

SFI weekly newsletter for the week of September 28, 2009
A weekly service of SFI

SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 3rd Annual D80 Conference, Sat., Oct. 17, 9 am- 5pm
2. Call for Poster abstracts--SFI Poster Session & Banquet Oct 16th at the Rozsa
3. Call for Nominations to become Scholars of SFI
4. SFI Researchers featured in GLIT Report
5. "Global Nature of Lake Superior's Toxicity" at Global City Meeting, Tuesday October 6th, Dillman 214 6-7pm



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

1. Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council issues report
2. Annual Fall Michigan Sustainable Homes & Business Tour October 10 in Marquette

SEMINARS

1. "Biomass Energy: A Criterion for Picking the Right Technology"—Monday, October 5, 3:00 pm Rekhi Hall G006

JOBS & POST DOCS, INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, and SCOLARSHIPS

1. Director of Sustainability, Southwestern Illinois College
2. Dir, Environmental Sustainability, Empire State College
3. Project Coordinator, Sustainability, U Colorado Denver
4. Asst Prof, Sustainability in Urban & Regional Planning, U Buffalo
5. Asst Prof, Green Business, Stony Brook U
6. Asst/Assoc Prof, Renewable Energy, Illinois State U
7. Asst Prof, Environmental Policy, Colby College

NEW RESOURCES

1. Student Research on Campus Sustainability Database
2. Handbook of Sustainability Literacy

Please send announcements of your publications, presentations, awards, events, and names of awarded proposals to Denise Heikinen at dmheikin@mtu.edu.

SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Third Annual D80 Conference on Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The third annual D80 Conference-- "Go. Learn. Contribute. Repeat."-- will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17 in the Memorial Union Ballroom. The keynote speaker is Avery Bang, director of the nonprofit Bridges to Prosperity <http://bridgestoprosperty.org/>. The D80 Conference is a celebration of efforts to solve issues that confront the world's poorest 80 percent. The conference highlights service and research work done by students from Michigan Tech and elsewhere, and is open to anyone interested in international sustainable development work. www.d80.mtu.edu/conference

2. Call for Poster abstracts--SFI Poster Session & Banquet Oct 16th at the Rozsa

The 5th Annual SFI Poster Session and Banquet will be held on Friday, October 16th in the Rozsa lobby. The Poster Session starts at 4:00 with banquet to start about ~6:00. This year there will be 4 awards for best poster, totaling \$475! SFI encourages everyone engaged in sustainability-related projects to submit a poster to the event. Please email a 100 word abstract by October 9 to Denise Heikinen (dmheikin@mtu.edu). For more information, please contact Denise at dmheikin@mtu.edu. To view slides of last year's SFI Banquet and Poster Session, including

names of newly inducted SFI Scholars and menu of sustainable food for the event, please go to <http://www.doe.mtu.edu/news/2008/sfipostersession/index.html>

3. Call for Nominations to become Graduate Scholars of SFI

New Scholars of SFI will be inducted at the upcoming 5th Annual SFI Poster Session and Banquet on October 16th in the Rozsa. Will all SFI faculty members please nominate their graduate students to receive this honor. Scholars Please send their names, departments, and email addresses to Denise Heikinen at dmheikin@mtu.edu.

What it means to be a Graduate Scholar of SFI

The Sustainable Futures Institute serves as a catalyst for increasing the amount of research funding related to sustainability. As multidisciplinary research increases at Michigan Tech, so do opportunities for students to interact across disciplines. When graduate students join SFI, they open their research circles to include faculty and students from many disciplines, giving them the opportunity to view their research from economic, environmental, and social perspectives. SFI Scholars have the opportunity to ask faculty with sustainability expertise to join their committees. Graduate Scholars are also encouraged to participate in the following activities sponsored by SFI: Graduate Certificate in Sustainability, Annual Poster Session and Banquet, Graduate Colloquium in Sustainability, Fall Orientation and Professional Development Activities. Joining the Sustainable Futures list serve at sfi-l@mtu.edu allows Scholars to learn about activities and funding opportunities for Graduate Scholars.

4. SFI Researchers featured in GLIT Report



Michigan Tech's Center for Great Lakes Research

As part of his Fall tour of the state, Matt Roush visited Michigan Tech last weekend to report on its cutting edge research on new technologies, much of it conducted by SFI members. Among the SFI researchers Matt interviewed were Jeff Naber (MEEM), Ann Maclean (SFRES), and Alex Mayer (CEE/GMES), Director of the Michigan Tech Center for Water and Society. Roush was impressed with Tech's efforts "aimed at solving a big chunk of carbon discharges, reviving America's steel and manufacturing industries, boosting our car industry back to prominence, helping keep our forests healthy, providing new sources of fuel, and doing a better job of detecting cancer and find dangerous space junk." For more on his story go to

<http://www.wwj.com/Tech-Tour-Day-Three--A-Tour-De-Force-At-MTU/5310686> .

