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the  
**GREEN  
OBSERVER**

**YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLICATION ON CAMPUS**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

SUSTAINABILITY IN LINCOLN HALL  
ILLINOIS GREEN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL UPHEAVAL IN D.C.  
CAMPUS BIKING MANNERS  
& MUCH MORE!

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# THE GREEN OBSERVER

[greenobservermagazine.com](http://greenobservermagazine.com)

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR **andrew nowak**



Surfing through my internet news sources this week, I came across a story about the Marshall Islands and the United Nations. The story was about how the Marshall Islands were trying to get the U.N. to consider climate change as a threat worthy of being discussed in the U.N. Security Council. Whether or not the U.N. acts on this, it is most certainly a big issue for the Marshall Islands, and other islands as well.

Islands are interesting because they are basically small stages where we can watch effects that occur every day seem much bigger. For instance, I would rather be in Florida when a hurricane hits than on Guam. So when it comes to climate change, we should be seeing the effects of it on these smaller, more vulnerable nations first.

The problem is, I have never seen specific data from any scientific projects or studies on these islands. It's not that I don't believe these island leaders and people that their water levels are rising, but when you want people to act on your worries, it helps when you show them your work. In general, having science on your side can only help your argument; people can ignore it, but it will never hurt you.

This article was very similar to the actions of the then-President of the Maldives, who was working within the U.N. to act on climate change. They also claimed that water levels had been rising, and the video in the movie was pretty worrisome. These countries are not very far above sea level. But that movie and this article, and all claims by these defenseless island nations, would be even harder to ignore with the data. For the sake of making a difference, I hope this is something that all scientists, leaders, and activists, always do, no matter what the topic. It is hard enough to find these articles, it may be that the data is even harder to find online, or is simply not available.

So for the sake of the islands and people I enjoy and dream about during every math class, let's get the science out there.

Enjoy this brand new issue of the Green Observer, our new staff worked very hard on it. Look forward to our Earth Week issue.

Have a good Unofficial,  
Andrew Nowak

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# LINCOLN HALL RENOVATIONS

by K.E. Halfaker

According to the university's web page titled, "The Lincoln Hall Project: A Gift for the Ages," renovations on Lincoln Hall began at the end of March 2010. The building's long awaited modernization has, since fall of 2012, come 'full circle.' In an interview with Assistant Dean M. Tomaszewski, G.O. investigated to understand what sustainability measures had been taken in the renovations, and about the LEED gold certification process.

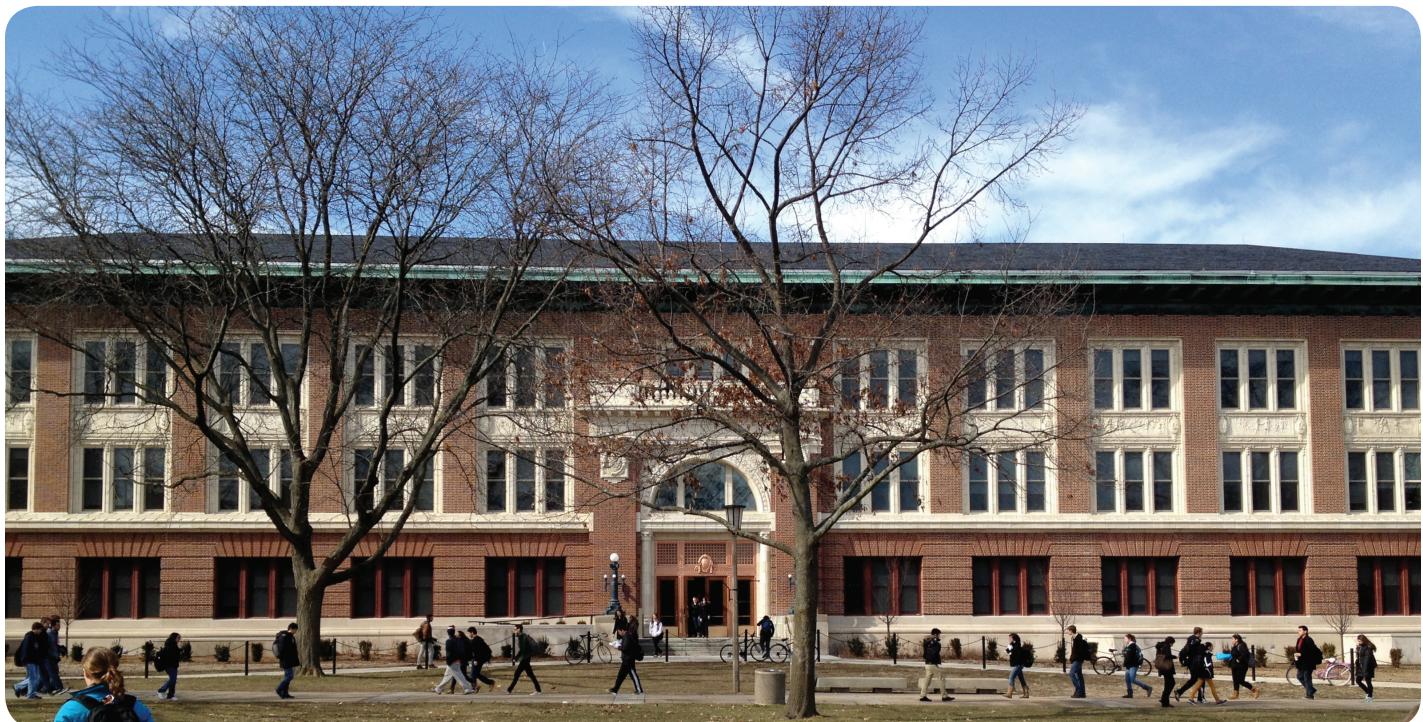
**GO:** *How was Lincoln Hall in disrepair before the renovation?*

