

## Fall 2014

*Sustainable Columbia* offers a look at the many ways in which our students, faculty and staff are advancing environmental stewardship around campus and beyond, and producing impressive results. This edition showcases new ways to participate, significant University and student initiatives, and public recognition of collaboration and success. Thank you to all members of the Columbia community who make this great work possible.



A promotional poster for the Columbia University Green Fund. The top half is light blue and features a large green lowercase 'g' on the left. To its right, a white cloud contains the text 'HAVE A SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT THAT NEEDS FUNDING?'. The bottom half is brown and contains the text 'Apply for the Green Fund for a chance to receive \$5,000-10,000. APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 20, 2015.' Below this text is a small red squiggle logo. At the bottom left is the Columbia University Environmental Stewardship logo, and at the bottom right is the text 'Learn more at environment.columbia.edu'.

The 2015-2016 Green Fund application is now open for a second round of projects! All full-time Columbia University students are invited to submit an application for the University [Green Fund](#). Spearheaded by Environmental Stewardship, the Green Fund is an initiative that grants funding for student-led projects focused on improving sustainability on Columbia University campuses. Collaboratively, Columbia Dining, Housing and University Event Management have subsidized the \$25,000 fund. All applications are due by February 20th, 2015. For more information on the winning projects from 2014 and to apply, visit the Environmental Stewardship [website](#).

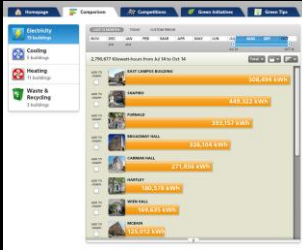
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### **Lamont-Doherty Director Awarded National Medal of Science**

Sean Solomon, director of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, won the [National Medal of Science](#), the nation's top scientific honor. The National Medal of Science was created in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. Awarded annually, it recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering. The President receives nominations from a committee of presidential appointees based on their contributions to chemistry, engineering, computing, mathematics, and the biological, behavioral/social, and physical sciences.

*(Above: Sean Solomon)*



### Undergraduate Residential Energy Dashboard

Environmental Stewardship, Housing, and Facilities announced the launch of a new sustainability dashboard for Columbia University in October. As a part of the University's commitment to sustainability, the dashboard will monitor electricity use in the undergraduate residence halls and provide a snapshot of activity in an effort to help residents be more mindful of energy habits and reduce consumption. In addition to energy conserved, the dashboard also calculates CO2 usage. The dashboard can be accessed online [here](#).



### Green Monday at Columbia!

Columbia Housing, Dining, Environmental Stewardship and Strategic Communications recently launched Green Monday, a new initiative for undergraduates founded by a Columbia alumnus, David Yeung, that was designed to promote green lifestyle choices. Green Monday focuses on four themes: recycling, food and nutrition, paper waste reduction, and energy conservation. We have reduced paper printing around campus by about 25 pounds since the initial launch of Green Monday. Additionally, the EcoReps collected over 500 pounds in food waste by conducting plate scrapings on two different days in the dining halls. [Read more...](#)



### Columbia University named a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists

The League of American Bicyclists recently recognized Columbia University with a Bronze Bicycle Friendly University (BFUSM) award. Columbia is the first university in New York City to receive the designation, and one of only six universities in New York State. Creating a more bike friendly campus has helped reduce car parking demand, improve the health of the University community and promote an easy, alternative method of transportation to and around campus. [Read more...](#)



### CREd and Cool Columbia

The [Center for Research on Environmental Decisions \(CRED\)](#), part of the Earth Institute, Columbia, has recently partnered with the Environmental Stewardship (ES) office on research for ES's Cool Columbia initiative. The pilot version of Cool Columbia will kick off in January of 2015 and aims to reduce energy usage in on-campus households by providing guidance, tools, and feedback to residents. CRED will study how feedback and messages about energy consumption lead to energy conservation and how this may further encourage residents to undertake other pro-environmental behaviors, such as biking, recycling, or supporting policies to mitigate climate change. [Read more...](#)



### **Paper Reduction Pilot**

Over the summer the Mailman School of Public Health and the Columbia University Facilities and Operations teams volunteered to roll out a one year pilot project targeted at reducing paper consumption, directly from the source. The two pilot groups are working to develop innovative technological, policy-driven and behavior-oriented solutions for paper reduction. The goal of this initiative is to identify and implement strategies to reduce paper entering the waste-stream. [Read more...](#)



### **Muscota Marsh Named One of the Best Places to Enjoy the Outdoors in NYC**

Earlier this year, The [Gothamist](#) voted Muscota Marsh one of the "The 10 Best Places to Enjoy the Outdoors in NYC". The Marsh, located at West 218th Street and Indian Road in Inwood with views of Spuyten Duyvil and the Palisades, creates new public access and new amenities on the waterfront, restores and extends the area's native marshland adjacent to Inwood Hill Park, and creates an opportunity for increased educational and recreational activities for the community.



#### **Earth Institute Sustainability Project with Chinese Think Tank**

The Earth Institute [Sustainability Policy and Management Program](#) led by executive director Steve Cohen, recently signed an agreement with the [Chinese Center for International Economic Exchanges \(CCIEE\)](#), a preeminent think tank in China, establishing a partnership to design a framework for organizational level sustainability metrics based on China's unique economic development conditions. The importance of this [partnership](#) lies in the need for a standardized methodology to organize the vastly increasing amount of information on sustainability in a way that enhances organizational and local-level management and improves sustainability performance. With the recent U.S.-China climate agreement, this partnership is poised to have a big impact.

*(Above: Steven Cohen, left, and Zhang Xiaoqiang, executive vice chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges)*



#### **Clean + Go Green this Holiday Season: December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

The holiday season is the perfect time to...clean! Cleaning your office or living space creates more space and will help kick-start your new year. On December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, Columbia University Facilities and partners across campus, as part the "Clean + Go Green" program, will make large bins available across campus, at no cost to you, for the recycling, reuse or proper disposal of large unwanted items. The event also offers the

community free shredding, free used books and interactive games and prizes. To learn more, click [here](#).



*Lab Manager Sunilda Valladares-Silva operates a recycling machine in the surgical pathology laboratory.*

### **Sustaining Environmental Excellence**

Today, William Hichak, Director of Laboratories, Department of Dermatology, along with Columbia's Environmental Health & Safety's (EH&S) Shane Son and Nicholas Craig, Hazardous Materials Specialists, and Chris Pettinato, Executive Director, accepted the Environmental Excellence Award from the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State Environmental Excellence Awards Ceremony in Albany, NY.

Columbia University was recognized for its laboratory waste solvent recycling programs at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) and Morningside campuses. Solvent recycling began at CUMC as a partnership between EH&S and the Departments of Pathology and Dermatology more than a decade ago and was introduced to Morningside in 2008, in the Department of Chemistry, where hundreds of gallons of acetone used in glass washing operations is recycled each year. [Read more...](#)



### **Walking Geology Tours with Professor Walker**

Over the course of the fall semester, Professor David Walker of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory has led students and colleagues on a walking geology tour of the University campus. Along the way, Walker points to evidence of how life on earth and the planet itself has physically evolved over its 4.5 billion year history, including how the iconic alma mater houses clues to one possible method of carbon sequestration, which could prove to be a vital technology for addressing our problem of too much CO<sub>2</sub>. The tour has been captured in a

short [video series](#) on the Earth Institute's blog.  
*(left: David Walker leads students and colleagues on a  
geology tour of Columbia University.)*

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