5. "Global Nature of Lake Superior's Toxicity" at Global City Meeting, Tuesday October 6th, Dillman 214 6-7pm

Michigan Tech alumnus Melvyn Visser will detail the research behind his new book on the global articulation that promotes the continued toxification of Lake Superior. The global implications of global warming have been brought to the forefront and are vigorously discussed. A quarter century ago, PCBs and a set of pesticides were identified as a threat to human health and the environment and banned in the developed world. Their banning was viewed as an overreaction by many and their use continued in the developing world.

As time went on, the capability of these poisons to travel for thousands of miles through the air and bioaccumulate through the marine food web to do great harm to wildlife and the Inuit of the Arctic was recognized. With time it was also found that these chemicals were hormone mimickers and endocrine disruptors, causing widespread human health problems. A "voluntary" global banning effort has focused on DDT and dioxin, while the most problematic chemicals are chlordane, toxaphene, and PCBs. The most toxic fish in North America are the Lake Trout of Lake Superior, and the toxicity source is global pesticide use. Cancer rates in the developing world are eclipsing HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. Isn't it time to discuss and address this problem that is devastating our planet's health and is much more readily solved than global warming?

See global.students.mtu.edu

Interested in joining?

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SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

1. Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council issues report

Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council issued its report to Governor Granholm on Sept. 1, providing a roadmap for the sustainable development of offshore wind energy resources in the Great Lakes. According to the report, 20% or 7,874 square miles of the 38,000 square miles of state-owned Great Lakes bottomlands has a depth of 30 meters or less, which is practical with today's technology for offshore wind development. There are 537 square miles that are considered to be most favorable for the sustainable development of offshore wind energy. The council has identified specific areas and resources that need to be protected by a buffer zone, including a 6-mile buffer for shoreline and a 5-mile buffer for habitats of threatened or endangered species. The Council also recommends a package of legislative and rule changes to help guide the development of offshore wind energy. www.michiganlowcouncil.org

2. Annual Fall Michigan Sustainable Homes & Business Tour October 10 in Marquette

The Michigan Sustainable Homes & Business Tour, sponsored by the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc., will be held on Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am-4:00 pm in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Marquette, Traverse City, Northwest Michigan, Central Michigan and Southwest Michigan. This free, self-guided tour will feature local spaces that are energy efficient, use renewable energy, and feature sustainable building practices. Posting in near future at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

SEMINARS

1. "Biomass Energy: A Criterion for Picking the Right Technology"—Monday, October 5, 3:00 pm Rekhi Hall G006



SFI Speaker Series presents Mechanical Engineer Peter Flynn from the University of Alberta Canada who will speak on choosing the correct technology for biomass energy. Biomass is a carbon neutral potential fuel source for electrical power generation or transportation fuels, each by two routes. This raises the question: what is the object of renewable energy and how does one select the "best technology?" We propose that for all countries focused on greenhouse gas mitigation, the minimum incremental cost per unit of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, in essence the carbon credit required to economically sustain a renewable energy plant, is the most appropriate social criterion for choosing from a myriad of alternatives. Key steps in evaluating the required carbon credit include determining the appropriate scale for a given technology, the avoided carbon per unit of useful energy output, and the carbon credit required to provide an adequate return on investment for each technology. The application of this criterion is illustrated for four processing alternatives for straw/corn stover in central and western North America: production of power by direct combustion and biomass integrated gasification and combined cycle (BIGCC), and production of transportation fuel via lignocellulosic ethanol and Fischer Tropsch (FT) syndiesel. The methodology is

suitable for other forms of renewable energy including woody biomass. The social policy implications of this approach are reviewed. See <http://www.sfi.mtu.edu/news-speaker.php> for more information.

2. "Supporting Sustainable Forest Management with Applied Spatial Information Systems: Applications Across Multiple Scales."

Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Seminar Michael J. Falkowski (SFRES) will present at the Environmental Engineering Graduate Student Seminar at 3:05 p.m., Monday, Oct. 5, in Dow 642. His presentation will be, "Supporting Sustainable Forest Management with Applied Spatial Information Systems: Applications Across Multiple Scales."

