

***SFI weekly newsletter (December 29 to January 2, 2009)***  
***A weekly service of SFI***

*A web version of this newsletter will also be available at [www.sfi.mtu.edu](http://www.sfi.mtu.edu)*

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1. ***2009 Freshwater Spills Symposium U.S. EPA***

The weekly newsletters are now posted at our Website (<http://www.sfi.mtu.edu/>). In an effort to increase recognition and enhance SFI's image, we want to include more publicity about SFI member achievements. Please send announcements of your publications, presentations, awards, and names of awarded proposals to Denise Heikinen at [dmheikin@mtu.edu](mailto:dmheikin@mtu.edu), or call (906)487-0044.

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**SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. ***US Foreign Policy course, SS3600. MWF 2 pm***

Prereqs: either UN2002, SS2600, or grad students status

The course will focus on the question whether the US can/should (and if so, how) encourage democracy in other countries, especially after periods of civil and international conflict. Contact Professor Durfee.

**SFI NEW FUNDING**

**SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

1. *The AAU offers Science and Technology Research Advice to the new Obama Administration*  
The Association of American Universities has issued a detailed set of recommendations for the new Obama administration regarding federal research practice and policy. The recommendations are broken down by agency, and while the focus is science and technology, there are also ideas for the Education Department and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The recommendations include suggestions about cost sharing policy, behavior and social science research, a new Humanities grad student grant program, strengthened international

exchanges, a revamping of the Office of Science, support for the new Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) Program. Among the several recommendations for the Department of Education is a specific request to support the new university sustainability grants program authorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, which "will help colleges and universities make a significant contribution to our society's efforts to reduce pollution and increase energy efficiency." The full recommendations are attached. Also see [http://www.aau.edu/policy/policy\\_recommendations\\_new\\_admin.aspx?id=7710](http://www.aau.edu/policy/policy_recommendations_new_admin.aspx?id=7710) for AAU Policy Recommendations for President-Elect Obama

### **2. Letter to the New Education Secretary by Worldwatch Institute on December 19, 2008**

Environmental and education groups are urging the incoming Obama administration to include education in its plans to promote a greener society. A letter outlining goals suggests, for example, that the new administration support standards that would have all educational construction meet environmental standards, and that some stimulus funds support efforts to train students for jobs in an economy with an emphasis on sustainability. <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5971>

### **3. Renewables group complains about new state energy laws**

*An Escanaba-based renewable energy announced plans to change Michigan's new law limiting electric competition because it violates a federal strategy for homeland security issued in July 2002. Partners GREEN (an acronym for a Group for a Renewable Energy Efficient Nation) said the federal strategy calls for building a less vulnerable electric grid, in part by generation at smaller, widely scattered power plants. The new state law puts roadblocks toward that goal, they said. Michigan GREEN is asking the public to sign a petition and learn more about the issues at [www.michigangreen.org/content-28.html](http://www.michigangreen.org/content-28.html).*

### **4. NextEnergy boss sees sharp job growth from renewables industry**

Within a relatively few years, Keith Cooley believes that Michigan could see hundreds of thousands of new jobs in renewable energy technologies. And Cooley is in a place to help make that happen -- he's the new CEO of NextEnergy, the state's renewable energy industry accelerator. In interviews this month, Cooley said Michigan has particular advantages during a national tipping point of transformation away from a petroleum-based economy. Cooley said he's also expecting to spend more time in Washington, D.C. than his predecessor, NextEnergy's initial CEO, Jim Croce. That's mostly because he's expecting an Obama administration to be friendlier to renewables, and this coming Congress to be greener as well.

### **5. DTE biomass project hits early milestone**

A landfill gas-to-energy subsidiary of Detroit's DTE Energy is about to produce its 10,000th megawatt hour of electricity, DTE Biomass Energy officials said. The plant began operating at the Iredell County Landfill in Statesville, N.C. only in August. DTE Biomass Energy, the parent company of Iredell Transmission, has nearly 25 projects across the United States that convert landfill gas into some form of useable energy. At the Iredell landfill, two Caterpillar engines are used to generate enough electricity to power more than 3,000 homes. The electricity generated at the site is sold to EnergyUnited for distribution to its customers.

