



catalyst

for sustainability and environmental leadership

summer 2010

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

WWC's 2010 Sustainability Speakers Series Kicks Off



Lester Brown

Sustainable communities are built upon the shoulders of committed, informed citizens, working together for just and resilient systems. This is a new approach to community development and it requires vision and insight. Inspiration and education are the foundation for the change we seek. The ELC's Sustainability Speakers Series aims to bring leaders who will spark our imagination and compel us to new action. All of these talks are free and open to the public.

For 2010, we're honored to welcome North Carolina's Institute for Emerging Issues director Anita Brown-Graham, who will open our series on September 14th at 7 pm, on campus in the College Chapel.

Since 2007, she has worked alongside state leaders like Governor Jim Hunt to focus citizens from the mountains to the coast on the state's most pressing issues. From energy and climate change to creativity and innovation, Brown-Graham understands North Carolina's threats and its opportunities and works tirelessly to inspire and educate the state's leaders to collaborate on behalf of a thriving and resilient quality of life for all its citizens.

We will then welcome to campus two of the nation's best known pioneers of new thinking about environmental threats – Bill McKibben and Lester Brown. They promote purposeful and informed individual and community action to counter climate change and to build resilience for the generations to come. With new books that call for change – McKibben's *Eaarth... Making A Life On A Tough New Planet* and Brown's *Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization* – these leaders continue to work tirelessly to promote positive action. Bill McKibben will speak on campus October 6th, at 7:15 pm, in the College Chapel and serves as the annual *Headwaters Gathering* speaker (See below).

Lester Brown will speak on November 11th. The *Washington Post* called Brown "one of the world's most influential thinkers." *The Telegraph* of Calcutta refers to him as "the guru of the environmental movement." In 1986, the Library of Congress requested his personal papers noting that his writings "have already strongly affected thinking about problems of world population and resources."

In 1974, Lester Brown founded the Worldwatch Institute, the first research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental issues. One of the world's most widely published authors, among his books are *Man, Land and Food*, *World Without Borders*, and *Building a Sustainable Society*. His 1995 book *Who Will Feed China?* challenged the official view of China's food prospect, spawning hundreds of conferences and seminars. In May 2001, he founded the Earth Policy Institute to provide a vision and a road map for achieving an environmentally sustainable economy.

The spring Sustainability Speakers will be announced later this summer.

WWC, The Wilderness Society, Orion Magazine Partner for Headwaters Gathering 2010

WWC is honored to partner with The Wilderness Society and *Orion* magazine once again to continue the tradition of its *Headwaters Gathering* and build upon the regional momentum generated in 2009 for conscious attention to climate change impacts and new community response in the Southern Appalachians.

Bill McKibben, one of America's best known environmentalists, will serve as the *Headwaters Gathering* speaker for 2010 at the College Chapel at 7:15 pm on October 6. He has written books over the last quarter century that have shaped public perception and public action on climate change, alternative energy, and the need for more localized economies. McKibben is also the founder of 350.org, the first global grassroots climate change initiative which spawned thousands of events in most of the world's nations on October 24, 2009.



Bill McKibben

McKibben's books include his most recent *Eaarth... Making A Life On A Tough New Planet*, *The End of Nature*, widely seen as the first book on climate change for a general audience, and *Deep Economy*, a bold challenge to move beyond "growth" as the paramount economic ideal and to pursue prosperity in a more local direction – an idea that is the cornerstone of much sustainability discourse today.

Mountain Green 2010 Conference June 23 at Warren Wilson College

The 4th Annual *Mountain Green* Sustainable Communities Conference will be held June 23, from 8 am to 6:30 pm, at Warren Wilson College.

Mountain Green is an annual conference of professionals who gather to explore community sustainability and best practices in fields from construction and land management to eldercare and tourism. WWC's Environmental Leadership Center convenes the *Mountain Green* Sustainable Communities Conference with guidance and support from a Steering Committee of diverse community leaders. According to Committee Chair Bob Deutsch, a local attorney, "we're galvanizing a sustainability network to guide responsible development of our mountain region."

The 2010 Conference is aimed at home and community-based health-care providers, aging-in-place advocates, long-term care facility administrators, residential and commercial developers, tourism businesses, planners, designers, and realtors. Speakers, workshops and the vendor expo are focused on sustainable practices for our mountain region.

This year's speakers include Barry Patterson, a consultant grounded in principles of biomimicry and "working at the integration point of sustainability+revitalization." Internationally renowned geriatrician Bill Thomas, who is revolutionizing eldercare. Vladimir Novotny, director of the Center for Urban Environmental Studies at Northeastern University, a leader in community sustainability planning. Robyn Griggs-Lawrence, editor-in-chief of the acclaimed *Natural Home* magazine and author of *The Wabi-Sabi House*. And Kathryn Lawler of the Atlanta Regional Commission and Scott Ball of the Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company architectural firm, who promote design principles that nurture multi-generational communities.

Mountain Green offers CEU's for the NC State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators (4.5), for ECO Consultant through the Asheville Board of REALTORS (4), for Green Professional Accreditation through the WNC Green Building Council (4), and for the NC Board of Architecture (6).

