



WUSM Celebrates Earth Day with Festivities in Hope Plaza

Thursday April 23rd



On Thursday, April 23rd, Washington University School of Medicine will celebrate Earth Day, in conjunction with Farmers' Market in Hope Plaza (rain location: CSRB line).

The festivities will run from 11a - 1:30p. Visit us to learn more about recycling, energy conservation, dining services, transportation, clean air, gardening, water conservation, and much more!

Come and see all of our great vendors, including the Missouri Department of Conservation, Metropolitan Sewer District, the American Lung Association, Ridefinders, Great Rivers Greenway, Bon Appetit, Kaldi's Coffee, St. Louis College of Pharmacy, Micro Grid Energy and more!

Mark your calendars for April 23rd and make a stop in the plaza for literature, giveaways and the ability to talk to the sustainability experts. There will also be a rain barrel demonstration and free bike tune-ups by Big Shark. For the first time ever, we'll also have mini-bikes that you can try out and prizes for those who do!

So spread the word and come to the WUSM Earth Day Celebration in Hope Plaza. If you'd like to volunteer for the event, please contact Michelle Gubin (gubinm@wusm.wustl.edu). Hope to see you there!

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Surplus Equipment & Furniture



Did you know that you can "buy" and "sell" used equipment on a WUSTL website? Resource Management has a surplus equipment page where you can see if another department has something you might need, and you can advertise something your department no longer needs. This site also has a listing of companies that will take donations. So before you contemplate throwing away perfectly good used equipment,

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NEWS



Ameren ActOnEnergy Program

consider giving it a second life through this system. Just follow this [link](#) to get all of the information.



Act*OnEnergy*

Applications for eight buildings at the Medical School were recently submitted to Ameren for inclusion in their Act-On-Energy incentive program. This program provides direct payouts to the University and other Ameren customers for implementing modifications to lighting, heating systems, and air conditioning systems that result in verifiable reductions in energy consumption. In order to receive the payouts, all projects must adhere to the program's rigorous eligibility requirements. Applications for three more buildings will soon follow. These eleven applications were preceded by three approved applications for two other buildings.

It is anticipated that all of the eleven new applications will be approved by Ameren. Added in with the three earlier applications that were approved, the total payout by Ameren to the University will amount to approximately \$351,000.

Participation in Ameren's incentive program, along with energy conservation projects that are conducted independently of the program, demonstrates the

University's continuing resolve to meet its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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Student Lunch Series go Eco To-Go



On February 25, Lindsay Burton and Rachel Corbin (pictured above) launched the use of Eco To-Go containers for student lunch talks on Washington University's School of Medicine campus. Lindsay and Rachel co-lead a student green group on the campus, and last fall, they applied for funding from the Student Sustainability Fund to purchase Eco To-Go containers for students to use at no cost during planned lunch events. Their efforts have enabled students to transition from using disposable containers

to reusable containers and help minimize waste going into the landfill. Lindsay and Rachel coordinate with Chef Todd in the Shell Cafe, borrowing a rolling cart to transport the containers to and from the events.

To learn more about Washington University's Eco To-Go program, click [here](#).

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Recycling the Not so Obvious Items



Wondering what to do with those not so obvious items like batteries and used ink cartridges? Washington University has special procedures for hazardous and nonstandard materials.

Request a pickup by completing the Environmental Health & Safety [form](#) for the following items:

- Rechargeable and Nonalkaline Batteries: Battery casings should be intact and free of leaks
- Electronics, Appliances, and Cell Phones
- Light Bulbs and CFLs: Pack light bulbs in advance

- Enamel and Acrylic Paints
- Unwanted Glues, Sprays, Poisons, and other Hazardous Chemicals

The following materials require other procedures:

- Return empty Ink and Laser Toner Cartridges to office staff to be recycled by Office Max
- Discard Sensitive Paper Documents in the locked Shred-It security container
- Non-rechargeable Batteries and Empty Latex Paint Cans go in landfill bins

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Help Us Achieve Zero Waste at Commencement



Washington University diverted 1,140 pounds of material from landfill through green waste stations at Commencement on the Danforth campus last year. This was the first year composting was introduced at Commencement, and the green waste station approach enabled us to compost and recycle up to 95% of material, significantly reducing landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Without these stations, in the past, we typically captured less than 25% of the event waste.