**Assistant Dean M. Tomaszewski:** Lincoln Hall, which was first dedicated in 1913, had not had any major capital renovations since the completion of the theater addition in 1931. All of the building infrastructure was due for an upgrade, to include electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, life safety, and technology measures. The classrooms were in poor condition and not conducive to a variety of instructional techniques. The goal of the renovation was to address each of these concerns while applying sustainability standards.

**GO:** *How exactly have the renovations been beneficial, with sustainability in mind? What marked improvements have been noticed, and verifiably deemed evidence, of the necessity for Lincoln Hall's renovation?*

**Tomaszewski:** As an example, prior to the renovation consistent temperature control was difficult at best. It was not unusual to find classroom windows open in the middle of winter because a room had become too hot due to the antiquated heat distribution and control systems. We now have consistency in temperature control, with rooms maintaining a defined temperature range. The system controls are automated to respond to room use, so energy efficiency is achieved.

**GO:** *In an article on the university website, it reads, "The U.S. Green Building Council created the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System in 1998 to encourage environmentally sustainable buildings. Planners hope to obtain a "gold" level certification at Lincoln Hall through measures such as installing low-flow water fixtures and new heating and ventilation systems, using*



low-emitting paints, sealants, carpets and wood, adding individual lighting and heating controls, using recycled and regionally manufactured building materials, creating shade to reduce the exterior's "heat island" effect, and other measures. LEED Gold is the University standard for its building projects, effective 2010, which is an example of the campus's commitment to sustainability. LEED Gold exceeds the governmental building code requirements for minimum energy efficiency." Of these, how many have actually been implemented?

**Tomaszewski:** Each of the items you have listed is included in the renovated facility.

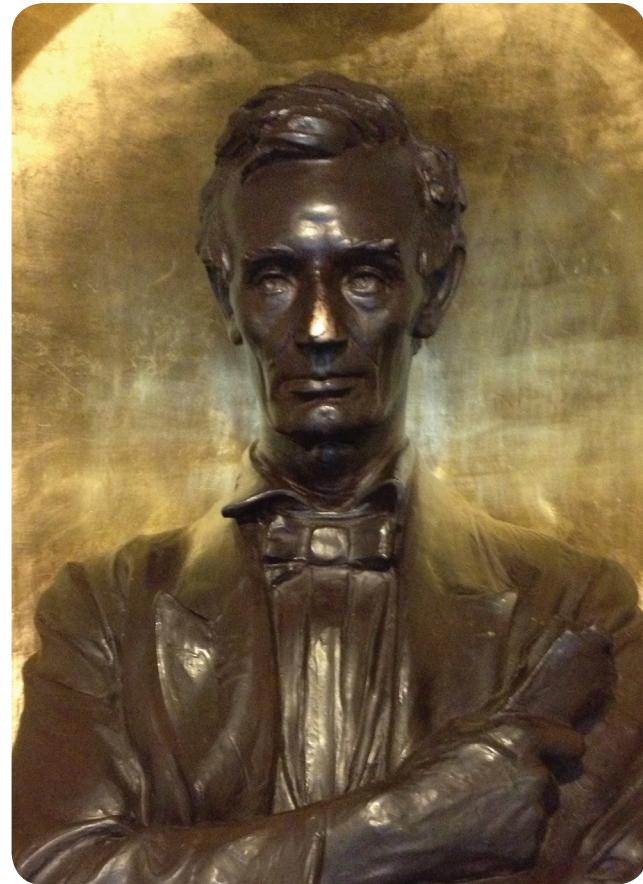
**GO:** Is Lincoln Hall currently considered a LEED Gold building on campus, or is this a certification in progress?

