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SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

April 2024

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Happy Earth Day Month! The April issue contains stories and events celebrating Earth Day. Read on to find eco-related stories, events, scholarships, internships and more.

FEATURE - EARTH DAY WEEK

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We're celebrating the Earth for a week starting on Earth Day, April 22 and ending with our Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 27th. Find out more under **Events** below.

News

Earthshot Program

[The Next Big Thing in Energy: Earthshot](#). - Two Mines faculty contributing to DOE's new Earthshot program, designed to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.

Fast Fashion and Earth Day

Fast Fashion is an Earthday theme this year. It's convenient but has an enormous environmental impact. Mines student Michael Hallinan contributed an article about the environmental impact of Fast Fashion.

[Read Michael's article](#). Michael studies Quantitative Bioscience and is an advisor to Residence Life's [Environmental Justice Themed Learning Community](#).

Find out how to shop more sustainably [Fashion for the Earth](#).

Green Living Tips

10 ways to reduce CO₂ and environmental impact on during Earth Day Month:

1. Recycle paper, plastic containers, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and cardboard
2. Turn off lights, projectors and electronics when leave a room
3. Turn off your computer when leaving for the weekend
4. Turn the heat down when you leave
5. Take the stairs and get some exercise
6. Limit shower time to 5 minutes (drops equal watts)

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9. Bring a reusable water bottle to class and meetings
10. Bike, walk, or take public transportation more this month.

If you are interested in finding out more about your personal carbon footprint, try the University of California Berkeley's [Cool Climate Calculator](#).

What's New

Campus Race to Zero Waste

As of April 1, Mines ranked 32 nationally for food organics in the [Campus Race to Zero Waste Competition](#). Mines collected and composted more than 4,000 lbs of organic waste during the 8-week competition. Eco-Reps hosted a “Weigh the Waste” event (required by competition) on March 11 over lunchtime. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., they collected 41.4 pounds of food scraps. Fortunately, all the food was composted so it didn’t go to landfill to produce methane emissions. The [EPA estimates](#) the environmental footprint of food waste in the U.S. (excluding landfill methane emissions) is equal to the GHG emissions from 42 coal-fired power plants; energy and water used to supply 50 million homes; and an area of agricultural land equal to California and New York combined.



Eco-Reps Allie Morton, Mia Martinez, and Faith Janssen documented weight for food scraps collected from Mines Market during lunch. Thanks to Sodexo Manager Michael Coyle and Marketing Director Marlee Hebda for their assistance.

Videos



[An Optimist's Guide to the Planet](#)

Game of Thrones Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau travels around the world interviewing engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs working to create a more sustainable future. New technologies include artificial clouds protecting coral reefs, a company in California making products from carbon pulled from the air, and an African entrepreneur that invented an affordable electric motorcycle.

How Ancient Ice Proves Climate Change is Real

Dr. Jeffrey Severinghaus, with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in Southern

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Did you know that Mines has its own [Glaciology Laboratory](#)? It's led by Dr. Matthew Siegfried, who earned a PhD in Earth Sciences from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Siegfried [won a Career Award](#) from the National Science Foundation in 2023 for his work on ice streams in Antarctica and their effect on global sea level change.



Events

April 3-4 - Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium (GRADS)

Presentations from students in Environmental Science, Advanced Energy Systems, and other departments. **Guest speaker NASA Astronaut Richard Arnold II** on "*Perspectives on Earth.*" [More details.](#)

April 6th 12 pm - 2pm in Maple Hall Kitchen

Celebrate Earth Day Month with Residence Life! Engage with faculty presenting about environmental justice and get a tour through one of our residence halls, exploring on-campus energy usage. Catering from Snarf's Sandwiches will be provided!

April 12-13: [E-Days](#), Field Day and Carnival Food Truck Events

Mines Sustainability will sponsor composting services on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Please dispose of food scraps/compostable serviceware at the zero waste stations. Plastic and aluminum drink containers and bottles are recyclable.

April 16: Sustainable Energy@Mines Celebration

Undergraduate students graduating with SE@Mines distinction and students working to make the campus more sustainable will be recognized during this event. Free burritos.



Earth Week

Earth Day, April 22

Location: Maple Plaza

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Drop by the Sustainability Office table for some free hot chocolate and learn more about Earth Day.

Green Team Earth Day Fair

Date: Saturday, April 27

The Mines Green Team is hosting its annual Earth Day Fair this year on Kafadar Commons. Find out more about sustainable organizations and student groups while enjoying some free food, fun and plant giveaways. Eco-Reps and McBride Honors are hosting a pop-up thrift clothing swap.

Earth Day Speaker: Pathways to Carbon Neutral Electricity - Capstone Campus Decarbonization Crew

Join the Capstone Senior Design Team "Campus Decarbonization Crew" and Sustainable Energy@Mines for a presentation on how to decarbonize the Mines campus.

Location: Green Center

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Date: April 27th (right after the Earth Day Fair)

The Mines Green Team gave away free plants during the 2023 Earth Day Fair.



Opportunities

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, RESEARCH FUNDING

[AEE Scholarship](#) (Assoc. of Energy Engineers)

AEE Foundation Scholarships are available to qualifying undergraduate and graduate students with majors in or related to: energy engineering, energy management, environmental engineering, and sustainability. **Deadline is April 20th.**

The EPA is looking for [applications for research](#) on sustainable chemical products and processes that are efficient, ensure feedstocks are optimized and provide society with chemicals and manufacturing processes that are less harmful to human health.

Informational webinar April 4th.

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or undergraduate student with a passion for climate and energy policy. **The job is fully remote**, though the posting does not make that clear. Start and end dates are negotiable. Salary range is \$22 - \$27 /hour.

JUNE

[International School for Materials for Energy and Sustainability](#)

June 10-15, 2024, Colorado School of Mines Campus

For PhD and Postdocs in STEM disciplines.

DOE is accepting applications for its [Collegiate Wind Competition](#). Applications are due June 13, 2024. It also just launched a [Hydropower and Marine Energy Collegiate Competition](#). Applications due May 6, 2024.

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