Sustainability in the News

Michael Hamburger honored by IU Office of Sustainability

The Indiana University Office of Sustainability awarded its inaugural Outstanding Service Award to Michael Hamburger, professor of geological sciences at IU Bloomington. The award honors Hamburger’s outstanding leadership, service and passion as a pioneer and steward of Indiana University Bloomington’s campus sustainability initiatives. Read More >>

IU Office of Sustainability announces internships for summer of 2011

To continue to build on the success of Indiana University’s Bloomington campus sustainability initiative, the IU Office of Sustainability will offer the Summer Internship Program in Sustainability for the fifth year. IUOS addresses issues of environmental, economic and social sustainability in campus operations, academic programs, and university-community relations. Read More >>

IU Office of Sustainability announces two grant opportunities

The Indiana University Office of Sustainability today announced two opportunities in support of faculty research and teaching efforts related to sustainability: the Sustainability Research Development Grant program and the Sustainability Course Development Fellowships. Read more >>

RecycleMania competition comes to IUB for a second round

Once again it’s time to pack up your plastics and accumulate your aluminum. RecycleMania is coming back to Indiana University Bloomington. RecycleMania is a friendly, nationwide competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Read more >>

Zipcar announces welcome back promotion for IU

Zipcar, the world’s leading car sharing service, has announced a special

IUOS celebrates Michael Hamburger’s contribution to the sustainability initiative at Indiana University
IUB achieves STARS Silver sustainability rating

Indiana University Bloomington became the seventh school in North America to report using a comprehensive new campus sustainability benchmark, receiving a "silver" rating. The rating system, called the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), is administered by AASHE. Read more >>

Zimride gains momentum

Since its IU premiere almost nine months ago, the IU Student Association sponsored ride-sharing service, Zimride, has reached more than 2,000 active users, according to a press release Wednesday. Zimride allows IU-Bloomington students, faculty and staff to browse and post shared rides. Read more >>

Office of Environmental Health and Safety Management first IU green team to earn certification

In recognition of its continued efforts to make Indiana University a more sustainable institution, the Office of Environmental, Health and Safety Management (EHS) has been awarded the first level of certification in the Indiana University Office of Sustainability's Green Office Certification program, an accomplishment that highlights the abilities of IU faculty and staff to effect change within their respective campus units. Read More >>

Indiana University Athletics makes strong debut in EPA's 2010 Game Day Challenge

While fans were enjoying a tightly contested football game in late October between the Northwestern Wildcats and the Indiana Hoosiers, IU Athletics staff were busy organizing and overseeing the department's premier entry into the EPA Game Day Challenge. Read More >>

Ostrom makes case for local action on climate change

Indiana University professor and Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom has given presentations around the world about the need for a "polycentric" approach to fighting global climate change, with individual, household and community actions complementing larger-scale agreements. Read More >>

IU Kelley School M.B.A. students advise INdiana Sustainability Alliance on green economic development

Mirroring an approach that Indiana has taken to the life sciences industry, the state's economic development efforts could capitalize on existing clusters of wind energy and automotive-related companies to foster a more sustainable and profitable business environment. Read More >>

Study by IU seminar examines 'social-ecological systems in intentional communities

Groups of idealistic young people settled in the wooded hills of southern Indiana in the 1960s and '70s, establishing "intentional communities" based on reverence for nature and a desire to escape city life. A study by participants in an Indiana University graduate seminar examines five such communities, drawing conclusions about why some have thrived and others have not. Read More >>
Brown to Green
IUOS Celebrates the Contributions of Michael Hamburger

You may have heard geology professor Michael Hamburger refer to the "tipping point of campus sustainability," the point at which a critical mass of people are engaged in sustainability initiatives such that the principles of sustainability become part of the core culture and values of the university. When we reach that tipping point, and some would say that we already have, we will owe much of the credit to a particularly gifted servant leader, Michael Hamburger, the first recipient of the IU Office of Sustainability's Outstanding Service Award.

In his book, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, Malcolm Gladwell defines a tipping point as "the moment of critical mass, the threshold, the boiling point . . . that one dramatic moment when everything can change all at once." Gladwell goes on to state that "The success of any kind of social epidemic is heavily dependent on the involvement of people with a particular and rare set of social gifts."

One of those rare types of people he described as Connectors, "the people who link us up with the world . . . people with a special gift for bringing the world together. They are a handful of people with a truly extraordinary knack [. . .] for making friends and acquaintances." He characterized Connectors as people having social networks of over one hundred people and they have the ability to "span many different worlds [. . . as] a function of something intrinsic to their personality, some combination of curiosity, self-confidence, sociability and energy."

Even before he was co-chair of the IU Task Force on Campus Sustainability, which led to the creation of the Office of Sustainability, Professor Hamburger was involved in campus and community sustainability issues. He was crucial to the Task Force effort as a connector able to "span many different worlds." When the Office of Sustainability formed, Professor Hamburger served again as co-chair of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Board with his knowledge of the people who make things happen on campus and his reputation as an effective leader helped immensely in recruiting board members from all walks of campus life.

As leader of the steering committee for Themester 2010: sustain.ability: Thriving on a Small Planet, Professor Hamburger’s connections to scientists, composers, writers, musicians, dancers, visual artists and other interesting people helped fill the Themester calendar with vitally interesting presentations that filled venues to standing room only. His connections also came in handy for raising money from multiple sources for programs like sustainability curriculum development workshops, sustainability course development fellowships, and sustainability research grants.

