

***SFI weekly newsletter for the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>***  
***A weekly service of SFI***



**CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMMUNITY GARDENING WEEK AUGUST 23-29**  
(See <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal?contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/08/0371.xml>)

**SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Michigan Tech's Flower Beds include fruits and veggies just in time for National Community Gardening Week
2. Consider becoming an author or contributor to Encyclopedia of the Earth

**SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

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3. Great Lakes Coalition Reacts to Federal Great Lakes Restoration Plan

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4. Research Chair, Transportation-Land Use Linkages, Concordia U
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8. 2nd Annual College FilterForGood Eco-Challenge
9. U.S citizens Postdoctoral and/or post-masters researchers at Dept. of Energy at the National Energy Tech Lab
10. Environment Ohio Advocate

**NEW RESOURCES**

1. Great Ships Initiative at the Northeast-Midwest Institute

**EVENTS & CONFERENCES**

1. Webinar: Question Hour: Solutions Module & Climate Action Plans Sept 29, Oct 20, Nov 24, 2009; 3pm Eastern
3. Webinar: Higher Education and the Stimulus Package August 25, 2009; 1 - 2:30pm Central; Online
4. 4th Forum for Sustainability Science Programs February 18, 2010; San Diego, CA
5. 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting February 22-26 in Portland, Oregon.
6. Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting Erie, Pa., Sept. 29-30.

Please send announcements of your publications, presentations, awards, and names of awarded proposals to Denise Heikinen at [dmheikin@mtu.edu](mailto:dmheikin@mtu.edu).

## SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Michigan Tech's Flower Beds include fruits and veggies just in time for National Community Gardening Week

Today may not be the best day to appreciate Michigan Tech's new campus gardens, but with luck the sun will shine again next week. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared next week, August 23 to 29, to be the country's first National Community Gardening Week. The next time any of us spots Lynn Watson, Tech's master gardener, let's give her a well deserved round of applause for how she and her student workers have transformed the campus! A recent Tech Today article pointed out that she has also planted tomatoes, blueberries, rhubarb, sugar plums and chives by Fisher and the Administration Building and that everybody is welcome to pick them! And she practices sustainable gardening!

<http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/ttoday/previous.php?issue=20090715&id=8212&nav=1>



**This mining car is no longer Tech's only source of flowers!**

### 2. Consider becoming an author or contributor to Encyclopedia of the Earth

Encyclopedia of Earth, is a new electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society. The Encyclopedia is a free, fully searchable collection of articles written by scholars, professionals, educators, and experts who collaborate and review each other's work. The articles are written in non-technical language and will be useful to students, educators, scholars, professionals, as well as to the general public. Become an EoE Contributor and help provide the best possible information to the world on all things environmental and be recognized for your work. Former co-director James Michelcic's article provides an example of the type of writing possible for EoE.

[http://www.eoearth.org/article/Sustainable\\_future](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Sustainable_future)

<http://www.eoearth.org/eoe/>

### 3. Mary Durfee offers help to grad students to attend International Studies-Midwest meeting-- St. Louis Nov 6-8.

Mary Durfee thinks some of the SFI grad students who have an international dimension to their work should send in a paper proposal for the International Studies-Midwest meeting. This meeting will be in St. Louis Nov 6-8. She has already checked with the conference organizer to make sure papers from engineering sorts would be welcome. This is a small, friendly conference that's not too expensive. Mary will be there to help you get over any awkwardness at encountering people who write on topics like the one she is doing with her SURF student entitled: Beyond Sovereign Bilateralism Before International Courts: Third Party Interventions and Duties Erga Omnes. She will have at least one seat available in her car...but there must be room for two cases of wine from her favorite wine seller in STL. Mary is quite willing to open a bottle (or two) while in St. Louis and share it with others.

