&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

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## **6. University of Illinois at Chicago Receives \$750K Grant to Green Brownfield**

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute for Environmental Science and Policy has received a five-year, \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify best management practices for redeveloping brownfields, gauge the benefits, and get the information to the public and policymakers. Through the grant, researchers at UIC will team up with two outside technical advisers and colleagues at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to define what it means to turn a brownfield into a new green development and the value of doing so.

For more information, please visit: <http://tigger.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/newsbureau/cgi-bin/index.cgi?from=Releases&to=Release&id=2294&start=1214577761&end=1222353761&topic=0&dept=0>

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## **7. Rush University Medical Center Breaks Ground on Green Hospital Building**

The Rush University Medical Center has broken ground on its new green hospital. The new structure, which will be registered for LEED certification, will feature multiple green roofs, extensive use of recycled materials, and use of energy efficient systems for lighting, heating, and cooling. The 14-floor, \$575 million, 806,000-square-foot building will house Rush's acute and critical care patients as well as surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic services utilizing the most advanced technology available.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/122071.php>

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## **8. University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign Announces Hire of New Director of Sustainability**

Professor Richard Warner has accepted the directorship of the Office of Sustainability within the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement. The Office of Sustainability was established this year to provide operational leadership for initiatives of the Campus Sustainability Council. Since beginning his career on campus in the mid-1970s, Warner has distinguished himself in multiple roles at the state scientific surveys and with the university. In addition to a strong record of publication in natural resources and ecology, he has been recognized regionally and nationally for his leadership of multiple cross-cutting research and engagement activities. He brings to the Office of Sustainability a comprehensive grasp of the challenges and opportunities we face as we integrate regard for sustainability into our teaching, research, and engagement and into our day-to-day operations.

For more information, please visit: <http://illinois.edu/>

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## **9. National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowship Grants – November 14, 2008**

The National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology program invites undergraduate and graduate students who are committed to reducing their campus carbon footprint to apply for a fellowship grants. Projects such as greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, energy conservation and efficiency, habitat restoration, convening climate action gatherings and more will be considered. Undergraduate students are eligible to receive up to \$2000 in funding, and graduate students may receive up to \$5000 in funding. **The deadline to apply is November 14, 2008.**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/fellowships/>;

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#### **10. Climate Crews Challenge – November 24, 2008**

The People Speak.org invites proposals for its Climate Crews 2008/2009 competition. Students are invited to submit a proposal on how their school could improve its Sustainable Endowments Coalition College Sustainability Report Card grade. Submissions will be accepted from non-Report Card schools as well. The top 10 Climate Crew submissions will win \$500 to help pay for the submitted campus project; an invitation to a Washington, DC training to meet leading climate, energy, and sustainability experts; and an on-campus sustainability and endowment seminar from SEI. **Proposals are due November 24, 2008.**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.thepeoplespeak.org/activities/climatecrews.html>

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#### **11. MacArthur Foundation Commits \$15M for Sustainable Development Master's Programs – December 1, 2008**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has announced a \$15 million commitment to seed the creation of Global Master's in Development Practice (MDP) programs at up to twelve universities worldwide over the next three years. The two-year MDP programs will provide professional training for future leaders in the field of sustainable development, with an emphasis on practical, cross-disciplinary knowledge from the health, natural, and social sciences and a strong focus on leadership and management skills. Courses will cover topics such as agronomy, climate change, and tropical diseases and will be supplemented by two summers of field training. The first program to be announced will begin at Columbia University in the fall of 2009.

**The deadline to submit your RFP for the grant is December 1, 2008.**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.4711697/>

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#### **12. Hydrogen Student Design Contest – December 19, 2008**

The Hydrogen Education Foundation invites submissions for its Hydrogen Student Design Contest. The contest challenges teams of university-level students from the U.S. and abroad to develop and design hydrogen applications for real-world use. This year's competition challenges teams to design a new green Student Center powered by hydrogen for the State University of New York, Farmingdale with an imaginary budget of \$28 million. **Entries are due on December 19, 2008.**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hydrogencontest.org/index.asp>

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### **13. Over 200 Campuses Submit Public GHG Reports**

Over 200 signatory campuses of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) have submitted public greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories through the ACUPCC's online reporting system. The GHG inventory is the first major reporting requirement of the Commitment, and is due within a year of signing. Signatories reported on emissions from on-site combustion, mobile combustion (fleet), purchased electricity, student, faculty and staff commuting, and institution-funded air travel, among other things. Over the next year, these signatories will work to create a plan for reducing their emissions.

For more information, please visit: <http://aashe.org/pcc/reports/>

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### **14. Clean Air Cool Planet Online Campus Climate Action Toolkit**

Clean Air Cool Planet has released the newest version of its online Campus Climate Action Toolkit (CCAT). It is intended to model what an actual published Campus Climate Action Plan might look like and provide direction for creating a new plan. It consists of guidance for every aspect of "campus climate action" along with hyperlinks to technical resources and examples/case studies that will help people understand, plan, and execute or implement the CCAP's various elements.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/toolkit/>

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### **15. Subscription Information**

You are receiving this email as a member of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact.

For more information about the Lt. Governor's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit [www.GreenSolutions.il.gov](http://www.GreenSolutions.il.gov).

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable University News and Updates, or wish to add a colleague to our list, please contact Jamie Campbell, [Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov](mailto:Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov), (312) 814-6671.