This year's conference Platinum Sponsors include AdvantageWest Economic Development Group and Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

For more information about the *Mountain Green* Sustainable Communities Conference, contact Phillip Gibson at 828-771-3781 or visit www.mountaingreenwnc.org.



WWC student Noah Wilson, '11, visits Mountain Green vendor expo.

Excerpts from the "2010 Mountain Green Conference Newsletter" at www.mountaingreenwnc.org.

Barry Patterson and Andy Lassiter:

"The broad concept of sustainability is the perfect metaphor for establishing and affirming your individual life-affirming niche. By being mindful of natural biological processes, you will find ways to sustain the environment and also your niche in life. The interconnected nature of human civilization and the natural environment require that we embrace sustainability. Incorporating the concept of sustainability will not only help you create a successful business or community, but also guide you along the path toward tangible success and authentic happiness in your life. Your individual work may be measured by your positive impact on future generations, or measured by your own reflection. May you find and live your authentic life-affirming niche in the spirit of seven generation sustainability."

Kathryn Lawler and Scott Ball:

"Communities that do not address the inevitable facts of aging are by definition unsustainable communities that have to be regularly and completely changed out. They absorb high amounts of physical resources in buildings and infrastructure that have to be specially built for an aging population. They waste countless financial resources, both individual and public, as each family has to mount their own war against the environment that no longer meets their needs."

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Comes to WWC

Linda Block, Coordinator
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program



The Lead Crew – Rachel Kivela, Taija Ventrella and Katie Lockier

Lead paint? Didn't we solve that problem years ago? Not really. We removed lead from house paint in 1978 and from gasoline in the 1980s, but this heavy metal persists in our environment – in soil, water, dust and paint – and affects the behavior, IQ, and development of children and the health of adults who ingest or inhale it.

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, now based on Warren Wilson's campus is as relevant now as when lead control policies were enacted. This community outreach program, funded by a grant from the Center for Disease Control, works to proactively promote lead-safe environments for all residents of Buncombe and Henderson Counties through public education, home inspections, and professional trainings. Linda Block coordinates the program with the assistance of a three-person WWC student work crew.

The program offers free lead inspections of pre-1978 homes where children, ages 6 or less, spend or will soon spend significant time, with the agreement that affected children get a blood-lead test. Lead Poisoning Prevention staff conduct educational sessions and trainings in the community for new parents, pregnant women, healthcare providers, real estate agents, property managers/landlords, and renovators/painters and are available to the Warren Wilson community.

If you or your relatives or friends have young children who live in an old home or if there is a chance you bring home lead dust on your clothing from your work or hobby, make the commitment to learn more. Lead poisoning affects adults and is the number one environmental disease for children yet it is completely preventable. Remember, "An ounce of prevention..." Visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~lpp/ for more information.

WWC Wins Award from Carolina Recycling Association

The Carolina Recycling Association has recognized WWC for having the most Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program in the Carolinas.

The centerpiece of Warren Wilson's composting operation is the GreenDrum, a self-contained, in-vessel composter that consists of a chopper/mixer, auger conveyor, electric motor and insulated rotating drum. Specific criteria for the composting award include demonstrated waste reduction; an education component; full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulators; and documented end use of compost accompanied by laboratory analysis of component.

Warren Wilson's waste management program, supervised by Jessica Wooten, began in 1984 with one student who was concerned about the campus waste stream. Today, a crew of up to 25 students is responsible for collecting and managing more than 25 recyclable materials, operating a FreeStore and WoodShop, composting campus food waste, disposing of solid waste, researching and implementing new waste reduction programs, and educating the campus about waste-related issues. For more information on recycling at Warren Wilson, see www.warren-wilson.edu/~recycle.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CENTER

Executive Director
Margo Flood

Community Outreach Director
Phillip Ray Gibson

Education Director
Stan Cross

Administrative Assistant
Ellen W. Querin

2009 - 2010 Student Crew

Amy Wagner, Ansley Rawlins, Barnaby Ohrstrom, Callie Baruch, Carrie Klase, Dave Penketh, Erin Haggerty, Ian Higgins, John McDermott, Kate Grimmer, Lauren Bangasser, Lindsay Loftin, Mark Begley, Nina Otter, Octavia Sola, Rachel Fussell, Abigail Trajtenberg, Elizabeth Creech, Trey Jones

Photo Credits: Arlin Geyer, Ansley Rawlins, Staff

CATALYST

Editor
Margo Flood

Contributing Editor
Kimberly Miller

Contributor
Ben Anderson

Sustainability Internship Program

At the close of each summer, Warren Wilson students return to campus with stories of the extraordinary experience of an Environmental Leadership Center (ELC) Sustainability Internship.

2009 ELC Interns analyzed soil samples at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, relocated sea turtle nests at the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center, and banded puffins for the National Audubon Society. They assisted with the City of Asheville's sustainability initiatives, monitored installations for a solar energy company, and managed data for international climate change researchers at the National Climatic Data Center. According to Ellen Querin, co-coordinator of the Internship Program, "Regardless of the internship site, these experiences are always transformative and educate about problem-solving for sustainable outcomes in a way classroom lessons cannot."