**Tomaszewski:** The certification is in progress at this time.

**GO:** Because the university is so committed to sustainability projects and research, would you say that Lincoln Hall is an example of that effort- and a justifiable one? Do you believe that the money it took to bring about the renovation was, to be trite here, money well spent? Or are there other efforts, other forms of research that maybe should have (or could have) taken precedence? Given that the estimated cost (after the State contributed) was roughly \$6,096,000 from the University's budget, would you say that it was a lucrative and necessary investment?

**Tomaszewski:** Yes, in my opinion, Lincoln Hall is an example of the university's commitment to sustainability projects. The design and construction efforts emphasized sustainability measures with the goal of LEED gold certification. As you probably know, Lincoln Hall is one of the most heavily used classroom buildings on campus with about 13,000 students attending class in the building each semester. In fact, it is estimated that almost every undergraduate attends at least one class in the building during his or her years at UIUC. Given the heavy instructional use, plus the building's use for other events- including registered student organization activities- the renovation was a necessary and wise investment.

In addition to Lincoln Hall being restored and enlivened, the English Building has been given some much needed attention. During the fall semester, the computer lab was



remodeled, and the exterior walls of the basement were treated to help prevent water damage. Because the portion of the building workers were fixing-up above ground was located where the computer lab is situated, it was of the utmost importance to take care of it quickly for safety reasons.

Also, the water damage was beginning to create an atmosphere certain bugs- such as house centipedes- love to revel in. They had to seal and repair the base of the building; however, some trees which were lined around that side of the English Building had to be cut down, and the dug up grounds added to the annual hunger plight of indigenous squirrels (who tend to bury their nuts around the trees, before winter). During a short conversation with Deborah Stauffer in the English Building Main Office last year, it was learned that due to UIUC's policies, trees will be replanted, hopefully come spring or summertime.

Both projects have become testimony of the university's efforts to innovate with safety and efficiency being a prime focus, while also maintaining a respect for the environment.

# ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

by Abigail McEwen

image by Madeline Schuette

Sometimes it seems that everything around me is poisonous. The produce I consume is drenched with pesticides, the water bottle I drink from contains suspicious phthalates and plasticizers, and the fish I eat contain dangerous levels of heavy metals such as mercury. And what of my natural surroundings? Trash litters the ground, smog fills the air, and water systems are polluted with everything from oil slicks to old pharmaceuticals. As a biologist studying environmental toxicology, I find myself almost constantly thinking about how these toxicants affect my health and the health of the world that surrounds me. Is everything really out to kill me? And what should I be doing about it?

Environmental toxicology seeks to answer these questions through the study of toxic agents negatively affect the health of living organisms. This highly interdisciplinary field encompasses biology, chemistry, and environmental sciences and intersects with major areas of law and policy. Ecotoxicology, a subset of this large field, investigates these same concerns at the level of the population or ecosystem. Modern environmental toxicology began a little over 50 years ago, when Rachel Carson published Silent Spring and the world began seriously considering the pollution and environmental harm caused by widespread pesticide usage.

Since the birth of this field, researchers have devoted serious efforts to investigating and understanding the ways that the toxicants of our modern world affect human and ecosystem health. At the core of these investigative studies lies one of the fundamental questions of environmental and sustainability sciences: how can I protect and preserve my environment. The result of this curiosity is data crucial to environmental and public health management.

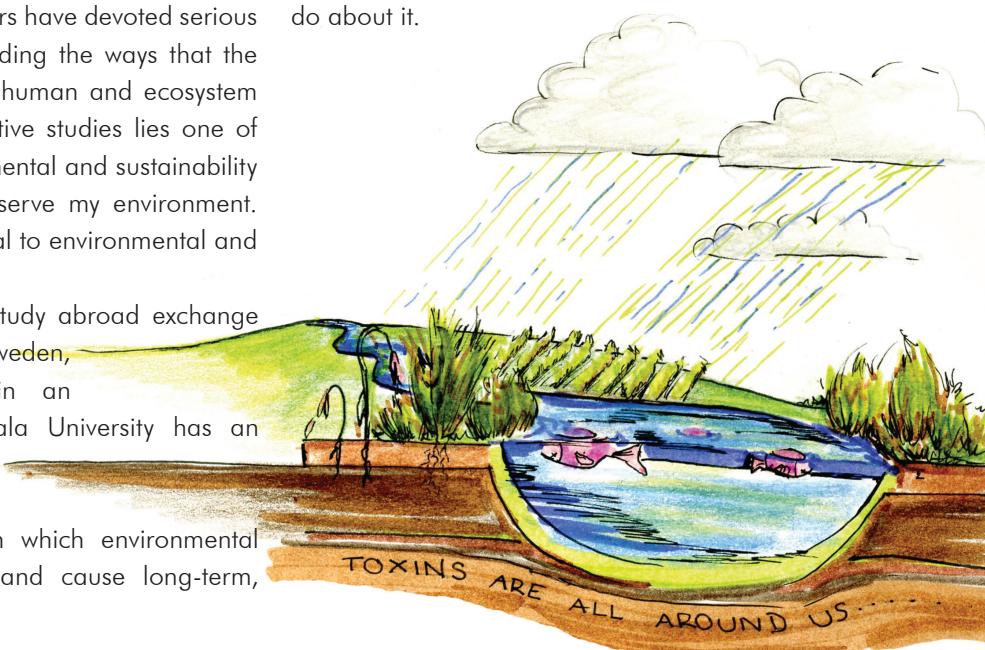
I gained this curiosity while on a study abroad exchange program at Uppsala University in Sweden, where I worked as an intern in an environmental toxicology lab. Uppsala University has an entire department dedicated to environmental toxicology research.