**The deadline for proposals is August 31, 2009.**

<http://www.creighton.edu/events/isamidwest2009/index.php>

### 4. Michigan Tech hires 7 new faculty in computational research

Michigan Technological University has hired seven new faculty members to conduct research in computational discovery and innovation. They come from some of the best research universities across the country and around the world. The hires are part of a Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative begun last year. Unlike traditional departmental hiring, the SFHI hires across disciplines on a research theme. The new faculty members will join six different departments at Michigan Tech. In its first SFHI -- on the theme of sustainability -- Michigan Tech hired six new faculty members and named three professors to endowed chairs in 2008. More. <http://www.wjw.com/Michigan-Tech-Hires-7-Faculty-In-Computational-Res/5032809>

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

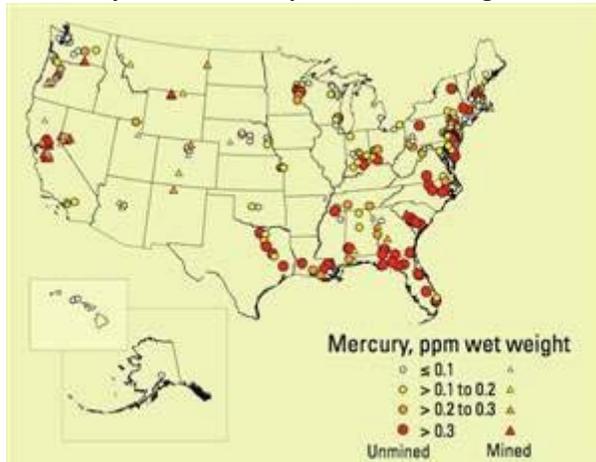
### 1. USA Today and Inside Higher Ed cover national increase in sustainability curricula

A USA Today article covered the increase in the number of college and university academic programs that incorporate sustainability into their curricula. The article attributes the growth, in part, to increasing student interest in green careers. Among those mentioned were the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University (MA), Arizona State University, Bucknell University (PA), and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI). In related news, *Inside Higher Ed* also published an article on the increase in academic programs and faculties that focus specifically on sustainability. Colleges and universities noted in the piece include Arizona State University, State University of

New York at Stony Brook Southampton, Dalhousie University (NS), Colorado State University, Chatham University (PA), College of the Atlantic (ME), State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the University of Washington.

See also: Inside Higher Ed News Article <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/07/23/sustainability>

## 2. Mercury in fish is widespread, U.S. Geological Survey finds



Red areas on the map exceed the EPA human health criterion for mercury of 0.3 parts per million. Circles represent fairly pristine watersheds, diamonds are watersheds near mining activity: USGS

No fish can escape mercury pollution according to a federal study of mercury contamination released August 19th. Scientists tested more than a thousand fish from nearly 300 U.S. streams and found the toxic substance in every one. But while all fish had traces of contamination, only about a quarter had mercury levels exceeding what the EPA says is safe for people eating average amounts of fish. The study by the U.S. Geological Survey is the most comprehensive look at mercury in the nation's streams. From 1998 to 2005, scientists collected and tested the fish, including bass, trout and catfish, from 291 streams nationwide." ... The main source of mercury for most of the streams tested is emissions from coal-fired power plants. All but two states -- Alaska and Wyoming -- have

issued fish-consumption advisories because of mercury contamination. Some of the streams studied already had warnings.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32479855/ns/us\\_news-environment/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32479855/ns/us_news-environment/)

## 3. Great Lakes Coalition Reacts to Federal Great Lakes Restoration Plan

ANN ARBOR, MICH.--The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition submitted comments yesterday in response to the U.S. EPA's plan to address aquatic invasive species, toxic sediments, sewage contamination and other threats over the next five years. The plan will help guide the implementation of President Barack Obama's new \$475 million Great Lakes restoration initiative. The White House Great Lakes restoration initiative has passed the House of Representatives for the full \$475 million. The Senate appropriations committee has passed the plan with \$400 million in funding. The full Senate is expected to vote on the measure in the fall.

