

# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

October 2011

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO

[www.western.edu/sustainability](http://www.western.edu/sustainability)

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

## **FREecycle — NEW & IMPROVED**

America is obsessed with consuming; everyone always wants to have the "hot new items," but what happens when those items aren't so "hot" anymore? The tendency is to toss it and get a new one. A day or two later, the trash gets picked up and the once precious item is never heard, seen or thought of again. Realizing that this is an opportunity to educate our students about the story of our stuff, Western's student sustainability coordinators have brought a new twist to our trash with the Freecycle program. Freecycle is an opportunity for students and community members to donate unwanted and usable items, while at the same time find a new treasure. Emily Virzi, Emily Lenney, Maddie Rehn and Katie Martin coordinated with Facilities and Residence Life to secure a location in Ute basement to house their free store. At this point they have exchanged everything from kitchen ware, Halloween costumes, furniture, decorations/art, clothing and more! Also, in an effort to keep the inventory robust and serve the community, they have been collaborating with Gunni folk to gather remnants from yard sales.



*A Freecycle Room has been set up in Ute Hall for students to discard and discover used furniture, clothing and other items at no charge.*

Come check out FREecycle in the Ute basement (entry via the Mountain Rescue door.) Freecycle is open Monday and Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday from 1-3 p.m. Everything is totally FREE!—Emily Virzi

### **OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:**

- Attend the "Do It Yourself" workshop on Nov. 15 in Ute Hall at 8 p.m. Faculty member Steve Griggs will be speaking about how he has made dumpster diving a profitable endeavor and his definition of the 3Rs.
- If you have any unneeded professional clothing, Mariah Green with Career Services is collecting items to give to students who need them for the interviewing process and their post-graduation adventures. Items can be dropped off in Taylor Hall 302.
- GEAR SWAP: ROE 398 Program Planning students are hosting a Gear Swap on Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. in the College Center South Ballroom. The proceeds from the swap benefit the Mountain Roots Community Garden. Contact: [recycleyourgear@hotmail.com](mailto:recycleyourgear@hotmail.com)
- Is your club looking for volunteer hours? The recycling bins on campus need to be repainted and Facilities is hoping you can help out! If you or your club is interested, please contact [recycling@western.edu](mailto:recycling@western.edu) for more details. Clubs must notify us by Nov. 2 and must have the bins painted by Nov. 16. Paint will be supplied by Facilities.
- The LEAD Office will be hiring new student sustainability coordinators. Any interested students should email Sara Phillips at [sphillips@western.edu](mailto:sphillips@western.edu) for more information. Please help spread the word.
- Coming Spring 2012—RecycleMania.....

## **Simple Tips**

- Shorten your shower! Every minute you cut from your shower is roughly five gallons of water. The less time your shower takes, the lower your impact on the environment. Try taking a "Navy shower" by shutting off the water while soaping up and shampooing.
- Just simply changing your print margins to 0.75" may result in up to 4.75 percent paper savings.



## **Headwaters Recap**

The theme of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Headwaters Conference was "Small Steps, Big Stories: Climate Solutions in the Headwaters." This three-day conference, held at Western, addressed local solutions to climate change in the headwaters communities of the Colorado River. Western was honored to have Winona LaDuke as the keynote speaker on Friday night. LaDuke is the executive director of Honor the Earth, ran as Ralph Nader's vice presidential running mate, and is an author and advocate for native communities. The conference also showcased environmental filmmakers Melinda Lavin and Western's own Jack Lucido on Saturday night. Their films were a collection of stories from cattle ranchers who were practicing holistic ranch management. In addition, an expert panel presented the audience with their own climate solutions, community members took conference attendees on tours throughout Gunnison, and Enrique Salmon put on a workshop called "Finding the Story." Throughout the conference, both the attendees and presenters shared powerful stories about their communities as well as stories about their own steps toward climate solutions. —Emily Lenney