Here, researchers study the ways in which environmental pollutants disrupt cellular functions and cause long-term,

negative health effects. Scientists here use birds, fish, and amphibians as models to understand how different toxicants of interest affect development and cellular processes. Other researchers seek to improve methods involved in monitoring toxicants in the environment.

While the University of Illinois does not boast an entire department, environmental toxicology still has a major presence on our campus. Several classes in toxicology are offered. Dr. Bettina Francis, whose research focuses on pesticide usage, teaches "Environmental Toxicology and Health" and "Pesticide Toxicology" during spring semesters. For those interested more in human health effects, there are classes in "Basic Toxicology" and "Systems Toxicology". Graduate level students have even more options, thanks to the "Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program" run through the VetMed School. Upper level classes in environmental perspectives, law, and policy also provide an opportunity to explore the non-scientific issues of this field.

So, regarding my earlier question, I will leave you with the words of Paracelus, who seemingly invented toxicology when he uttered "the dose makes the poison". Everything around us is indeed poisonous. As future environmental stewards, it is our responsibility to determine what that means and what we can do about it.



# "CHASING ICE" HITS THE ART THEATER

by Madeline Schuette

"Chasing Ice" documents photographer James Balog starting his Extreme Ice Survey. The survey used time-lapse cameras to show how far back seasonal ice has been receding over the past several years. Overall, the documentary is about the personal journey of Balog and his quest to help get real data out on climate change.

The 2012 documentary, directed by Jeff Orlowski, shows Balog receiving surgery while passionately continuing to work with other crew members on checking cameras and getting shots across the Arctic tundra. What comes out of Balog's years of hard work is the evidence that we, as a planet, need to get to work. He talks about wanting to be able to tell his children that he did all he could to work towards fighting climate change and the diverse affects it could have on the human race.

Balog's Extreme Ice Survey was inspired by his first trip to these glaciers. It was on assignment for National Geographic magazine, with his photographs gracing the cover of the magazine. The Survey included 27 cameras all around the world, from Alaska to Greenland. In most of the locations, it was the rate at which the ice was receding each season that was really concerning to the scientists.

The Extreme Ice Survey continues to work on the issue and live telecast can be found on Balog's project website.



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# IGBA: GREEN BUSINESS INITIATIVES

by Catherine Kemp

The Illinois Green Business Association is a non-profit organization founded by University of Illinois graduates that helps businesses become more environmentally friendly through a certification process.

The staff includes Cassie Carroll, executive director, Mara Eisenstein, director of marketing and special projects, and Anthony Santarelli, director of program development.

They met as undergraduate students in Students for Environmental Concerns, an RSO associated with the YMCA. Their passion for recycling in the community led them to form CORE—Community Organized Recycling Efforts—in 2008. Prior to that year, there had been no program in Champaign or Urbana for recycling in apartments. Thanks in part to their efforts, there is now a multi-family dwelling recycling program.

CORE eventually received a Building a Lasting University Environment (BLUE) grant from Facilities and Services. They created a program called “Greening Green Street” that helped various businesses on Green Street become more environmentally friendly.

After the success of that program, the members of CORE learned about other green business programs and set out to create their own pilot program. A model for their new organization was found in a program based in the Bay Area of California. Carroll, Eisenstein, and Santarelli adapted that model of seven certification categories to their current checklist of nine categories for businesses in the Champaign-Urbana area.

According to their website, the mission of the IGBA is “to achieve a healthier and cleaner environment by educating businesses on integrating environmental responsibility into daily operations and practices in a manner that is sustainable as well as profitable.”

The three main facets of IGBA are green business certification, business services, and public education and marketing. Last fall, they held the first Green Business Summit, where green businesses came together to share new ideas.

A typical certification process can take anywhere from two months to one year depending on the level of motivation of the business. The process begins with a checklist assessment to see what green measures the business is already taking and

what more they can do to improve.