This year, the green waste station tradition will carry on to help us once again achieve a near zero waste event. Commencement receptions for 8 colleges (Architecture, Art, Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, Law, Social Work, and U College) will occur on Friday, May 15th throughout the course of the day. A total of 17 green waste stations will be installed at the various receptions and **we are seeking a team of volunteers** to manage the stations and ensure that waste is sorted properly and kept out of the landfill. If you'd like to volunteer, even if just for an hour, please complete the form located [here](#). We appreciate your time and know that you will find it a fun and rewarding experience!

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April is Active Transportation Month



Car-Free Month is now **Active Transportation Month** – we not only want people to leave their cars at home; we want them to lead healthy, vibrant, active lives. Active Transportation Month is a time to get more active in your daily routine. If you cannot imagine going car-free, consider carpooling or budgeting time to try transit one or two days during the month. If you are an everyday cyclist, try and commit to going grocery shopping or getting to and from the laundromat on two wheels. Whatever your commitment to active transportation is today, we ask that you step it up during the month of April!

Keep an eye out for these upcoming events:
Fri. April 17, 7-9a – Breakfast for Bikers at Kaldi's on Demun
Thurs. April 23, 11a-2p – WUSM Earth Day including farmers market, games, and bike tune-ups

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Profile of an Active Commuter, By Ken Zimmerman Jr.



Are you tired of sitting in traffic or concerned about the efficiency of driving to work in a single occupancy vehicle? There is a better way.

I started commuting by Metro in May 2013. I was concerned about emergencies, and for good reason, because a year later I received a call from my wife who was having a stroke. Fortunately, she arrived at the hospital in time to make a full recovery. Like every other day since May 2013, I took the first Blue Line train to the Shrewsbury Station and met a family member who took me to the hospital. If the family member did not live close by, I would have arranged for a taxi to meet me. I got to the hospital no later than if I were to drive, perhaps even faster considering rush hour. I was thankful I commuted on that day because the stress I was under would have made me dangerous to other drivers on the road.

I still commute by public transportation today. The decision on how to arrive at work is a personal one every community member must make for themselves. If you have thought about commuting in the past, I would urge you to use your U-Pass for one week to commute to work. With Active Transportation Month underway, now is the time to give it a try! If you are anything like me, you will wish you made the switch three years earlier.

I would be happy to hear about your experience with active commuting, feel

free to email me at zimmermk@wusm.wustl.edu.

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LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Burlington Raises the Bar on Energy



Burlington, Vermont, the state's largest city, recently became the first in the country to use 100 percent renewable energy for its residents' electricity needs. In a state known for socially conscious policies, the feat represents a milestone in the growing green energy movement. NewsHour's William Brangham reports on the implications for the country's green movement [here](#).

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California Running out of Water



Governor Jerry Brown imposed mandatory water restrictions for the first time on California residents, businesses, and farms, ordering cities and towns in the drought-ravaged state to reduce usage by 25%.

The 25% cut in usage amounts to roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water (an acre foot of water equals about 325,000 gallons) over the next nine months, state officials said.

"This historic drought demands unprecedented action," Brown said, standing on a patch of dry, brown grass in the Sierra Nevada mountains that is usually blanketed by up to 5 feet of snow.

For the full story click [here](#).

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France Mandates Green Roofs, Solar Panels



Roof tops on new buildings built in commercial zones in France must either be partially covered in plants or solar panels, under a law approved on Thursday.

Green roofs have an isolating effect, helping reduce the amount of energy needed to heat a building in winter and cool it in summer.

They also retain rainwater, thus helping reduce problems with runoff, while favoring biodiversity and giving birds a place to nest in the urban jungle, ecologists say.

The law approved by parliament was more limited in scope than initial calls by French environmental activists to make green roofs that cover the entire surface mandatory on all new buildings. The Socialist government convinced activists to limit the scope of the law to commercial buildings.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS



St. Louis Earth Day Festival
Sunday, April 12, 10a-6p
Muny Grounds, Forest Park

Join in this community tradition to learn about sustainable products and services offered by local businesses and organizations, meet area non-profits that share Earth Day values, catch local musical acts and performance art, participate in a number of hands-on educational activities, and enjoy diverse cuisine featuring local, organic, vegetarian, and vegan options. The festival is free and open to the public, bring the entire family rain or shine!

For more information click [here](#).

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The Office of Sustainability newsletter is intended as a clearinghouse of sustainability-related news and events at the university, in the region and around the world. Listings in the newsletter do not necessarily represent Office of Sustainability endorsements or views. To submit an event or news item to include in the newsletter, [email sustainability@wustl.edu](mailto:sustainability@wustl.edu).

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