1. Director of Sustainability, Southwestern Illinois College

Southwestern Illinois College is accepting applications for a full-time, grant-funded administrative position of Director of Sustainability. The Director of Sustainability will provide leadership in the delivery of programs and services for the College's Sustainability Center. The Director will work in collaboration with SWIC faculty and staff, local government agencies, not-for-profits, and other agencies and organizations engaged in energy efficiency and conservation efforts. The Director will also supervise and provide direct services to residents, businesses, students and others seeking information, resources, and training in the areas of sustainability and "green jobs." A Bachelor's degree in environmental studies or a related field is required. Applications are due **October 12, 2009**.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175391543>

2. Dir, Environmental Sustainability, Empire State College

Empire State College (NY) seeks a Director of Environmental Sustainability to coordinate all of the College's activities related to responsible environmental programs including recycling, education, communication, programming, procurement, and policies. The successful candidate will report to the president and be guided by the Environmental Sustainability Committee. A master's degree in environmental science, public administration and policy, urban planning, or a related field is required. The application deadline is **October 23, 2009**.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175392219>

3. Project Coordinator, Sustainability, U Colorado Denver

The University of Colorado, Denver has announced its initial recruitment for a six-month appointment of a Project Coordinator for Sustainability Outreach in Colorado, with the potential option to extend as the program develops. The Project Coordinator will use UC Denver's water and energy footprinting tools to help Colorado communities and entities in developing sustainability baselines and evaluate costs and benefits of various sustainability actions for the future. Candidates should have good quantitative skills; knowledge of carbon accounting and energy analysis; the ability to oversee student interns; the ability to conduct outreach with Colorado communities and entities; and skills in GIS, transportation planning and database development. Minimum Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Engineering, Environmental Science, Architecture and Planning, or a related field with a specific concentration/focus in Building Sciences, Sustainable Energy, and/or Carbon Accounting. Review of applications will begin October 9, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175392597>

4. Asst Prof, Sustainability in Urban & Regional Planning, U Buffalo

The University at Buffalo (NY) Department of Urban and Regional Planning seeks applicants whose research and teaching interest focus on sustainable development in any combination of the following emphasis areas: urban design, land use, urban form, natural environment systems, ecosystem restoration, public health and wellness, sustainable transportation, and environmental issues in central-city regeneration. A Ph.D. in urban and regional planning or a related field is required. The position is open until filled.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175391828>

5. Asst Prof, Green Business, Stony Brook U

Stony Brook University Southampton (NY) seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Business to teach the issues of sustainability and sustainable development. Qualifications include a doctorate in business economics and/or finance or a related discipline and teaching experience at the college level. The initial review of applications will

begin Fall 2009 and will continue until the position is filled.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175391935>

6. Asst/Assoc Prof, Renewable Energy, Illinois State U

Illinois State University Department of Technology is seeking a tenure-track faculty to provide leadership to ISU's new renewable energy program. Duties will include coordinating the renewable energy program including activities such as marketing and recruitment, curriculum, and course scheduling; working closely with the Renewable Energy Center's staff to develop relationships with industry and external funding for program initiatives; and teaching courses in renewable energy and related fields. The application deadline is October 23, 2009. <http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175391695>

7. Asst Prof, Environmental Policy, Colby College

The Colby College (ME) Environmental Studies Program invites applications for a tenure-track position in International Environmental Policy at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin September 1, 2010. Candidates should be broadly trained in environmental studies with expertise in international environmental policy. Applicants whose policy backgrounds include international environmental politics, environmental institutions, law, justice, or sustainability are encouraged to apply. Candidates should have a Ph.D. and a strong commitment to undergraduate education. Teaching responsibilities will include a senior capstone course in international environmental policy, intermediate-level courses in the candidate's area of specialty including a course in international environmental policy/law, and participation in the team-taught introductory ES course. Application review will begin November 13, 2009, and will continue until the position is filled.

<http://www.higheredjobs.com/search/details.cfm?JobCode=175392436>

NEW RESOURCES

1. Student Research on Campus Sustainability Database

AASHE has launched a database for student research on campus sustainability. The new resource allows users to search research projects by keyword, discipline, administrative department, publication date, paper type, and/or search term. The database is only available to AASHE members. <http://www.aashe.org/resources/student-research>

2. Handbook of Sustainability Literacy

Green Books has published The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy: Skills for a changing world. The 224-page book, edited by Arran Stibbe, provides a reflection on the skills people need to survive and thrive in the challenging conditions of the 21st century. The book covers a wide range of skills and attributes from technology appraisal to ecological intelligence, and includes active learning exercises to help develop those skills. The publication is available online and in paperback.

Interested in joining?

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