The checklist includes nine categories: energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, pollution prevention, transportation, landscape, general employee practices, purchasing, and community development. A number of Green Management Practices (GMPs) are listed under each category. A business must implement or meet at least 50% of the GMPs in each category to achieve certification. For example, one GMP under the purchasing category is to substitute at least 50% of applicable products with recycled content items.

Businesses often receive an energy audit from the Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistance Center. IGBA staff then assists the company by finding resources. Since “greening” a business can be expensive in the short run, applications for incentive programs are made. Businesses are required to show proof of the improvements they have made. This proof can include pictures, receipts, and more.

Once a business is certified, it receives a label to attach to the front door of their business, acknowledgement on the IGBA website, and a public marketing campaign that includes a press release and networking events. Business-to-business (B2B) mentoring is another aspect of the process that IGBA hopes to grow.

The benefits of green business certification are quite clear. In the long run, becoming more energy and resource efficient can save a lot of money for a business. In addition, it is becoming clear that businesses that demonstrate environmental stewardship have a marketing edge over other businesses in a community.

That's Rentertainment is one local business that has benefited greatly from IGBA's services. According to their website, That's Rentertainment reuses and recycles whenever possible, uses only fluorescent lighting, installed a programmable thermostat with temperature setbacks, and turns off equipment when not in use.

Certification goes beyond simply improving energy efficiency, water conservation, etc. Some of the Green Management Practices mandate community involvement through mentoring programs, educational seminars, and sponsoring community

events.

The IGBA staff has also adopted this practice. Staff members have remained very involved on campus and in the community. Since 2009 IGBA has been a partner with several Learning in Community classes. They regularly employ student interns from the university.

In the near future, IGBA hopes to extend their services to businesses all over Illinois and create a solid network of green businesses. Park Forest, IL has recently contacted IGBA about creating a certification process to be adopted by businesses in that community. Another new aspect of the organization will be self-certification via the website.

## THE ECONOMICS OF BEER BREWING

by Eric Green

There are two sides to this topic: the individual investment necessary to make beer and the macro picture of competing breweries with overall consideration to the market. In this article, I'll explore some of my thoughts on how they are related.

When starting to brew, one must consider the capital investment necessary to start. It's actually not that high; you need a large pot, a carboy/fermenting bucket, bottles, caps, a capping tool, and maybe some tubing to siphon with. You can start brewing with under \$200 worth of investment. After all that, your variable costs are those of the ingredients: water, energy, malted grains, hops, and yeast. When I'm asked how much a five gallon batch of beer costs, I usually estimate it at about one dollar per beer. I exclude the fixed costs of the equipment, and the energy and water. I also exclude the amount of time necessary to make the beer. It's a hobby for me and something I get a benefit from beyond the beer. I'll come back to the small scale brewing after a brief discussion of large scale brewing.

Since economics is the topic of discussion, why are macro brews (such as Miller, Budweiser, etc.) so cheap? Part of it is the economies of scale: larger capital

investment allows for greater volumes of beer, larger networks of distribution, and established sources of inputs. Then there is market domination through advertising and name recognition. This market domination began alongside prohibition, wherein only a few breweries survived that period. Now there is a source of cheap beer that has consumer recognition; it's no wonder macro brews are as popular as they are. From the environmentalist standpoint, I haven't done my share of the research to find out what these companies' track records are. I also have not studied the issue to determine if the economies of scale are more environmentally friendly or not. I can comment on the fact that a majority of the macros use corn and rice as their primary grain and sugar source. Also, these beers aren't "local".

I use the word local loosely, but also to imply a greater significance. With the acceptance of neo-liberal economics, culture and local economies have taken a back seat to efficiency. We've come to accept that cheap goods are preferable to our neighbor's job and that quantity is preferable to quality. The macro brews are not going to be pushed out by micros any time soon, mostly because it is difficult to service an entire community

without having a significant capital investment. Try to imagine the amount of beer that Champaign-Urbana drinks in a weekend, and then the brewing facility necessary to supply that. I would estimate that Destihl and the Blind Pig Brewery supply about 1-2% of the beer demand for Champaign-Urbana. Part of the reason for that is the expense of the beer.

I am not really sure I am trying to advocate for one thing in particular, so much as providing the reasoning for my answer to the question: how do we get volume up and costs down in local beer production? My thought is a brewing coop. It's not a new or novel idea. It addresses the need for more volume by providing a space for any person to practice this art. It reduces costs by having shared capital costs, along with the opportunity to purchase in bulk. Volunteers can share their experience with newcomers, reducing the "transaction cost" of entry. I've been volunteering at the Bike Project for a year and a half, and I see many of their successes as translating to this idea. I don't have a business plan for this, and there are certainly many more legal issues to work through than for the Bike Project. But I do like dreaming...