## **6. H2O For Life Schools**

The mission of H2O for Life is to provide funds to support projects in developing countries designed to make water available and sustainable for schools in need of fresh water, sanitation, and hygiene education—the “WASH” initiative. Through service learning projects, U.S. schools raise funds necessary to complete water projects, thereby bringing water to their partner schools. These funds are matched dollar for dollar, magnifying the good done with every contribution. If you’re a U.S. teacher, school administrator, or engaged parent and think students in your community might be able to help, learn how to Partner With a School.

<http://www.h2oforliveschools.org/index.html>

## SEMINARS

### **FUNDING & AWARD OPPORTUNITIES**

To submit research proposals through the Sustainable Futures Institute, add “SFI” to the DEPT/CENTER/INSTITUTE(S) column for identifying the PI’s and co-PI’s. The transmittal sheet must then be signed by the SFI Director, John Sutherland, on page 3. (If John Sutherland is unavailable for signing transmittal sheets, Qiong (Jane) Zhang can also sign for SFI). Submitting proposals under SFI provides wider publicity and recognition for your research as well as a 10% return on your incentive account.

#### **1. Energy Innovations Small Grant Program (EISG) - (Electricity Program) California Energy Commission**

\$95,000

*Deadline Feb 04, 2009*

The Energy Innovations Small Grant Program (EISG) Program is a component of the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program that is managed by the California Energy Commission (Commission). The purpose of the PIER Program is to provide benefit to California electric and gas ratepayers by funding energy research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects that are not adequately provided for by competitive and regulated energy markets.

<http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/96815>

#### **2. Clean Cities: Area of Interest 2: Incremental Cost of Dedicated Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Sponsors: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)

Amount: \$500,000    Deadline Feb 27, 2009

The DOE and NETL, on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Vehicle Technologies is seeking applications for projects covering a range of commercial technology deployment and educational activities under the Clean Cities Transportation Sector Petroleum Reduction Technologies Program. Under Area of Interest 2, applications are being sought for projects to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum by expanding the use of dedicated AFVs. These funds can be used to help reduce the incremental cost for the purchase of new OEM AFVs or the retrofit/conversion/repower of new and/or used conventional vehicles (i.e., vehicles originally designed to operate using diesel or gasoline) to run on authorized alternative fuels. Only on-road, highway-certified vehicles that operate exclusively on alternative fuels will be considered for funding under this area of interest.

URL: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/91559>

### **3. Energy for Sustainability**

Sponsors: NSF Directorate for Engineering (ENG) Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET)

Deadline Mar 02, 2009 and Sep 15, 2009

This program supports fundamental research and education in energy production, conversion, and storage and is focused on energy sources that are environmentally friendly and renewable. Most world energy needs are currently met through the combustion of fossil fuels. With projected increases in global energy needs, more sustainable methods for energy production will need to be developed, and production of greenhouse gases will need to be reduced.

Sources of sustainable energy include sunlight, wind, and biomass.

Hydrogen and alcohols are potential energy carriers that can be derived from renewable sources. Research that generates enabling science and technologies for more efficient hydrogen generation and storage is supported by the program. Potential sources of hydrogen include conversion from biomass and from electrolysis, photolysis or thermolysis of water. Biomass is available from agricultural crop residues, forest products, aquatic plants, and municipal wastes. In addition to hydrogen, biomass can be a source of liquid, solid, and gaseous fuels including biofuels such as ethanol.

Fuel cells have the potential to convert fuels such as hydrogen and alcohols to electricity at high efficiencies and should play an increasing role in energy conversion. Critical components of fuel cells requiring additional research include catalysts and electrolytes. Development of these components also requires fundamental research on the reaction and transport mechanisms at the catalyst and membrane electrolyte interface. Advances in these areas are needed to address key challenges in efficiency, durability, power density, and environmental impacts. The engineering aspects of fuel-cell design and operation also require further study in areas such as water and thermal management.

Wind power is a growing source of electrical energy. Increased efficiency requires a fundamental knowledge of the interaction of wind with the blade structure. Understanding the fluid flow, and optimizing blade design are important aspects in developing more efficient wind generators. Photovoltaic devices have the potential to supply a significant fraction of electrical energy to the power grid. Although silicon-based materials have been most widely used, other semiconducting materials and titanium dioxide also have potential. The program supports new materials and novel fabrication techniques for solar energy conversion.

