

THE ECO MOSQUITO

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS AND EVENTS AT HSPH AND BEYOND

ISSUE 20, APRIL 2014

Since April 22 is Earth Day, we are going ahead and calling all of April Earth Month! How appropriate it seems to be celebrating right when the northern hemisphere is waking up after a long winter nap and another beautiful spring is setting in!

In Honor of The Blue Marble



The image that you see here is one of the most widely distributed photos in existence and is affectionately known as "The Blue Marble." It was taken by the astronauts aboard Apollo 17 about five hours into their mission and just as they began their trajectory to the Moon on December 7, 1972. As they looked back toward home and saw Africa and Antarctica

bathed in sunlight, they captured this image for all the world to see. Our home is truly beautiful, isn't it? The first Earth Day was celebrated two years earlier in 1970, but this photograph of a delicate, isolated planet contributed to the surge in environmental activism in the 1970s that made Earth Day an annual fixture on our calendars. This April 22, we hope that you'll think about the beautiful "blue marble" that hosts you and everyone you love and take a moment to consider what part you'll play in keeping it healthy for generations to come!

DON'T MISS THIS

There are so many Earth Day events on the Longwood Campus that we decided it would be best to call it **Earth Week** instead!

Tuesday, **April 22**: Since one of the most effective ways to reduce climate change is to reduce the consumption of animal products, **Sebastian's Cafeteria goes vegetarian** for the day. We promise delicious and nutritious food.

Wednesday, **April 23**: Get your daily dose of inspiration as the Department of Environmental Health's Dr. Douglas Dockery presents "**Triumphs in Environmental Health Since the First Earth Day**" at 12:30pm in Kresge G2.

Thursday, **April 24**: Don't miss the annual **HSPH Sustainability Fair** in the Kresge Atrium from 11:30am to 1:30pm. You'll find lots of great vendors and organizations with treats galore. Take the Stairs participants can pick up their appreciation gifts and there will be a raffle for those hard core climbers who made it to the top. HMS will be concurrently hosting an **Earth Fair** and **Freecycle** event at the Courtyard Café, so it sounds like some fair hopping is in order!

Friday, **April 25**: You've got to check out a hidden gem in our midst! Come to the **Countway Garden Open House** from 12 to 1pm to see what a beautiful place it is. The garden is located behind the bike cage in the Countway/Kresge courtyard.

DID YOU KNOW?

We know it's generally in poor taste to toot one's own horn, but we can't help it. EcoOpportunity, the HSPH Green Team, won a Harvard Green Carpet Award on April 2! Toot toot, y'all! Our team of volunteers has been working since 2008 to make HSPH a greener place, and we are so honored to be acknowledged by the University. Over the years, we have focused our efforts on recycling and composting at the School, establishing the Green Room and the Harvard Longwood Bikes group, hosting the Take the Stairs campaign, greening our labs, and making sure you have ample bathroom reading materials. Above all, we want the whole Harvard Longwood community to be a part of making our campus a happier and greener place!



GREEN TIPSTER MONSTER

Loyal reader Peter Bretton of the Office for Continuing and Professional Education had a great suggestion for us: why not use this space to come clean about some of our less-than-green habits? Here's one that more than a few of us are guilty of: leaving phone chargers and other electronics plugged in when not in use. Who knew that this actually uses "vampire" power?! It's definitely a waste of electricity and costs US consumers more than \$3 billion per year >:-)= What a green monster!

Countway Garden Blooms!

Okay, maybe not quite yet, but in the next few weeks, our very own campus garden will start another glorious season growing medicinal herbs and "snack-able" vegetables, culinary herbs, and flowers which are shared with volunteers and visitors alike. Just picture yourself taking a break from the office this summer to eat fresh strawberries from the Garden! Contact Heather Cristiano at heather_cristiano@hms.harvard.edu if you are interested in getting your hands dirty as a volunteer.

