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THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMER

The Electronic Newsletter of the Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems (ICIS) at New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. (<http://www.nyu.edu/icis>)

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INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

National

- ** Environmental Sustainability Study Ranks US 51st out of 142 Countries

A recent study, released at the World Economic Forum on February 4th, ranks 142 nations in Environmental Sustainability, with Finland being first and the United States

being 51st. Using 20 key indicators in five categories- “environmental systems, environmental stresses, human vulnerability to environmental risks, a society's institutional capacity to respond to environmental threats, and a nation's stewardship of the shared resources of the global commons”- the study uses quantitative measurements to calculate sustainability. The study has some surprising conclusions, including a minimal relationship between sustainability and economic wealth.

For more on this, see http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/indicators/ESI/press_rel.html
The entire study and can be downloaded from
<http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/indicators/ESI/downloads.html#report>

As a follow-up to this study, the Oxford University Press is releasing a new book next month, edited by Peter Corneilus and Daniel Esty, entitled “Environmental Performance Measurement”, which argues for a more quantitative approach to environmental analysis.

** Los Angeles’s Encourages Solar Power Through Green City Campaign

The Green City campaign, meant to make LA a more sustainable city, encourages such things as electric transport, street trees, and renewable energy. Last month, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) announced the highest per watt incentive in California for solar power, which reduces the installment cost of solar electric or photovoltaic cells by 50% or more. For more on this initiative, <http://www.greenla.com/news/index.htm>

Notable efforts of the Green LA campaign include allowing residents to chose 100% renewable energy and the planting of 200,00 new street trees in LA neighborhoods. For more on Green LA, see <http://www.greenla.com/>

** Phoning Home from the Olympics

In preparation for this year’s Olympics, wireless companies spent four years revamping Salt Lake City’s wireless infrastructure. However, many foreign visitors are still having trouble using their cell phones because technologies are not compatible with the local wireless infrastructure. Also, many local companies chose not to open up their wireless service to the Olympic visitors.

To view the entire Wired article, see

<http://www.wired.com/news/wireless/0,1382,50294,00.html>

** FHWA Releases New Edition of Highway Statistics

On February 1st, the Federal Highway Administration released the 2000 edition of Highway Statistics, a report that has extensive information on the nation’s highways and its users. Information in the report includes statistics on highways finance, driver licensing, federal funding, and information from the 1995 National Personal Transportation Survey. To view press release and the full report, see <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa0201.htm>

** Sierra Club Tests SUV Versus Hybrid Vehicle

As part of their Drive Clean Only campaign, the Sierra Club sent two people on a five day roadtrip in Florida; one driving an SUV and the other a hybrid vehicle. The point of this endeavour is to test SUVs versus hybrids in performance, speed and other factors, raise awareness, and encourage clean fuel investment. Each driver submitted daily updates. For more see <http://www.sierraclub.org/roadtrip/#where>

For information on hybrid vehicles in general see <http://www.sierraclub.org/roadtrip/resources.asp>

** AMSA Releases Two Key Security Publications

Last week AMSA released two critical publications under the rubric “Protecting Wastewater Infrastructure Assets” which are likely to become indispensable tools for wastewater utilities assessing their vulnerabilities to a host of crisis events in the post-September 11th world. One publication, the Asset Based Vulnerability Checklist for Wastewater Utilities, provides a comprehensive list of potential vulnerabilities, helping wastewater agencies successfully plan for potential crisis situations.

For more, link to <http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org/>

Local

** NJ Governor McGreevey Issues Executive Order on Sprawl

As reported by the Tri State Transportation Campaign, NJ Governor McGreevey has established a Smart Growth Policy Council which will “ensure that State transportation and infrastructure spending and regulation are consistent with the principles of smart growth and the State Plan.” For more information see

<http://www.tstc.org/bulletin/20020204/mtr35103.htm>

** Quick Fix for Cortlandt Street Subway

Last month the Daily News reported that the rebuilding plan for the 1/9 Cortlandt Street subway line is the fastest pace construction project in the NYC subway’s history. The rebuilding is priced at 1 million dollars a day and in total will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Although rebuilding of the line will start March 1st, the rebuilding of the actual station will not start until the after the plans for WTC site are in place. Until the station is finished, trains will simply travel through the station without stopping.