To read the coalition's comments, visit: <http://www.healthylakes.org/>

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## 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. SFI Director, John Sutherland, will sign the transmittal sheet 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. Sustain Our Great Lakes program RFP

Sustain Our Great Lakes is currently offering funding through its Community Grants Program and Stewardship Grants Program. These programs support habitat restoration, protection and enhancement projects, invasive species control, water quality improvements, and watershed planning and management within the Great Lakes basin. The Requests For Proposals are now available at [www.sustainourgreatlakes.org](http://www.sustainourgreatlakes.org) (Click on Apply). Please consider submitting an application by the October deadlines.-----

## JOBS & POST DOCS & INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCOLARSHIPS and CALL FOR PAPERS

### 1. Sustainability Director, U Texas Arlington

The University of Texas at Arlington seeks to hire a Sustainability Director to direct, manage, and coordinate the University's sustainability efforts and initiatives by interfacing with the President's Sustainability Committee, co-chairs and steering committee, University Communications, other members of the university community, and the public. The successful candidate will initiate and coordinate programs related to utility efficiency and management, carbon footprint reduction, recycling and waste reduction, toxics minimization, campus master planning, sustainable building design and construction, transportation, environmentally preferable purchasing, program management and metrics, and curriculum development. A Bachelor's degree in environmental studies, biology, business, architecture, engineering, or a related field and a minimum of 5 years of relevant work experience are required. The position is open until filled. <http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175386296>

## **2. Sustainability Coordinator, Muhlenberg College**

Muhlenberg College (PA) seeks a part-time Sustainability Coordinator to be responsible for leading the greening effort, connecting stakeholders, and providing continuity and progress. The successful candidate will also coordinate the development of clear goals and assist with integration of sustainability into Muhlenberg's strategic plan; lead the implementation of efforts such as recycling and energy conservation; and develop public programming and outreach related to campus sustainability. While reporting to the Capital Projects Manager, the Sustainability Coordinator will also have close working relationships with the Greening Committee, Dean of Students, and other staff members. A Master's degree or an equivalent combination of academic preparation and work experience in an environmental or related field is required.

<http://jobs.muhlenberg.edu/documents/SustainabilityCoordinator1.pdf>

## **3. Sustainable Technology Research Fellow, Oberlin College**

Oberlin College (OH) invites applications for a position as a Sustainable Technology Research Fellow. The successful candidate will assist in the development of a prototype system that provides city and college residents with environmentally contextualized real-time feedback on electricity and water flows through college, residential, and commercial buildings and through the City of Oberlin. Candidates should be recent graduates with computer programming skills and leadership potential. Applications will be accepted until September 15 or until the position is filled. <http://oberlin-ohio.olx.com/sustainable-technology-research-fellow-iid-40320852>

## **4. Research Chair, Transportation-Land Use Linkages, Concordia U**

Concordia University's (QC) Department of Geography, Planning and Environment invites applications for a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Transportation-Land Use Linkages for Regional Sustainability. The individual should have skills in quantitative and qualitative analyses that could include travel demand modeling or spatial analysis using GIS, social and institutional influences on physical processes, environmental impacts of transportation, and a commitment to formulating and analyzing policies which address problems such as sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions. Ideally, the candidate would be finishing post-doctoral work or already have a tenure-track position elsewhere. All applications should arrive no later than November 2, 2009.

<http://chronicle.com/jobs/0000606204-01>

## **5. 2 Asst Profs, School of Natural Resources and Env, U Michigan**

The School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan seeks candidates, preferably with postdoctoral experience, for two full-time, nine month tenure-track assistant professor positions that focus on the ecological basis of conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources. One position is likely to focus on terrestrial ecosystems; the other will focus on aquatic ecosystems. Successful candidates are expected to establish strong programs of scholarship that contribute to the interdisciplinary problem-focused mission of the School and teach two courses and a seminar per year. Applicants should have completed a Ph.D. in applied ecology, biology, natural resources, or a related field. Review of applications will begin after September 14, 2009 and will continue until suitable candidates are found.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175383966>

## **6. Professor, Environmental Studies, Oberlin College**

The Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the College of Arts and Sciences. Initial appointment to this position will begin August 2010 and will be

for a term of four years. Rank will depend on experience and can range from assistant professor to endowed chair. Candidates should be able to address the relationships between land and people and will explore the interplay between cultural, economic, political and ecological systems in the context of changing demographics and changing climate. The professor will teach the standard course load on campus (currently 4.5 courses per year). Intermediate and upper level courses will be determined based on the particular expertise of the faculty member. Application materials received after the due date of October 23, 2009 will be considered until the position is filled. [http://new.oberlin.edu/home/jobs/jobs\\_detail.dot?id=1339975](http://new.oberlin.edu/home/jobs/jobs_detail.dot?id=1339975)