Warren Wilson student Octavia Sola speaks of her internship at the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center at South Island, SC:

The sheer natural beauty of the landscape and wildlife humbled me, deepening my understanding of the cyclical nature of life and energy. While I was here, I decided to dedicate myself to conservation, and channel my energy into actions promoting life and preserving biological diversity. I will continue to be a passionate advocate of bringing all walks of life together to celebrate and conserve the wild places that are essential to our natural history.

The 2010 Sustainability Interns are already in the field, working with mentors to implement sustainable practices. Listen for stories of their field work this fall on the ELC's public radio program, the *Swannanoa Journal*.

For more information about the Sustainability Internship Program, visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~ELC/New_ELC_Website_/internship.php.

Sustainability Internship Partners 2010

City of Asheville – Transit Department
Asheville Design Center
Asheville-Buncombe HUB
Montreat Conference Center
The Nature Conservancy North Carolina – Outer Banks
The Wilderness Society
WildSouth – Forest Watch
City of Asheville – Sustainability Office
City of Asheville – Transportation Office
Audubon Society's Seabird Restoration Program
Black Mountain Community Garden
CooperRiis Healing Farm Community
Dogwood Alliance
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
The Nature Conservancy New York – Long Island
The Nature Conservancy North Carolina – Hickory Nut Gorge
Western North Carolina Alliance
WildSouth – Bankhead Wilderness



2010 Sustainability Interns: L to R (back row) Jessica Schaner, Fern Goodleaf, Dave Grace, Stan Cross (staff), Jeremy Martin, Sam Perron, Grabam Sivak; (middle row) Christine Baumert, Laurel Sindewald, Moriah Tucker, Davey Bar-Shimon, Sam Hyson, John McDermott, Ellen Querin (staff), Madelyn Kenny; (front row) Elizabeth Bonham, Lacey Cunningham, Jess Sutt, Jo Werba, Sabrina Ip, Jenn Wood, Drew Handverger

Missing: Emmet Fisher, Michelle Metzger, Hannab Eisenberg, Katie Locklier

WWC to Partner with Furman University on Sustainability Curriculum

WWC was fortunate to receive a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations in 2007 to support the development of sustainability curriculum that draws environmental issues out of the silo of science and infuses them with a full-cost accounting of causes, impacts, and solutions from a multi-disciplinary perspective. They have recently awarded the College an additional grant to support collaborative work with Furman University to refine this sustainability curriculum and create flexible models that may be adapted by other colleges and universities.

100 Ways to Really Save the Planet

Noah Wilson, WWC '11



On Monday, the 9th of November, I left Warren Wilson for Washington D.C. I was on my way to help save the planet.

To be exact, I was on my way to join a team of World Bank staff and consultants running an event called *The Development Marketplace*, a yearly event to engage thinkers in the developing world to help solve the problems that face them. At *The Development Marketplace 2009* (subtitle: 100 Ideas to Save the Planet) people from communities around the world, threatened by climate change, presented their ideas on how to deal with the effects of temperature rise and swelling oceans. There were 100 innovative, scalable, practical ideas for strengthening communities, environment and quality of life, presented live and via the net to the staff of major international institutions,

particularly The World Bank, and to an audience of thousands worldwide.

What makes this conference so exciting is that powerful international institutions are suddenly recognizing the truth of what social ecologists like Helena Norberg Hodge have been saying for years. Incredible things can come from small, inexpensive, locally appropriate projects – especially when these scalable, broadly applicable solutions are shared with the rest of the world.

My job was to help to share these ideas, which just might help to save our planet one village at a time. Our small team worked through social media, day and night, to get the news out and I witnessed the first signs of a sea change in the way international development aid is administered.

In the past, development agencies have been known for aggressively dictating what policies and reforms are best for the countries they're funding. At *The Development Marketplace*, the Bank and its partners were instead very carefully listening to and engaging in dialogue with the people whom they were charged to help. Those people came to tell them, in no uncertain terms, what was really needed in the communities they had come to represent. And the whole world was tuned in live via webcast, and on social media channels like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

This is radically different – this development in the era of crowdsourcing - transparent and open sourced, focused on local, adaptable, scale-able projects and ideas suggested by the very people who would be most affected by their implementation.

Development projects fail every day because of their lack of appropriateness to the communities and environments implementing them. The best models run very much along the lines of what I saw at *The Development Marketplace*; they integrate local, traditional knowledge with modern technology. If you want a sustainable 21st century, this is how it happens.

Many of the problems faced today are on a global scale; the only way we can solve them is by collaborating globally, acting locally, and sharing our results with everyone.

Headwaters Gathering Videos of Herman Daly, Janisse Ray, Andy Revkin and more

Last year at the *Headwaters Gathering* we focused on climate change in the Southern Appalachians and featured these speakers: Keynote Herman Daly, National Wildlife Federation President Larry Schweiger, writer Janisse Ray, New York Times writer Andy Revkin, activist Majora Carter, coal miner Chuck Nelson, educator David Orr, poet Thomas Crowe and more. Thanks to Western Carolina University's footage, developed with assistance from AB Tech, and WWC student Sam Mershon's uploading, you can now view videos of these talks here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/WarrenWilsonELC#p/u>. Enjoy!