To read the entire article, see [http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-01-](http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-01-16/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-138367.asp)

[16/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-138367.asp](http://www.nydailynews.com/2002-01-16/News_and_Views/City_Beat/a-138367.asp)

** Gotham Gazette Investigates New Waste Management Policies of New York

In this recent article, Michael Burger and Christopher Stewart investigate the environmental, economic and social costs and benefits of NYC’s new waste management scheme, which has been in effect since the closing of Fresh Kills last year. They also cite some of the political and cultural barriers to the creation of a more sustainable plan.

For more, see <http://www.gothamgazette.com/iotw/garbage>

On a related note Columbia University’s Center for Urban Research has been studying the environmental impacts of NYC’s new waste management plan. For more on this, see

<http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/CURP/resources/programs.html#nyciwmp>

**** NYC's First Outdoor Internet Pay Phone Arrives in Midtown**

TCC Teleplex, one of the city's largest independent pay-phone operators, installed the city's first outdoor internet phone on Sunday. The phone, located at the corner of 46th and Fifth Avenue in Midtown, provides both a high speed internet connection and traditional pay phone services. And how much will these services cost you? \$1 for four minutes of internet access and 25 cents a minute for local, national, or international calls. For more, see the Newsday article at <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny-internetphone0210feb10.story>

DID YOU KNOW?

* Since the single occupancy restrictions have been placed on cars driving into Manhattan, 190,000 fewer people come into Manhattan (South of 60th Street) by car a day.

(Source: Kennedy, Randy, "Study Says Single-Rider Ban Hurts Economy", NY Times, February 11, 2002)

* Curitiba, Brazil has decreased automobile travel by 28 percent since the 1970s, even though its population has tripled. Increases in bus service and infrastructure spending has made much of this possible.

(Source: <http://sierraclub.org/sierra/200201/buses.asp>)

* Hybrid cars give drivers 20-30 more miles per gallon than traditional automobiles.

(Source: <http://www.howstuffworks.com/hybrid-car.htm>)

* 27 to 40 percent of the NYC total waste is recyclable. Of this recyclable waste, less than 20% actually gets recycled.

(Source: <http://gothamgazette.com/iotw/garbage>)

* The influx of Olympics visitors was expected to increase cell phone use in Salt Lake City by 100%.

(Source: <http://www.wired.com/news/wireless/0,1382,50294,00.html>)

* Sixty-six percent (66%) of Americans polled described spending on America's infrastructure as a "strong investment in America." The poll also showed that Americans are willing to pay 1% more in taxes, provided they get what they pay for.

(Source: <http://www.rebuildamerica.org/>)

WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

General Websites

* Center for Excellence in Sustainable Development, US Department of Energy

From green buildings to disaster planning to sustainable business, this site has pages and pages of useful information about sustainable development.

Link: <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov>

* Save A Barrel of Oil! Take the “Patriots Energy Pledge” to reduce your oil consumption.

Link: <http://www.saveabarrel.org/>

WTC Related Websites

* Lycos Wired News website tracks how September 11th is affecting information technology spending. <http://www.wired.com/news/conflict/>

* NY1’s website on WTC recovery effort news.

http://www.ny1.com/WTC_Coverage/index.html

* Want to see the Cortlandt Street Subway damage first hand? Take a look at these photos:

<http://www.nycsubway.org/irt/westside/wtc-damage/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The online INFRASTRUCTURE EVENTS CALENDAR is currently being updated and will be posted soon! Watch for it at <http://www.nyu.edu/icis/events/events.html>.

In the meantime, enjoy the partial event listing below:

LOCAL EVENTS

“Reactions,” January 12 - March 30, A global project documenting the response, from the art world and beyond, to the events of September 11.