#### **7. 5 Student Positions, Sustainability Leadership Center, Portland State U**

Portland State University's (OR) new Sustainability Leadership Center is hiring five students for the 2009-10 school year. The positions include: Assistant to Sustainability Leadership and Outreach Coordinator; EcoWiki System Administrator and Communications Liaison; Student Leadership Liaison for Social Sustainability; Student Leadership Liaison for Economics of Sustainability; and Student Leadership Liaison for Ecological Sustainability. A minimum of sophomore class standing and a 2.75 GPA are required. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2009.

<http://ecowiki.pdx.edu/component/content/article/1-latest-news/879-psus-new-sustainability-leadership-center-is-hiring.html>

#### **8. 2nd Annual College FilterForGood Eco-Challenge**

The Brita Products Company invites proposals for its second annual College FilterForGood Eco-Challenge Grant Program. Undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing in an accredited college or university in the U.S. are encouraged to prepare a proposal and budget for a program that is either action-based or will create tangible results in the interest of helping to protect the environment. The program should be initiated and make significant progress towards completion by April 2010. Up to five \$10,000 grants will be awarded. The deadline to apply is October 30, 2009. [http://www.filterforgood.com/ecochallenge\\_form.php](http://www.filterforgood.com/ecochallenge_form.php)

#### **9. U.S citizens Postdoctoral and/or post-masters researchers at Dept. of Energy at the National Energy Tech Lab**

Researchers interested in activities in process simulation and sustainability, Anyone recently graduated or planning to finish up within the next 6 months would be eligible. Contact David C. Miller, Ph.D. at address below:

Collaboratory for Process & Dynamic Systems Research

Office of Research & Development

U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Lab (NETL)

3610 Collins Ferry Road

PO Box 880

Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

#### **10. Environment Ohio Advocate**

Environment Ohio is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. Our professional staff combines independent research, practical ideas and tough-minded advocacy to overcome the opposition of powerful special interests and win real results for Ohio's environment. Environment Ohio is part of a network of 28 state organizations with a vibrant federal advocacy agenda and draws on 30 years of success in tackling the state's top environmental problems. We focus on protecting Ohio's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

The Environment Ohio Energy Advocate is responsible for developing and implementing campaigns to achieve a cleaner energy future. The Advocate is also responsible for growing our organization's citizen base through field organizing as well as building our organizational resources through staff development and fundraising. On a day-to-day basis, the Energy Advocate's work includes: Advocacy, Policy development, Campaign strategy, Field organizing, Media outreach, Staff recruitment and management, and Fundraising. Applications will be accepted through September 4th, 2009. How to Apply: Visit our website at [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/jobs](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/jobs) or email [Careers@EnvironmentOhio.org](mailto:Careers@EnvironmentOhio.org)

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## NEW RESOURCES

### 1. Great Ships Initiative at the Northeast-Midwest Institute

The Great Ships Initiative (GSI) fuses interests, expertise, and resources from the federal government, states, industry, environmental groups, cities, and ports in the United States and Canada, to generate critical information and financial incentives for solving the problem of ship-mediated invasive species.

The Great Ship Initiative (GSI) is a collaborative effort to end the problem of ship-mediated invasive species in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System. Launched in 2006, the GSI's first priority is to incubate and evaluate operational and biological performance of prospective ballast treatment systems at three testing scales: bench-scale, land-based, and shipboard. To that end, the GSI's Land-Based Research, Development, and Technology Evaluation (RDTE) Facility in the Duluth-Superior Harbor of Lake Superior provides state-of-the-art testing services. Laboratory space within the University of Wisconsin-Superior and University of Minnesota-Duluth is utilized for bench-scale tests and analyses. Developers of ballast treatment systems apply for GSI research services online, and awards are offered based on an objective review process. GSI testing will allow meritorious ballast treatment systems to progress as rapidly as possible to an approval-ready and market-ready condition.