As the first Director of Sustainability and a new employee and new resident I have turned to Professor Hamburger on numerous occasions to connect to the people who can make a difference. His patience, sense of humor, kindness and enthusiasm make him a great person to be around. His wisdom, ability to write or speak elegantly on short notice, knowledge of sustainability, balance of tactfulness and advocacy, and his willingness to work into the wee hours for a good cause make him a key leader in Indiana University’s campus sustainability initiatives.

As Professor Hamburger steps down as Co-Chair of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Board to take a sabbatical, we are proud to honor him for his outstanding service, we wish him a safe journey, and we look forward to the time when he returns.

Three Star Sustainability Interns Graduate from IU

The Office of Sustainability has one of the longest standing internship programs in the U.S., and these students are the drivers behind our most successful projects and programming. At the end of the fall semester, IUOS celebrated the graduation of three of our star interns, each of whom have served at least two terms with our program. This article is dedicated to Mckenzie Beverage, Lauren Gersbach and Alex Rekkas’s incredible work on the IU Bloomington campus. Ladies, we'll miss you!

Mckenzie Beverage served four terms as the Energy Challenge Coordinator for Indiana University. This December, Mckenzie graduated with a Master of Public Affairs at SPEA. She has a B.S. in international studies with a minor in communication and culture also from IU. After her first year at SPEA, Mckenzie completed a six month internship at Southface Energy Institute, a non-profit leader in the promotion of sustainable homes, workplaces, and communities. As the annual IU Energy Challenge coordinator, Mckenzie worked to encourage energy and water conservation in a competition among dorms, Greek houses, and academic buildings on campus. Under her tenure, twenty-six Greek houses, twenty academic buildings, and Collins Living Learning Community were added as participants in the competition. Since its inception, the challenge has saved 446,139 KWh of electricity, 613,919 gallons of water, $26,000 in avoided utility costs, and avoided 801,454 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

Lauren Gersbach served for two and half years as IUOS’s Media and Communications Coordinator. Lauren Gersbach began working with IU’s Task Force on Campus Sustainability, and later IUOS, during the Fall 2008 semester, serving as the Nonprofit Service Corps fellow from SPEA. She focused on organizing and promoting IUOS events and programming on campus and in the Bloomington community. Lauren earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry from Butler University in 2007. She then worked with the Bureau of Land Management as a Conservation and Land Management Intern in Grand Junction, CO, before returning to Indiana for graduate school at IU. Lauren graduated in December with both a Masters of Science in Environmental Science and a Masters of Public Affairs at SPEA. Her studies were focused on applied ecology and sustainable development. Lauren authored over thirty-three press releases, and coordinated numerous outreach campaigns to benefit the programming of IUOS.

Alex Rekkas served for three terms as the Utilities Conservation Coordinator. Alex graduated from SPEA with a Master of Public Affairs and a Master of Science in Environmental Science with concentrations in environmental policy and natural resource management. Alex coordinated numerous outreach campaigns to benefit the programming of IUOS.

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resource management and applied ecology. She previously interned at the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago, focusing on energy efficiency issues in the Midwest. Alex holds a B.S. from Cornell University. During her internship with IUOS, Alex assessed water and electricity usage in campus buildings in order to reduce utility consumption. Alex was also instrumental in progress made with the Energy Challenge competition. Her efforts supported the expansion of the academic building competition to twenty participants.

Events, Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

For a complete listing of sustainability events, visit:

http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain/calendar/index.html

$45 in Free Driving with Zipcar Registration

New year, new semester, why not get some new wheels to match? Having a car on campus can be a pain. That is, unless you're a Zipcar member. There are five Zipcars near you, ready to go for an hour or a day whenever you are. And when you sign up now for only $35 and enter the promo code backtoschool2011 before March 1, you'll get $45 in free driving to hit the road after you hit the books, of course. With Zipcar, you get wheels when you want them, by the hour, by the day or by the weekend trip. Zipcar is car sharing, an alternative to car rental and car ownership that gives you the freedom to take a car when you want it, and put it back when you're done. Best of all, insurance and gas are always included. Here's the lowdown on Zipcar membership:

- You only have to be 18+ years old
- Rates start at just $8/hr or $66/day
- Every trip includes gas, insurance and 180 free miles per day
- International driver's licenses are accepted

Sign up now to get wheels when you want them, for less. You'll be zipping before you know it. Already a member? Check us out on Facebook. We'll be giving away some sweet prizes all week.

Research and Teaching Preserve holds workday this Saturday, January 29th

This week we will be heading out to the Griffy Lake section of the IURTP to work on the Deer Exclosure along with a minor project surrounding the classroom pavilion. We would love for you to join us in the beautiful out-of-doors this weekend.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Meet the RTP staff at the edge of the KMart parking lot nearest to Bloomingfoods-East, off of East Third Street/SR 46. We will carpool out to the preserve site and return to the parking lot by the time designated above. The IURTP staff will bring maintenance equipment and work gloves. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and long pants and bring water.

This weekend marks the first of our monthly volunteer days of 2011.

Trashion Refashion Show Call for Entries!

Trashion is the result of creatively turning discarded items into fashion; Refashion is the result of modifying existing clothing into something more fashionable. Design submission deadline is February 1st, 2011.

For more information, email bloomingtontrashion@gmail.com.

The runway fashion show will take place on March 26th, 2011 at the Bloomington Convention Center. The Trashion Refashion Show is a fundraiser for the Center for Sustainable Living, a non-profit community organization that promotes sustainable ways of living in the Bloomington community.

For more information about the CSL visit www.simplycsl.org.

Contact Us

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