URL: <http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/103126>

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### **JOBS & INTERSHIPS & Ph.D. OPPORTUNITIES**

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### **NEW RESOURCES**

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### **EVENTS & CONFERENCES**

**1. 2009 Freshwater Spills Symposium U.S. EPA St. Louis, Missouri**

**April 28-30, 2009**

The Freshwater Spills Symposium (FSS) offers an opportunity for local, state, federal, and industry responders, natural resource trustees and managers, and facility response planners to engage in an informative exchange on the unique problems of freshwater oil spills. The symposium is hosted biennially by the US EPA Office of Emergency Management.

<http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/fss/index.htm>

*Call for Papers, abstracts due January 1, 2009*

**2. 52nd Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio**

**May 18-22, 2009**

The International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR)

Call for Papers Abstract Deadline: January 8, 2009

The International Association for Great Lakes Research invites you to participate in the annual Conference on Great Lakes Research. We welcome abstract submissions for both oral and poster presentations. Bridging Ecosystems and Environmental Health across our Great Lakes is the theme for this year's conference, with several sessions devoted specifically to that theme. In addition, a significant number of sessions explore Aspects of Biological Communities, Planning, Restoration, and Management: Physical Processes and Climate Change: Fish and Fisheries, and Broader Impacts of Great Lakes Sciences.

<http://iaglr.org/hot/items/callforpapers09.pdf>

**3. International Water Association Mexico City, Mexico**

**September 6-9, 2009**

1st IWA Development Congress

Communities and water professionals in developing countries are facing unprecedented challenges in the delivery of safe, clean drinking water and sanitation services. As the global force in providing these services, IWA members are contributing daily to improving the lives of billions of people. The 1st IWA Development Congress, to be held in Mexico City in September 2009 will establish a global practice base that can be used and built upon by communities and water professionals in addressing the common challenges they face. If you are interested in challenging old orthodoxies, thinking innovatively and building change that lasts, be sure to diarise this event and start planning now to join us in Mexico City.

<http://www.iwa2009mexico.org/>

Call for papers deadline: January 1, 2009

**4. 7th Asia Pacific Conference on Sustainable Energy and Environmental Technologies, Qingdao, China, October 15-17, 2009.**

The APCSEET conferences, held every other biennial year, aim to positively promote the policy, research and development of sustainable energy and environmental technologies around the world. Deadline for abstracts in English for consideration by July 1, 2009.

<http://apcseet2009.upc.edu.cn/>

**5. The Emerging Engagement Scholars Workshop 9th National Outreach Scholarship Conference at Penn State University, October 7-9, 2008**

This workshop will provide advanced graduate students and early career faculty with background literature, facilitated discussion, and presentations from national leaders and community partners designed to increase their awareness and knowledge of community engaged scholarship. Participation is limited and interested applicants must be nominated to be part of this workshop.

<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/outreach-scholarship/>

### **6. Engagement Academy for University Leaders on June 22-26, 2009 at Virginia Tech**

For many institutions of higher education, engagement with the external community is increasingly critical to long-term success. Three associations: The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) and National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), are working with Virginia Tech's Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement to offer this program annually.

The participants in the academy will return to their campuses with the ability to:

- \* Advance the institution's plan for engagement
- \* Effectively link engagement to the teaching, research, and service missions
- \* Build institutional commitment involving faculty, students, and community partners
- \* Evaluate and communicate the impact of engagement.

This program will feature:

- \* A mentor-in-residence
- \* Peer networking and benchmarking opportunities
- \* Institutional case studies
- \* On-site exploration of university-community partnerships in action
- \* Coaching sessions with leaders in the field
- \* Action planning for institutions
- \* Unparalleled leadership development activities.

The Academy is a unique executive development program designed for University leaders responsible for Community Engagement and is suitable for academic administrators regardless of where their institution is along the strategic planning process for Engagement.

The program is especially designed for those currently in, newly appointed to, or aspiring to the following positions:

- \* Vice President/Provost for Outreach or Engagement
- \* Provosts, Vice Provost/Vice President, Associate Vice Provost/ President for Research, Academic Affairs, Undergraduate Education, Governmental Affairs and Community Relations

\* Directors of Continuing Education, Extension, Economic Development, Outreach, or Service Learning

\* Deans, department heads, faculty

The \$3795 fee for the academy includes the day trip, class materials, lodging (Sunday through Thursday), continuous breaks, luncheons each day, and two receptions.

<http://www2.cota.vt.edu/ea/index.html>