[http://www.nemw.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=22:great-ships-initiative&catid=3:current-initiatives&Itemid=164](http://www.nemw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22:great-ships-initiative&catid=3:current-initiatives&Itemid=164)

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## EVENTS & CONFERENCES & CALL FOR PAPERS

### 1. Webinar: Question Hour: Solutions Module & Climate Action Plans

September 29, October 20, and Nov 24, 2009; 3pm Eastern; Online



Clean Air-Cool Planet will host "Question Hour: Solutions Module and Climate Action Plans," a webinar that seeks to help campuses that are planning potential emissions reduction projects. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions that will be answered by CA-CP's Carbon Accounting Coordinator, Claire Roby.

[http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/Webinar\\_Registration/registration.php#aug18](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/Webinar_Registration/registration.php#aug18)

### 3. Webinar: Higher Education and the Stimulus Package

August 25, 2009; 1 - 2:30pm Central; Online

Siemens Technologies invites participants to "Higher Education and the Stimulus Package." The webinar will discuss what money is being made available for construction, modernization, renovation, and repair through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), and State Energy Program (SEP) as well as through other governmental organizations and existing bonds.

[http://www.us.sbt.siemens.com/events/sbt/ACUPCC\\_webinar\\_reg.asp](http://www.us.sbt.siemens.com/events/sbt/ACUPCC_webinar_reg.asp)

### 4. 4th Forum for Sustainability Science Programs

February 18, 2010; San Diego, CA

The AAAS Center for Science, Technology, and Sustainability and the Arizona State University School of Sustainability invite participants to the 4th Forum for Sustainability Science Programs. The Forum is an open, roundtable discussion held each February that aims to stimulate exchange between academic and research programs in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development or "Sustainability Science." The focus of the 2010 Forum will be on "Core Competencies in Sustainability". The goal for the event is to emerge with a vetted set of core competencies in sustainability for each academic level (Undergraduate, Masters, and PhD). The program will also include a networking reception and poster session for sustainability science research. Suggestions for the list of core competencies will be accepted through August 31, 2009.

<http://sustainabilityscience.org/content.html?contentid=2774>

### **5. 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting February 22-26 in Portland, Oregon.**

Over 180 sessions are planned around the theme "From Observation to Prediction in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". Meeting details are at <http://www.agu.org/meetings/os10/>

### **6. Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting Erie, Pa., Sept. 29-30.**

This is a time of many important changes and exciting opportunities for the Great Lakes region. Our annual meeting provides a timely opportunity for the region's policymakers and opinion leaders to review and establish priorities for the Commission. ACTION NEEDED by Aug. 28: Register for the meeting at [www.glc.org/meeting](http://www.glc.org/meeting).

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### **Kick the Disposable Battery Habit**

Americans buy about three billion household batteries (about 10 per person) annually, according to the EPA—and nearly all of them end up in landfills. The next time you need to power up your gadgets, choose rechargeable batteries instead. Unlike disposable alkaline batteries, rechargeable batteries can be reused hundreds of times, which not only saves money and resources, but also reduces global warming pollution associated with battery manufacturing and transport. An independent study conducted for battery manufacturer UNIROSS estimates that using a disposable battery to create 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity has a global warming impact equivalent to driving a car 283 miles; using a rechargeable battery is equivalent to driving 10 miles.

\* Choose an energy-efficient charger. Energy Star-rated models use 35 percent less energy than standard chargers, while solar-powered battery chargers use no electricity at all. For further energy savings, look for a "smart" charger that shuts off when the batteries are fully charged (overcharging shortens battery life). Regardless of charger type, unplug it when it is not being used as it will continue to draw electricity even when not charging.

\* Care for idle batteries. Do not leave batteries uncharged or unused for long periods, which can shorten their life. Remove batteries from infrequently used devices and store away from heat and moisture.

\* Dispose of batteries properly. Rechargeable batteries contain toxic materials and should not be thrown out with regular trash. When purchasing batteries, ask the retailer whether it takes them back for recycling; if it does not, you may be able to bring them to your municipal hazardous waste facility or a local recycling center.

Energy Star—Battery charging systems

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=battery\\_chargers.pr\\_battery\\_chargers](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=battery_chargers.pr_battery_chargers)