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CWRU's Office For Sustainability E-Newsletter

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Sustainable CWRU

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Green Your Lab

The Office for Sustainability is conducting a pilot of our new Green Your Lab Program this summer. A team of five students are administering audits to several of CWRU's 1,300 labs. They are assessing factors such as recycling and source reduction, energy use and other sustainability topics. Lab managers or another representative complete an online checklist and the auditing teams install energy use and other monitoring sensors to help determine how each lab can reduce its environmental footprint. Labs that complete the requirements and go through the process will be certified gold, silver or copper. The student audit team provides a short educational presentation and full report to each participating lab on their findings with suggestions for improvement. Shariq Ali, a CWRU masters engineering student, helped to refine the the program and has been leading the student team of Maria "Leonela" Mora, Ethan Pickering, Noor Najjar, and Mohammad Hossain. If you are interested in getting your lab certified, email sustainability@case.edu.

**Local Green Events**[Rain Barrel Workshop](#)

Friday, July 31

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Brooklyn City Hall

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Monday, August 3
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Great Lakes Brewery

[Fuel for Thought:
Waste Management and
Biodiesel Production](#)

Friday, August 14
7:30 am - 9:30 am
Cleveland Airport Marriott's
AMP

[Earth Day Coalition
Alt-Fuel & Bike Sunset
Cruise-In](#)

Friday, August 21
5:00 pm - 9:00pm
Edgewater Park

[Drink Local Drink Tap
Beach Cleanup](#)

Saturday, August 29
Edgewater Park
August 21, 2015
August 21, 201



SURES Students

Every summer, a number of CWRU research hungry students participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research in Energy and Sustainability (SURES) Program, by the SOURCE office. This year, 12 students are enrolled. Students gain important research experience, network with professionals and participate in field trips. Discover more about each of their 2015 [research projects](#) on our blog. Pictured above are some of the SURES students and guest getting a tour of the [Oberlin College Adam Joseph Lewis Environmental Center](#), one of the country's first advanced green building examples.

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CWRU Participates in Emergency Energy Reduction

For several years, CWRU has participated in a voluntary energy reduction initiative to help prevent large scale electrical blackouts similar to the [2003 incident](#) that shut down the grid for much of the Eastern Seaboard. To prevent future, wide-spread electrical failures, power grid operators have launched programs to balance electricity loads. If power demands approach potentially dangerous levels, grid operators may call for a power-reduction event

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Join The University Farm's CSA!

There are still time and shares available at [The University Farm's Community Supported Agriculture \(CSA\) Program](#) this summer! Pick up at the Farm or on campus. Shares run \$25 per week.

reducing energy usage. You've probably seen emails or articles in The Daily warning of upcoming curtailment test events or actual calls for action on hot Summer days. When a curtailment event is called, it's important for the CWRU community to turn off any unnecessary equipment. For example, if you have access to daylight, you could turn off your office lights, turn off TV screens or computer monitors that aren't in use, elect to use the stairs instead of elevators, turn off personal fans or speakers, etc. Of course we'd like for individuals and business units to always try to reduce unnecessary energy usage to reduce pollution, save resources and reduce our campus utility bills. Thanks in advance for your conservation efforts.



Farewell, Gene!

Congrats to Gene Matthews on his retirement! Gene is a great sustainability champion on campus and will be sorely missed! Celebrate with him by reading his [Five Questions story](#) in the Daily. Chris Wilson will be taking Gene's place as CWRU's Director of Facilities Services. There's one last chance to toast or roast Gene on Monday, August 3 at the Jolly Scholar from 5:00-7:00pm.



Bike to Work Raffle Winner

Congrats to Charles Greathouse for taking away a \$100 gift certificate to a local bike shop at our Bike to Work Day raffle! Thank you to all those who cycled to work on Bike to Work Day - as well as throughout the year!



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Tip of the Month: Composting

Composting your plant based food scraps and garden/ yard waste could decrease the contents of your landfill trash bin by 20%. It's not a hard practice to undertake and will produce a rich fertilizer for your garden. Learn more on [our blog](#).

Don't Fill the Dumpster, Donate Instead!

This month on campus, some great donations were made to local charities instead of sending useful items to the landfill. [Habitat for Humanity's Restore](#) benefited from four library tables, five study carrels, five tables, 20 chairs and two racks from the Calvin Smith Library. The Sears Grab-It donated two large food coolers to the [Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry](#). The Office for Sustainability was able to facilitate both donations so contact us at recycle@case.edu if your office has items you no longer need as well.



National Bike Challenge

[Cleveland](#) is leading the competition against [Pittsburgh](#) in the Rust Belt Battle over which city can ride the most miles this season! [CWRU's National Bike Challenge team](#) has far surpassed their goal of



RTA Discounts for CWRU Employees

As part of the President's new employee benefits initiative, campus employees making less than \$50,000 can get a 50% discount on RTA bus passes for the 2015-2106 year. Each employee who takes full advantage of the passes and only uses

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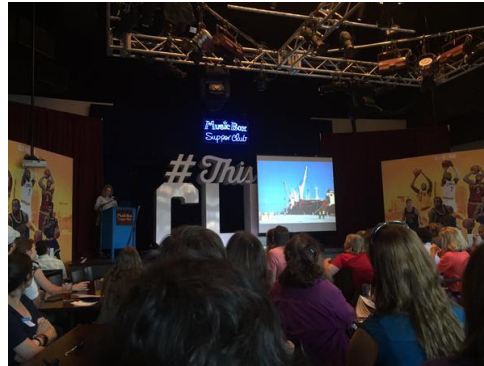
1,000 miles by riding over 21,000 so far! Join the team to add your miles to the collection.

the bus for their 20 mile commute will save about 56 metric tons of CO₂e instead of driving their car with average gas mileage. Learn more about how to get your pass from both the [Daily article](#) and [Access Services](#).

About Us

The **Office for Sustainability** is dedicated to creating sustainable change on campus by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, promoting local food, recycling, and sustainable purchasing, as well as advocating for individual and institutional behavior change.

Questions/Feedback?
sustainability@case.edu
 (216) 368-2196



CLEAn Water PechaKucha

The Office for Sustainability including our three SURES interns attended the CLEAn Water PechaKucha to celebrate the Year of Clean Water in Cleveland. In short and sweet PechaKucha style, this event brought notable Clevelanders together who are working on a plethora of water topics: improved infrastructure and safety, rainwater recycling, retention through tree planting, and fun through sports like paddleboarding. The event included a performance of Fire on the Water by a Cleveland Public Theater troupe. Read more on [our blog](#) about the event.



Flame-Retardant Education Study

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			CWRU nursing school researcher Laura Distelhorst, MSN, RN, received a grant from the Ohio Nurses Foundation to raise awareness about the dangers of exposure to chemical flame-retardants. These chemicals are found in many common household products and make babies and young children vulnerable to cognitive and physical problems as they grow and develop. The study will determine how much pediatric nurses know about these chemicals. Read the whole story in The Daily . You can try to avoid exposing your family to flame retardants by avoiding mattresses and other furniture that often have a layer of flame retardant material. Additionally, infant and children's pajamas are still sold with flame retardants, typically 100% cotton, organic or regular pajamas are not coated with flame retardants. Read labels and ask questions! Many manufacturers of furniture are starting to phase out flame retardants over the next few years because of consumer pressure.

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