# RETHINKING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

MENDELSON

by Olivia Harris

The bigger picture of sustainable agriculture.

What should sustainable agriculture look and sound like? This was the question posed by Charlie Arnot, CEO of Center for Food Integrity, in a presentation to the ACES 199 Sustainable Food Systems class on January 24.

"There is a great deal of consumer concern and confusion about the term sustainability and what does the term 'sustainable' actually mean," said Arnot, "At times it has become synonymous with low environmental impact or minimal environmental impact systems, which is a great place to start, but it is just a starting place."

Sustainability, Arnot pointed out, has more to it than natural resource management. In his eyes, sustainable agriculture is that which is ethically grounded, scientifically verified, and economically viable: big words that mean agriculture needs to do the right thing by the planet and its people while using science to provide an adequate supply of food and a profit for the farmer.

With this in mind, Arnot believes that agricultural intensification, that is, producing more product on less land with fewer inputs, is the "right approach" to achieving sustainable

agriculture. Agriculture intensification is made possible in most cases by advances in technology. An example given during the lecture was that the electronic milking machine allowed a dairy farmer to milk his cows two to three times a day, instead of just once by hand.

It is easy to believe that scientific innovation will allow intensified farming to generate higher income for the farmer. This takes care of two of the three parts of Arnot's definition of sustainability. Ethical grounds, however, are a much greater sticking point. Ethical grounds involve risk assessment for environmental responsibility and human health; issues which are rooted in individual values.

"You have to balance [intensification] against one or another potential impacts. [Concentrating] the ability to take advantage of a resource also concentrates the risks. We have to be willing to have the conversation about trade-offs."

Arnot's presentation concluded that agriculture will be sustainable as long as people are willing to talk about the pros and cons, lefts and rights, and the back and forth of ethical issues within agriculture.

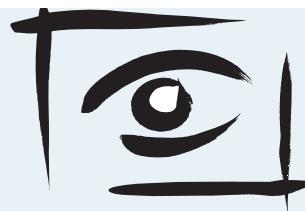
"People [want] the food systems to operate in a way that

gives them a certain level of trust, that they can trust the food is going to be safe and that it was produced in a responsible manner. And then the conversation or debate begins over how do you define responsible..."

Having meaningful conversations may be easier said than done. Partisan groups holding passionate viewpoints on a variety of topics are digging in to do battle over consumer opinion. Agricultural and consumer-based nongovernmental organizations and non-profits attempt to help consumers make smart choices regarding food through educational material and scientific research. Unfortunately, everyone seems to have science on their side, as different studies on the same topic often come to different conclusions. An information war has broken out and consumers are caught in the crossfire of agriculture defending itself from attacking interest groups.

Arnot would rather see discussion involving listening and talking on both sides of the table, rather than a marketing competition.

"We aren't having a meaningful conversation. We'd like to see something more productive in terms of a willingness to engage."



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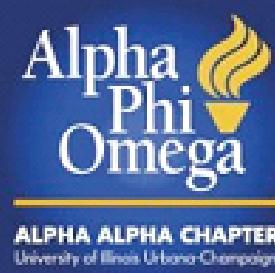
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Questions? Email Maria Jolly at [maria.o.jolly@gmail.com](mailto:maria.o.jolly@gmail.com)

# ENVIRONMENTAL CABINET SHAKE-UPS

by Andrew Nowak

Three of the main departments integral on creating U.S. environmental policies are experiencing leadership changes going into the President's second term. Here are brief profiles on the three outgoing leaders and one that President Obama has already nominated as a replacement for Secretary of the Interior.

## Steven Chu – Secretary of Energy

Chu is the first person ever to serve as a cabinet member and be a Noble Prize science laureate. He is a physicist from the University of California at Berkeley.

Under his leadership, Chu brought in others from academia and beyond to work with ARPA-E, a government program that works on scientific and technological advances, and was approved by Bush and funded by Obama. Many of their current projects are related to improving American energy.

Chu also played a role in the stopping of the Gulf oil spill. He worked with other federal scientists to approve a solution for BP's spill. He kept the public informed on what he was doing during this time.

"After the science team reached a consensus that the static kill attempt could work with minimal risk, we gave BP the go-ahead to proceed. During the static kill, the damaged well was filled with mud, stabilizing the pressure within the well and relieving a lot of the excess pressure on the damaged blowout preventer and ceiling cap. I am pleased to tell you that it was completed successfully."

Chu has been working with the administration to expand the green energy economy. His "SunShot Initiative" began working on lowering the cost of solar power down to one dollar per watt.