Exit Art , 548 Broadway, Info: reactions@exitart.org

“Forever Tall: A Tribute to New York and New Yorkers,” Ongoing

The Forever Tall mural created by artists Hope Gangloff and Jason Search

35 Cooper Square between East 5th & 6th St.

“WTC: Monument,” February 5–May 5, 2002

As a tribute to the Twin Towers, this exhibition provides an in-depth exploration of the buildings’ conception, design, and construction, beginning in the 1960s. It includes a 7-foot-tall architectural model of the towers by WTC architect Minoru Yamasaki, and a film commissioned by the Port Authority. At The Skyscraper Museum.

Contact 212/968-1916 for more information.

“A New World Trade Center: Design Proposals,” January 16–February 16, 2002

An exhibition featuring sketches, renderings, and multimedia projects created by established and emerging architects in response to the need to rebuild on the site of the

World Trade Center and embrace the future of New York. At the Max Protetch Gallery.
For information, call 212/633-6999 or e-mail info@maxprotetch.com.
February 16, 2002, 9:00am - 5:00pm

“An Environmental Agenda for the New Millenium,” February 15, 9am-5pm,
Watershed preservation/NJ Meadowlands, land development/NJ Highlands, mass transit,
energy policy, animal rights, military environmental policy/depleted Uranium (DU),
IMF/WTO--report, Social Ecology, toxics, genetic engineering, etc. Rutgers Labor
Education Center, 50 Education Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Fee. For more
information see www.njind.org.

“The Politics of Public Space,” February 28, 2002, 5:30 - 8:00P, Also Friday, March 1,
2002, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The linkage between public space & the political economy
deserves closer scrutiny because public space influences the shape of civil society, & by
extension, democratic participation. Baisley Powell, Elebash Hall, The Graduate Center,
CUNY, 365 5th Ave. at 34th St., NYC. For more information call (212)817.1875 or
email: pcp@gc.nyu.edu

Auto-Free New York Monthly Meeting "Beyond Petroleum - A New Vision for
Transportation," February 26, 6-8 pm Ashok Gupta, Senior Energy Economist, Natural
Resources Defense Council. 104 Washington St. just north of Rector St.
For more information, call 212-475-3394 or e-mail geohaikalis@juno.com.

“Bricks and Clicks: Challenges in the Digital Age,” March 13-15, 2002
Society for College and University Planning, Columbia University, New York; call Maria
Wilpon at 212-505-2025; www.ccsu.edu/planning/nascup

Auto-Free New York Monthly Meeting, "Transporting NYC's Waste - There's Got to be a
Better Way", March 26, 6-8 pm, Benjamin Miller, Author, "The Fat of the Land -
Garbage of NY, The Last 200 Years". 104 Washington St. just north of Rector St.
Subway access from N and R station at Rector St. and 4 and 5 station at Wall St. For
more information, call 212-475-3394 or e-mail geohaikalis@juno.com.

NATIONAL EVENTS

A&WMA Mercury: Consequences for Environment and Health, March 4-6
Montreal, Quebec (A&WMA)

American Water Works Association Infrastructure Conference & Exhibition –
March 10 - 13, Chicago, Illinois (AWWA)

16th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference 2002
Privatization, Innovation and Optimization - How to Do More for Less, March 3 - 6,
Austin, Texas (WEF)

WEF/AWWA Joint Management 2002, March 24 - 27, Charlotte, North Carolina, (WEF)

New Urbanism and Communities of Faith, March 6-8, Seaside, FL., email seminars@calvin.edu; www.calvin.edu/fss (APA)

AASHTO National Conference on Traffic Incident Management, March 11-13, Irvine, CA (AASHTO)

Third Annual Forum on Public Health and Transportation Safety, March 12-13, Houston, Texas (TRB)

Environmental Research Needs in Transportation (by invitation), March 21-23, Washington, DC (TRB)

Eighth International Conference on Urban Transport and the Environment in the 21st Century, March 13-15 (USAID)

Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, March 19-23, 2002, Los Angeles (AAG)