Janisse Ray

Sustainability Speaker Kathy Mattea's Coal Journey

Grammy Award winning singer Kathy Mattea was January's WWC Sustainability Speaker. In her presentation, "My Coal Journey," she told her personal coal story and through music, explored coal's complex impacts on lives of the miners. Mattea performed songs from her Grammy-nominated 2008 release, *Coal*, including "Coming of the Road," written by highly acclaimed songwriter Billy Edd Wheeler who is a Warren Wilson alum.



Kathy Mattea and Billy Edd Wheeler

Campus Greening Seed Grants



Geneva Bierce-Wilson, '10

One small grant can spawn years of sustainable benefit. WWC students have initiated many of the best sustainable practices on campus with Campus Greening Seed Grants. Just last year, the Garden Crew was awarded a grant to install a cistern that harvests rain water from the roof of the greenhouse and delivers necessary irrigation to the plants inside. This is a simple and effective way to improve campus environmental performance that will benefit the campus for years to come.

The Campus Greening Seed Grant program was established by the Environmental Leadership Center in 2000 thanks to the generosity of Chris and Ollie Ahrens. It encourages student-initiated projects that advance the practice of sustainability on campus, demonstrate creative solutions to environmental challenges, and integrate the Triad of academics, work and service.

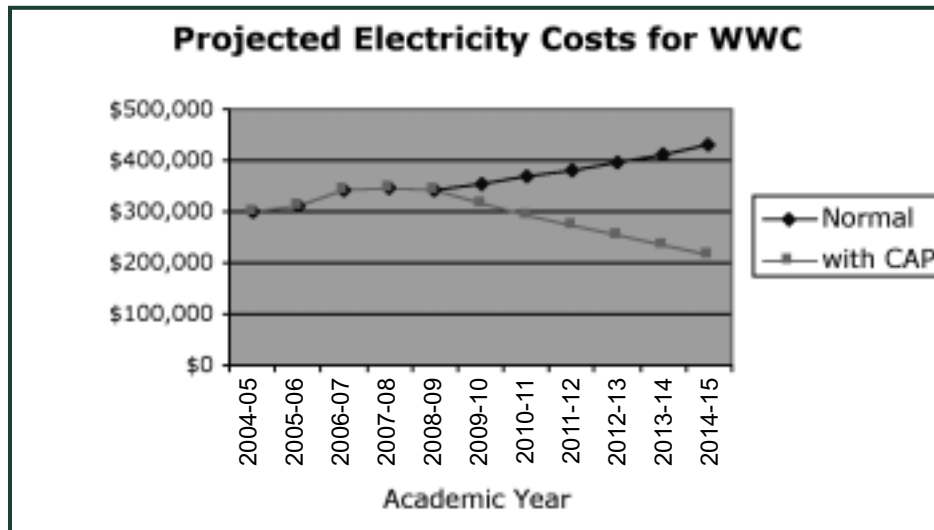
This year's grants were awarded to Lindsay Popper, '10, of the Plumbing Crew, to install shower timers in all residence hall showers that will help to reduce campus hot water use and its carbon footprint. Geneva Bierce-Wilson, '10, of the Recycling Crew will use her grant to install a living, vegetative roof on top of the new cob-construction, composting storage facility. This will be the first on-campus demonstration of living roof technology.

For more information about the Campus Greening Seed Grant program visit www.warren-wilson.edu/environmental/grants.php.



Lindsay Popper, '10

In 2007, WWC's President Sandy Pfeiffer signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The commitment to a carbon neutral campus and sustainability education includes, "We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality." Guided now by a Climate Action Plan (CAP) recorded with the ACUPCC in 2009, the College has set forth a timetable and strategies for achieving greenhouse gas emissions reductions.



It is interesting to note to what degree reduction in energy use means reduction in energy expenditures.

FMTS Tightens the Screws for Climate Action

WWC's Facilities Management and Technical Services (FMTS) continues to support WWC's goal of climate neutrality and has a number of new initiatives planned for the fall.

"What we're doing now is tightening the screws," says FMTS director Paul Braese. "Implementing and improving practices little by little each year."

The Energy Services student crew will complete the Strategic Energy Management Plan this year and set specific goals and timelines for building retrofits; conduct building energy audits to inform the Plan; and build upon the work of WWC alum Gideon Burdick, '10, to operationalize his Real-Time Monitoring system.

The Recycling and Waste Management crew will increase composting capacity with the purchase of a second GreenDrum and the completion of a new, cob composting shed with a living, green roof.

The Lighting Crew will partner with the Energy Services Crew to perform a life cycle cost analysis for LEDs. And Purchasing will develop a system to verify that each department is making purchases that meet LEED criteria.

Visit Facilities Management's website to learn more about their sustainability commitment: www.warren-wilson.edu/~fmts/



WWC's Energy Services student crew is conducting energy audits of campus buildings in order to assess efficiency and plan for retrofits, if necessary, to support the College's Climate Action Plan.

