

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO

www.western.edu/sustainability

The "Sustainability Update" is a newsletter from the Outreach and Education subcommittee of the Sustainability Action Committee (SAC). Here you will find information on upcoming events, activities, tips and updates on campus sustainability initiatives. We welcome your feedback and ideas. Also, if you're doing something to help promote sustainability at Western, we want to hear about it. E-mail us at sustainability@western.edu.

Earth Week 2011

Earth Week 2011 is a week-long event featuring themed daily events that engage students with the issues at hand and educate them as to the problems and solutions surrounding each issue. Each event provides an educational component and a service component. Each participant will receive a ticket for filling out a survey at each event. Tickets will serve as an entry into the ticketed giveaway held on Friday, April 22 at the culminating Earth Day Celebration. The goal of this week-long event is to create awareness and dialogue around the issues that face us as a local and global community, as well as further develop a culture of responsibility and cooperation in these and all pursuits. The Sustainability Coalition is hosting the events this week; if you have any questions, please email Ian Oster at ian.oster@western.edu.

World Café Summary

On Monday, March 28 the Environmental Studies capstone class hosted the Sustainable Western World Café for a crowd of around 300 students, faculty and community members. The class has been working hard to create a sustainability plan for the campus to achieve the requirements of the Presidents Climate Commitment (which President Jay Helman signed in 2007) and the Environmental



Charter. Students have been working in six groups, representing different facets of the Western campus: grounds, energy, transportation, food, education and material flow. Some of the exciting ideas that have been evolving over the course of the semester include: the real food challenge (20 percent local food by 2020), a campus-wide green purchasing policy, micro-hydro energy production, a bike rental program, native gardens and implementing sustainability into the curriculum.

"Honors Reads" Radio Show Brings New Ideas to Environmental Sustainability

The Honors Program has produced a radio series of book discussions called "Honors Reads," which airs on Saturdays in April on KWSB (91.1 FM). Over the course of five episodes, four Western professors try to convince each other that their book choice is the best one to read about sustainability. The battling bibliophiles are: Paul Edwards, professor of theatre who is advocating Bell Hook's work "Belonging;" Karen Hausdoerffer, adjunct honors and environmental studies faculty member, is promoting Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities;" Maria Struble, assistant professor of politics and government, is arguing for Avishai Margalit's "The Ethics of Memory;" and Heather Thiessen-Reily, professor of history and director of Honors Program, is presenting "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver. "The program is moderated by Wally Lewis, professor of history. The program was recorded and edited by members of COTH 362 with executive producer Terry Schliesman, professor of communication and theatre. The script was written by Thiessen-Reily and the program was inspired by CBC Radio's Canada Reads program. Episodes can also be heard and accessed on the KWSB Web page at <http://www.kwsb.org>.

EARTH WEEK EVENTS

Garden Day

Monday, April 18

Participants will be provided with healthy snacks and participate in a number of service learning activities such as turning compost, mulching walkways and other tasks necessary to develop a healthy garden.

Resource Efficiency Day

Tuesday, April 19

Information tables will be placed around campus to inform students of the issues surrounding resource use. Students will receive a compact fluorescent light bulb and ticket in exchange for filling out a survey.

Public Lands Day

Wednesday, April 20

A locally produced barbeque will be hosted at Hartman Rock's Recreation Area (Buddha's Belly) complete with facilitated hikes, guest speaker Billy Rankin (High Country Citizen's Alliance President) and information tables featuring endangered species of the area (Gunnison Sage Grouse, Skiff Milk Vetch) and LNT ethics. Rock climbing also will be available (shoes and harness provided) hosted by WSC Climbing and WP. The event is from 12 to 3 p.m.

Transportation Day

Thursday, April 21

Starting at 7:30 a.m., tables will be set up at major intersections on campus to provide those using self-powered means (foot, bike, board etc.) with local, home-fried potatoes.

EARTH DAY

Friday, April 22

Earth Day celebrations will begin at 4 p.m. with a group bike ride starting and ending at Kelley Hall. Starting at 6 p.m., there is open mic for environmentally themed performance. Around 7 p.m., the bands (Rusty Cage, Race to Neptune) will begin with one-hour sets each. During set breaks, the ticketed giveaway winners will be announced (must be present to win.) The event will feature booths from environmentally conscious businesses and special interest groups. The education components from the week's events will be on display. The event will wrap up between 8 and 9 p.m.