Along with supporting renewable energy sources, Chu also has supported nuclear power. One of his department's achievements was getting the Obama administration to secure nuclear materials that were vulnerable to terrorists. A nonbinding pledge was made with some other countries and they all agreed to secure their loose nuclear materials by 2014.

On February 1, Chu released a farewell statement to his department, summing up their accomplishments and why he

was leaving.

"I would like to return to an academic life of teaching and research but will still work to advance the missions that we have been working on together for the last four years."

Besides working on renewable energy and finally stopping the Gulf spill, Chu has been remembered by some of those he has worked with for his straight-forwardness and his sometimes self-deprecating sense of humor. When a reporter asked about the looming sequestration by the Congress, Chu began talking about carbon sequestration. He then admitted that this was just yet another example of how big a nerd he was.

## Lisa Jackson – Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Jackson had worked for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an engineer and at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection before President Obama nominated her on December 15, 2008. She has a degree in chemical engineering from Tulane University and a Master of Science degree in chemical engineering from Princeton University.

Action on climate change became a goal for the EPA under Jackson. On January 7, 2009, she said that findings on greenhouse gases have shown they endanger the health of the American public, which makes it a job of the EPA to help fix. She has defended this expanded viewpoint given to the Clean Air Act under the Supreme Court decision Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency in 2007. This led to new vehicle fuel economy standards.

"Today's endangerment finding provides the legal foundation for finalizing the recently proposed clean cars program," Jackson said. "That program was developed in collaboration with the American auto industry and other stakeholders, and contains the nation's first ever limits on greenhouse gas emissions from American vehicles."

She was also involved in the Gulf oil spill, helping determine the effect of the spill on surrounding natural systems. Her approval of BP's use of the oil dispersant Corexit was criticized due to the effects it itself had on the environment, as well as the fact that some other dispersants are less toxic and more

effective.

Jackson's last weeks at the EPA were scarred by the illegal use of an email account under the name "Richard Windsor". The reason for using a second email address is not clear, but it is clear it is illegal under federal law. Her opponents suspect the worst, but the American public may never know what is in the emails, since the FOIA has some specific rules which the government can use to retain even requested information, such as emails relating to the formulation of policy.

Her resignation has been claimed to be due to Obama's allegedly upcoming support of finishing the Keystone pipeline, her email investigation, or to her, to pursue a new track and be with her family.

#### **Ken Salazar** – Secretary of the Interior

Congress confirmed Salazar, whose appointment required a "Saxbe fix" due to his currently serving as a U.S. senator at the time, on January 20, 2009. Starting his position the same day President Obama was beginning his own, Salazar's first task was to address scandal at the Minerals Management Service (MMS), where he warned the workers at the Denver headquarters that "there's a new sheriff in town".

Employees of the agency, which looked after the nation's oil and gas reserves, were in trouble after a federal investigation found them accepting sex, drugs, and money from the representatives of energy companies in royalty-in-kind programs. Salazar had said that this was a good example of the "cozy relationship" between the regulators and the regulated.

Another challenge for Salazar was the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill on April 20, 2010. One of his responses to the spill was to reorganize the MMS into the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. Several safety measures were neglected by the organization prior the spill and they also hadn't required BP and other oil companies to get required permits from the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration to drill in the Gulf.

Salazar organized a group of leaders of technology and drilling companies in order to work on a solution to plug the oil spill. He also placed a moratorium on offshore drilling that was lifted in October 2010.

Leaders of the oil industry were against new safeguards he enacted after the moratorium, but there were actually a

few more rigs working then than there had been in 2009. Environmentalists mostly thought there were not enough new regulations following the spill.

While the oil and gas industries were saying he wasn't doing enough for them, environmentalists were also taking issue with some of his decisions.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) kept on Salazar about opening up northern Alaskan reserves and the Arctic Ocean for drilling. In order to do his research, Salazar visited Alaska several times, flying about the land with Murkowski. He even slept in an Inuit village while getting the points of view of the native people. Salazar ended up opening half the petroleum reserve for drilling.

Besides the scandal, oil spill, and Alaskan drilling, Salazar added seven national park units and ten wildlife refuges.

He had started working on big plans for solar energy plants on public lands out west.

Land and water disputes between the government and Native Americans were finally addressed by Salazar, with billions of dollars and huge amounts of water being given to several western tribes.

By pleasing both sides, Salazar has been called by many in recent articles summing up his term, as being moderate and fair.

He is leaving his positions as Secretary of the Interior to be with his family in Colorado.

#### **Sally Jewell** – Secretary of the Interior Nominee

Jewell, currently the chief executive at Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), is President Obama's nomination to replace Salazar.

REI, a company that sells clothing and gear for the outdoors, has done a fair share of environmental work. In 2012, it donated nearly four million dollars to improve the very paths and parks its equipment is used on. It also uses renewable sources of energy for 20% of the power used in its stores.