WWC Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 10%

the Climate Action Team

We are encouraged!! Preliminary results show that for 2008-2009, WWC's first full year living into the ACUPCC climate commitment, we reduced our overall campus greenhouse gas emissions by 10.5%. Our greenhouse gas emissions had been on a steady rise since 2004, so this reduction is especially significant. Even though our campus population increased from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009, we reduced our fossil fuel consumption and our greenhouse gas emissions in the following areas:

- Electricity use
- International travel footprint
- Student daily commuting to campus
- Staff and faculty daily commuting to campus
- Campus vehicle fleet use

The complete 2008-2009 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory will be ready by July with detailed data that suggests interesting causes and effects. For now, we celebrate this milestone. Our first reduction ... and a significant one at that!!

For information about WWC's Climate Commitment visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~ELC/New_ELC_Website_/ClimateActionPlan.php.

New Energy and Climate Course Goes International

This past semester, Warren Wilson's chemistry department introduced a new course, "Energy and Climate Change." In addition to a study of the basics, professor John Brock included a service component with the College's INSULATE! weatherization outreach program, guest lectures by many experts in the field, student research projects focused on campus energy and greenhouse gas emissions issues, and, a two-week trip to Iceland and Denmark in May called "Climate Change and Sustainable Energy in Scandinavia."



Offered through WWC's International Programs, and led by professor John Brock, this companion study abroad course delved into Scandinavia's alternatives to fossil fuel consumption and examined the feasibility of a fossil-free nation with a focus on Iceland and Denmark.

Students delved in to why some countries have made more progress toward renewable energy than the US, examined the roles of cultural and political incentives in their progress, and observed how to integrate sustainable agricultural practices with renewable energy.

In Iceland, students visited a geothermal power plant, met with a hydrogen power expert, toured a factory that uses algae to produce power and other agricultural operations using renewable energy. In Denmark, students visited the world's largest biogas digester, toured a co-generation power plant and climbed up a wind turbine. The highlight of the program in Denmark was the stay on Samsø – an energy-independent, carbon-neutral community off the coast.

WWC Solar Array Supports Community Projects

We've put our solar array to work. Thanks to the generosity of a like-minded friend of the College, our array was refurbished, expanded, and grid-tied. With revenue from kilowatts sold to NC Green Power, the 13 KW array will support Environmental Leadership Center community outreach projects that educate and demonstrate that we can, indeed, reduce our oil dependence and our carbon footprint.

EcoTeam Adds Energy and Climate Lessons

Third graders find sun power wondrous. Thanks to a generous grant from Progress Energy, the ELC has added three new lessons on Energy, Climate, and Community Engagement to its eight-lesson, hands-on EcoTeam curriculum. For nearly 80% of the third graders in Buncombe County for whom Warren Wilson student teachers provide EcoTeam lessons, next year's lessons will expand ecosystem understanding to energy use and its impacts on the planet.

Along with the ELC's Education Director Stan Cross, this past year EcoTeam student manager Lauren Bangasser, '10, helped to pilot the Energy lesson in third grade classrooms. She explains,

There are two main parts of the EcoTeam energy lesson. In the first part, the students rotate through four stations that each demonstrates a different type of renewable energy: solar, mechanical, wind, and hydro. At each station, the students must identify what kind of energy is being demonstrated and figure out how to use that energy to power an accompanying device or gadget. The second part of the lesson focuses on solar energy. Students hold a lamp and play the role of the sun to power a light bulb, a sound maker, and a motor. We ask the students to think about what kinds of items in their own homes could be powered by the sun.

I was really happy to see how engaged the students were in trying to figure out how to power the gadgets at the different stations. At the end of the field test lesson we asked the class if they thought we should add the energy lesson to EcoTeam and they responded with a very enthusiastic "YES!" My favorite moment as a teacher during this lesson was when one group realized that they could use the sunlight coming through their classroom window to power the solar fan instead of using the lamp. It was great to see them make connections and apply their understanding.

For more information about EcoTeam visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~elc/ecoteam/.



E C O T E A M

SHIFT THE POWER!



WWC's Campus Greening Crew brings coal to campus to raise community consumption awareness.

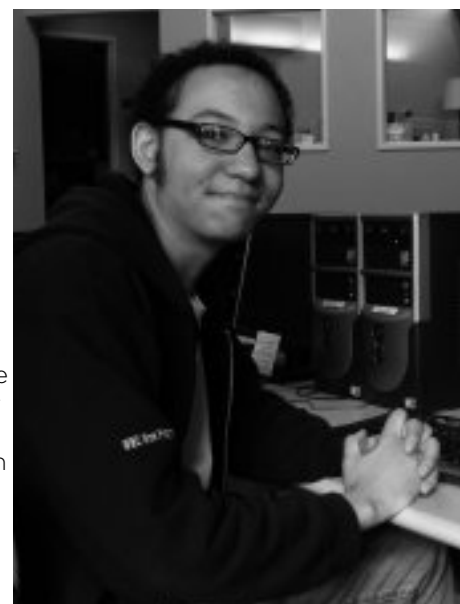
WWC and City of Asheville HERS Partners

WWC and the City of Asheville partnered to offer Home Energy Rater (HERS) Services training programs for City of Asheville employees and WWC students. WWC is now an official HERS training site. WWC students have become certified HERS raters and conduct energy audits for campus buildings.



Computing Services Energy Misers!

Josiah Blocker, '12 (pictured at right) and Alissa Gore, '12 headed a Computing Services Project Team that analyzed computer lab usage to determine how computing habits and computer settings were conspiring to create energy waste. Project goals include creating common-sense energy efficient computing guidelines for the community. According to Josiah, "The way to reduce energy is not through some backwards adherence to our pre-technological past; it is through the further exploration, development, and implementation of more efficient, eco-friendly technologies." Meanwhile, crew member Starke Gardner, '12, is writing software that will log off computers that idle for too long and eventually shut them down to conserve power. The software is beta-testing in the Bannerman lab this summer.



WWC Establishes Useful Forest Plant Plot

In the fall of 2009, sustainable forestry professor Dave Ellum's First Year Seminar created a garden plot of beauty and function. The seminar focused on the identification, uses, and ecology of Southern Appalachian medicinal and edible herbs. In Warren Wilson style, the course resulted in a hands-on project that engaged academics and a work crew in the creation of the "Useful Forest Plant Plot."

"Students from the class contributed to all aspects of the project – clearing the original space, designing the plot layout, planting and developing information sheets," says Ellum.

Seeds and plant material for the project were donated by local growers and collected from the forest. Other materials were provided by the Recycling and Landscaping crews.

While initially conceived as a way to show students the major species of the region all within a single area, Ellum hopes the plot brings awareness of these plants to an even wider audience. "The Southern Appalachians are rich in botanical resources that, if better understood and cultivated, could add to the regional economy. We are dedicated to demonstrating the usefulness and management of these plants to regional forest landowners. If they are cultivated as alternative revenue streams, we will conserve forest land that would otherwise be converted to other uses," says Ellum.

The plants growing in the garden, which is located beside the Library, include goldenseal, ginseng, black cohosh, blue cohosh, bloodroot, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon's seal, yellowroot, galax, mountain mint, American spikenard, wild ginger bethroot, and ramps. These plants have a variety of edible, medicinal, and ornamental purposes. The plot will be maintained by Ellum, his students and the WWC Landscaping crew.

Take A Green Walkabout©

For inspiration and education join us for a Green Walkabout©. Begin at the College's LEED-Gold certified Orr Cottage and go on to the College's sustainable farm, acclaimed recycling center, gardens, and more. Scheduled tours are free and open to the public and when appropriate, custom tours may be designed.

WWC grantwriter Kelly Christianson, who joined the staff in Fall 2009, says the Green Walkabout© was her first in-depth introduction to WWC's sustainability story. "Seeing the Warren Wilson campus through the lens of sustainability has provided an entirely different awareness for my daily life and work," says Christianson. "Students are the engines for this story and their commitment to sustainability inspires me to be more involved."

Contact Stan Cross to sign up for a tour at scross@warren-wilson.edu or 828.771.3782. To learn more about The Green Walkabout© visit www.warren-wilson.edu/elc.

The Green Walkabout© Summer 2010 Public Schedule

Thursday	June 24	9:30-12:00
Friday	July 30	9:30-12:00
Tuesday	August 10	9:30-12:00

Tune In to the *Swannanoa* Journal!

The *Swannanoa Journal* is a weekly public radio program of Warren Wilson College's Environmental Leadership Center. The broadcast focuses upon environmental and sustainability issues that affect western North Carolinians with essays that are written and recorded by WWC students. Topics have ranged from discussions of landslide risks to the health of the Swannanoa River, the discovery of a new species of invertebrate by a WWC professor, and prose poetry about our changing geological epoch. To listen to archived *Swannanoa Journal* recordings, visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~elc/ and link to the site.

Tune In:

Thursdays at 8 pm 88.7 FM, WNCW
Wednesdays at 12 noon 103.9, MAIN FM

We INSULATE!

INSULATE!, a program of the Environmental Leadership Center, aims to help meet the overwhelming energy needs of those living in poverty and reduce the region's carbon footprint. Since its inception in 2007, INSULATE! has weatherized 34 houses in two years, reducing energy bills by about 20% per home per year.

With leadership from a Warren Wilson student work crew, INSULATE! galvanizes higher education, federal and state agencies, private partners and municipal leadership in a collaborative, volunteer-based outreach program. It embodies, in every way, sustainable community action.

"For people living in poverty, their annual energy bill often represents one-third or more of their income. The INSULATE! program addresses this inequity and cultivates an awareness in the community about how we can reduce carbon and improve social justice at the same time," says WWC student leader Ian Higgins, '12.



WWC students weatherize local homes on week-ends during the academic year.

Working with The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc., the Asheville Home Builders Association, the Community Action Opportunities Weatherization program, the City of Asheville, Progress Energy, and Mountain Housing Opportunities Warren Wilson students identify homeowners in need of weatherization assistance, conduct audits, weatherize homes and educate the community about this important work.