President Obama publicly thanked Salazar and introduced Jewell at a White House address on February 6, 2013.

"She knows the link between conservation and good jobs," Obama said. "She knows that there's no contradiction between being good stewards of the land and our economic progress, that, in fact, those two things need to go hand in hand."

Jewell has a degree from the University of Washington in mechanical engineering, a background in business and as an engineer at an oil company, and is also an advocate for the outdoors and conservation.

# GIY: GREEN IT YOURSELF

## RECYCLED CAN LANTERN

by Cait Gallagher



Unofficial comes but once a year,  
Drinking and waste abound, oh dear!  
What to do with those empty beer cans you say?  
Reuse them in crafts and read along this way!

If your Unofficial festivities are anything like the norm, your place of residence will be littered with cans of various beverage types come the end of the weekend. While most of you green-savvy people will simply recycle your cans, why not use them for a fun repurposing craft instead? A neat and fun craft to do is to make mini lanterns that can be used all year round, while simultaneously reminding you of all of the fun and shenanigans that occurred on Unofficial.

**STEP 1:** Gather as many cans together that you would like to use. Remove the tabs from the top and thoroughly rinse out the cans.

**STEP 2:** Carefully use box cutters to cut off the top of the can. Once the top is off, give the can another rinse for good measure.

**STEP 3:** Fill the can all the way up with water and place in the freezer.

**STEP 4:** Once the water has frozen, grab a hammer and a nail and begin to make tiny holes all over the can in patterns. The frozen water makes the can easier to make holes in, as it does not allow the can to give way when making the holes.

**STEP 5:** Once your pattern is complete, allow the ice to melt.

**STEP 6:** Insert a tea light into the can, and light it up!

You now have a beautifully homemade, Unofficial-themed lantern. Not an Unofficial frequenter? No problem. Just use a soda can instead and enjoy a more G-rated decoration. Either way, you'll wind up with something beautiful out of what was going to be recycled. Happy Unofficial!

# HOW TO BIKE AND BE LIKED

by Cait Gallagher

It will soon be that time of year again, when birds are singing, leaves are budding, and the cold weather is beginning to creep away. And just as the number of people on the Quad will increase, so will the number of bikers around campus. Sometimes the 4-5 month period of decreased bike use/hibernation causes many to forget the rules of the road, in which case a gentle push towards proper bicycling practices is in order.\*

First and foremost, bikers need to remember that if they want to be respected on the road, they need to respect others. Bikers do not have the ability to ignore lights or stop signs, or any other road rules for that matter. Bikers are to follow the laws of the road just like cars, which means stopping at a 4-way stop, waiting for the light to turn green to cross a busy intersection, and yielding to pedestrians. Sometimes we tend to cheat these rules, and somehow rationalize that we can cross because "no one is coming", or "this light is taking forever" or "I run this road dude, I'm a bike." These are all moot points. If a car had this mentality, the streets would be in disarray.

A second bicycling practice to remember is to use the bike paths. They are there for a reason, which is to bike on them. Not to ignore them and bike on the sidewalk next to them. What would the point of that be? To those who do use the bike path, bravo! You are saving walking pedestrians from fearing for their lives by a two-wheeled monster barreling through hoards of people. As for the pedestrians who choose to walk on the bike path (primarily on the path on the north side of Green Street right by the Engineering Quad YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE): BEWARE. You are putting your own life and the bikers' life at risk. So don't look offended and shocked when I shout at you when you're in my path. I am riding on this 1 foot-wide bike path in order to give you the entire 7-foot wide sidewalk to yourself.

Finally, please pay your entire attention to the road. That means no headphones on while biking and, most importantly, no talking on your cell phone. While it may not be against the law for bikers in the state of Illinois, listening to music is hazardous as you might not be able to hear what is going on around you. If you are simply not able to get where you're going without listening to Justin Bieber, Selena

Gomez, or your Podcast about the journey of the Bieber/Gomez relationship, then at least use one headphone at a time. This is still not the best scenario, but at least you'll be able to hear what's going on around you better than you could before. As for using your cell phone, I think this one is self-explanatory. I think your conversation can wait the 10 minutes it is going to take you to bike somewhere. Don't put the lives of yourself and others in danger so you can gossip with your best friend about Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez.

\*DISCLAIMER: I myself am an avid biker. You'll see me whizzing down Green Street or the South Quad any day, so this article is in no way angry sentiments towards those who choose to bike. However, the majority of us bikers around campus seem to be under the impression that we run this campus. This is simply a reminder that no, we are not the alpha males in these parts. Buses might be, as they have the power to squish us, but it is definitely not the bikes of the road. The hierarchical order of transportation around campus does not rank "bike" at the top of the pyramid, and we all should do well to remember it.



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