Progress Energy Supports BuildINSULATE! Weatherization Workshop at WWC



Nina Otter and Ian Higgins led the BuildINSULATE! workshop.

WWC students Nina Otter, '10, and Ian Higgins, '12, designed and hosted a BuildINSULATE! workshop this past December thanks to a generous grant from Progress Energy. Using the College's successful INSULATE! community-based weatherization program as a model, participants from higher education institutions and state agencies from Georgia to Vermont spent a weekend developing the community organization and technical skills to create weatherization outreach programs in their own communities.

Warren Wilson College staff member Paul Bobbitt led weatherization training, using a campus home to teach weatherization techniques such as air sealing, duct sealing, weatherstripping, caulking, insulating and installing a vapor barrier. Green building consultant Marcus Renner led a session on the whole-systems approach to home energy planning.

Andrew Tate, a student and participant from Emory University, commented on BuildINSULATE!, "Sharing experiences with the other volunteers who came to learn how to implement this kind of program in their community was so meaningful. I will never forget it," says Tate.

For more information about INSULATE! visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~ELC/New_ELC_Website/_INSULATE/Home.

International Programs Focus on Footprint and Sustainability

Naomi Otterness
Director of International Programs

Warren Wilson's commitment to provide experiential learning opportunities that foster international and cross-cultural understanding is mission driven. We regard international programs as an essential component of the College's Triad of academics, work and service. As committed as we are to the positive benefits of these experiences, we are acutely aware of the carbon footprint we incur with this travel.

As a signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, we support WWC's pledge to reach carbon neutrality while retaining our long-standing commitment to inspire the greater sensitivity and deeper understanding needed to formulate solutions to global challenges. Our goals are to mitigate the negative effects of our travel footprint and in so doing, enhance the quality of the international experience and have a lasting, beneficial impact on the lives of our students and the people and places with whom they engage.

To support these objectives, we are active members of international education associations that promote sustainable travel practices and sustainability education and we are signatories of the Green Passport Program – a pledge to environmentally and socially sustainable travel. Through this program, our students may also choose to take the pledge: "... to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of studying, living, working, traveling, or volunteering abroad and try to improve these aspects of my international experience. While overseas, and when I return home, I will do my best to minimize my impact on the environment; act in culturally respectful ways; engage with locals and participate in the local community; and give back to my host community(ies)."

Our mandatory pre-departure orientation sessions educate about the impact of travel and lifestyle practices in our host communities. Whenever possible, we make use of public transportation, incorporate a great deal of walking, hiking, bike travel, or low-impact camping, support local business and service providers, use locally produced products, and meet with host communities to learn about local policies and issues. Some study abroad instructors have integrated the Environmental Leadership Center's INSULATE! weatherization program into their curriculum to offset the carbon footprint of their travel and experience the diversity of culture and need right here in our own region.

International travel has an unavoidable carbon footprint which we've committed to trim in as many ways as we can.

To learn more about WWC's International Programs visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~studyabroad/.

Treehuggers...

For Earth Day 2010, the Warren Wilson community paid tribute to the ancient white oak tree that anchors a favorite meal-time gathering place in core campus. This iconic WWC tree must be felled this summer.



EcoDorm Certification First in Nation

Warren Wilson's iconic EcoDorm, a pioneering model of energy-efficient building design and renewable-energy technologies, has become the first building on a college campus to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental (LEED) Platinum certification in the Existing Buildings (EB) category. Platinum certification is the highest rating level a building can receive under the Design LEED system.

EcoDorm is well-known for its energy monitoring system, which served as the case study for the NC Sustainable Energy Association's successful prompt of the NC General Assembly to enact a law promoting the conservation of energy and water use in college buildings. In 2009, EcoDorm was featured in the September 27, 2009 issue of *The New York Times* Magazine.

"EcoDorm is not just a dorm that happens to be LEED certified," says EcoDorm's Resident Director Dylan Flynn, WWC '10. "Ecodorm is home to a community of conscientious, happy students who are demonstrating an alternative way to live while at college."

EcoDorm joins the Orr Cottage and the Village South and Village North residence halls as LEED certified buildings at Warren Wilson. Orr Cottage, completed in 2005, was the first LEED Gold building on a college campus in North Carolina.

View *The New York Times* Magazine article and slideshow here at www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27Ecodorm-t.html and read more at WWC's EcoDorm website at www.warren-wilson.edu/~ELC/New_ELC_Website/_ecodorm.



Students helped to design, construct and landscape the EcoDorm with permaculture. In this photo from 2002, residents are preparing to landscape the building.

Native Grasses



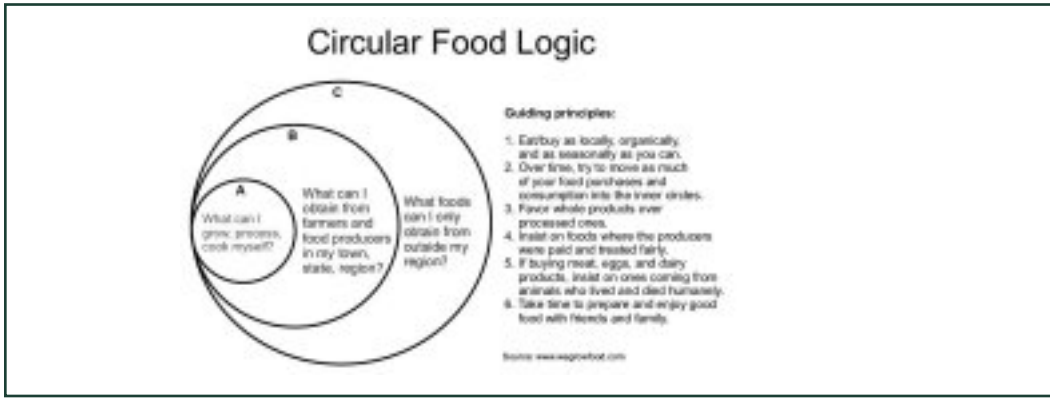
WWC alum Anna Murray, '10 works for the Colleges Landscaping Crew leading the summer's Native Grass Project. She and five other students are planting 30,000 native grass plugs in a new 5 acre nursery on the College's Fortune property. WWC received a \$50,000 contract from the North Carolina Forest Service to grow native grasses from a variety of southeastern seed stock. The goal of the project is to determine which southeastern genotypes (specific genetic origins) produce best here in western North Carolina. The strongest genotypes will provide seeds and plant material for NCFS's regional forest restoration efforts, and for local nurseries, which will in turn supply the private sector with these ecologically important and aesthetically beautiful plants. WWC received this contract because, since 1999, the Landscaping Crew has successfully propagated a wide variety of native grasses and planted them throughout campus. As Landscaping supervisor Tom LaMuraglia puts it, "We won't rest until all unused campus turf grass is transitioned into low-input, biologically-diverse, wildlife-friendly native grasses." Low-input refers to the fact that the acres of native grasses currently on campus eliminate 6 hours of mowing each week, which reduces fuel cost, greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution. Biological diversity and wildlife friendliness result from the variety of grass and flower species and the insects, birds and other animals that thrive in native grass habitat. Tom concludes, "We're out to change people's perception and help them see the holistic value of a wild and native landscape."

New Sustainability Endowments

WWC is pleased to announce the establishment of two new sustainability endowments, thanks to the generosity of a friend of the College who is committed to a coal and oil-free energy future. The Sustainability Scholarship Endowment will provide support for freshmen who have a demonstrated commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility and the Sustainable Community Endowment will support the energy awareness outreach activities of the Environmental Leadership Center.

Sustainable Food Policy Update

Jeffrey McConaughy, Local Foods Crew, WWC '10



Food is the fundamental medium of sustenance, providing bodily nourishment, dignified livelihoods and, perhaps most importantly, a physical connection with the non-human, biological world that is our collective heritage. The production, supply, and consumption of food are also associated with negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts we seek to avoid, ranging from greenhouse gas emissions and the application of toxic chemicals to food security and the erosion of agricultural biodiversity.

President Sandy Pfeiffer appointed WWC's Sustainable Foods Task Force in 2008 – environmental studies faculty, the dean of work, farm and garden managers, and students – to propose policies and strategies to move the College's food system toward sustainability.

Since 2000, when WWC students successfully proposed the vegetarian Cowpie Café, and Sodexo collaborated to add it to WWC's dining venues, the campus has been steadily expanding its local food procurement.

The Task Force, working closely with Sodexo Dining Services manager Brian O'Laughlin, has proposed the WWC Sustainable Food Policy (SFP) to achieve a sustainable food system for WWC.

The SFP proposes access to quality food for all the WWC community. It calls for food choices that require sustainable management of natural resources to ensure their productivity in perpetuity, commits to measure the environmental impacts of purchases from the farm to the table, and contributes positively to economic vitality for local food vendors and their workforce. Tools include a "Sustainable Food Scoring System" to measure progress and guide food purchasing.

For more information about the proposed Sustainable Food Policy and WWC's local food efforts visit www.warren-wilson.edu/~localfoods/home.

U.S. News and World Report Names WWC Eco-Friendly College

Visit this link to view the slide show featuring Warren Wilson among ten eco-friendly colleges recognized in the June 2010 issue of *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best Colleges:"

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/10-eco-friendly-college-campuses/>

Sustainability at Warren Wilson

We acknowledge that a complex web of economic, social, cultural, spiritual and environmental factors determine the well-being of our community.

We recognize our power as individuals, and in community, to influence these complex, interdependent relationships.

We strive to make responsible decisions that take into account the multiple dimensions of sustainability in order to ensure quality of life now and for generations to come.

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These figures calculated using Environmental Savings Calculator at www.menahpapers.com/environmentalsavings. Compared to virgin paper using this paper saved 18 trees, 8,433 gallons of water, 6 mln BTUs of energy (23 days of power for an average american household), 1,751 lbs. of emissions, 512 lbs. of solid waste, 399 lbs. of waste recycled instead of landfilled!

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CPo Box 6323
PO Box 9000
Asheville, NC 28815-9000

www.warren-wilson.edu/~elc/