

*You can make a lot of speeches, but the real thing is when you dig a hole, plant a tree, give it water, and make it survive. That's what makes the difference*

~Wangari Maathai

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*Western Technical College Library  
Academic Resource Center  
R-201 (608)785-9142*



## From the Director

### *SustainAbility*

Sustainability has become a key issue at many institutions of higher education, other non-profit organizations, and certainly for-profit companies throughout the United States. The reasons for becoming eco-efficient and friendly are numerous. The bottom line is that it makes good sense. Whether it's practicing recycling, using alternative forms of energy, adhering to cost-effective waste management processes, or employing better landscape design methods, sustainability has reached epic proportions, encouraging everyone to be more socially responsible.

Sustainability has definitely become an important initiative at Western Technical College. From the multifaceted Landscape Horticulture program to the newly created Associate Dean of Sustainability position, sustainability and "green" initiatives are surfacing across campus giving Western TC a competitive advantage for its students, faculty, staff, and the communities served.

Benefits that include more efficient business processes, a more positive public image, and opportunities for increased employee participation are being realized.

In conjunction with all of these campus-wide efforts, library staff has created its fourth annual Sustainability/Green issue of the Library Newsletter. The resources highlighted cover an array of relevant resources that should prove useful for those individuals interested in the topic. Although not all of the available resources have been presented, the list will serve as a foundation for additional research and includes primarily 2010-2011 materials.

Library staff hopes you find this information beneficial regardless of your objectives. As previously indicated, the list is only a sample of what Western Library has to offer. If you need assistance concerning other resources, please don't hesitate to ask.

Ronald G. Edwards

# Up Close & Personal

**Name:** Peter F. Bemis

**Position:** Program Head and Instructor for the Landscape Horticulture program

**Years at Western:** Currently in my 4th year

**Contact Info:** 133M Coleman Center, 608-789-6099, [bemisp@westerntc.edu](mailto:bemisp@westerntc.edu)



## ***What's the most exciting and/or challenging aspect of your job?***

I truly enjoy the opportunity of interacting with the students. I love the exchanges, their enthusiasm, and their excitement to achieve within their new profession. The most challenging aspect of the job is trying to help the students achieve their academic goals. Many times there are actions working against the students, e.g. financial needs, health issues, family crisis, etc. that are beyond my means to assist and the College ends up losing the students. I wish Western had more resources to help the students stay in school as we lose too many students from the start of the program to the celebration of graduation.

## ***How long have you been in your current position?***

This school year is the fourth year in my current position. I was hired as the first Program Head for the new Landscape Horticulture program at the conception of the program. Prior to this position I was the Landscape Architect for the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for 20 years.

## ***What is the primary focus of your teaching and how does it impact other areas on campus?***

I believe my background as a manager and supervisor keeps me on the task of

not only providing an educational background for our students, but also helping to prepare them for employment. When I was a supervisor I was always trying to find ways to help the staff become engaged in the work, and to improve their skills. I have been told that I often treat my class as a landscape crew; I like that concept and will try to continue to employ that approach.

## ***What is the event or experience you remember most since you've been at Western?***

The experiences that have impacted me the most here at the Western are the support I have seen from Dean Brendel, Dean Westpfahl, all the staff at the Welcome Center, and all of my fellow teachers whenever a student has a need. In fact, the greater the need for help, the stronger the response and support from the staff. Over the last four years I have found myself trying to deal with student health issues, financial issues, family issues, mental health issues, and other concerns that are beyond my abilities, but every time I, and the student, receive great support from all the resources.

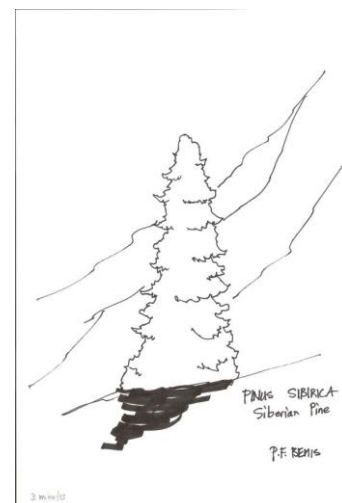
## ***Name something you'd like to share that many people may not know about you.***

This item always seems to surprise people; but I have received a number of years of training in higher education,

including a Masters degree in Park and Recreation Administration from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois. So, yes, I went to college, and in fact I stayed for nine years of higher education.

Also, I was an American Legion All-State baseball player, and a new grandfather, as of 10-10-10.

R.G.E.



## *Inside Libraries*

### *Subject Headings*

There is no one way to correctly engage in scholastic research. Like so many aspects of life, there are many paths to the destination. There are, however, many tips and best practices that help researchers—students, staff and faculty, or the general public—be more efficient as they aim to tackle a particular problem.

Linguistics might not immediately seem to have much connection to research. One aspect of linguistics examines how different people use different words and phrases to represent a singular concept. In this regard, linguists and librarians share a common interest: finding the permutations of words and phrases that represent a given idea.

Librarians take it a step further. One of the jobs of librarians is to agree amongst themselves on a phrase to represent a singular concept. This phrase is often called a “subject term” or “subject heading.” Librarians are helpful in taking your phrases and finding the subject term libraries use to represent your concept. Through subject terms,

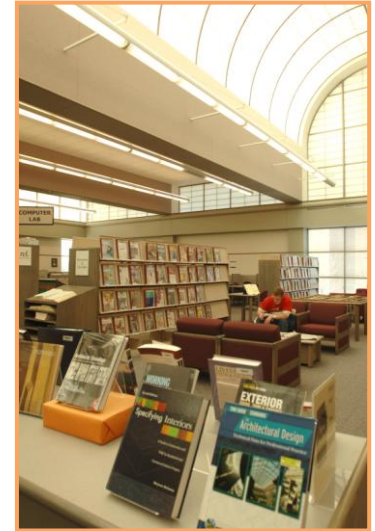
you can drill down to a specific concept even if you use different words to represent that concept.

Take, for example, the phrase “illegal immigration.” Most people have a good idea of the concept represented by that phrase. Different groups of people, however, might refer to that singular concept with different phrases: “illegal aliens,” “migrant workers,” and “undocumented laborers” all mean approximately the same thing insofar as the general population is concerned.

Naturally, this is only the tip of the iceberg. If you are interested in learning more about how to find or use subject terms to expedite your research, please let us know!

*Got a question about a library term or how libraries work? Contact us at [libraryreference@westerntc.edu](mailto:libraryreference@westerntc.edu). We'll do our best to provide answers to your burning questions!*

S.W.

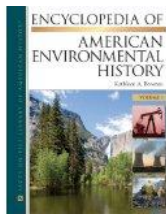


## Library Resources: Sustainability



**Encyclopedia of American environmental history** / edited by Kathleen A. Brosnan  
ref GE150 .E53 2011 v.1-4

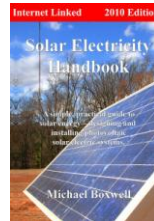
This four volume set contains more than 750 articles that span U.S. environmental history primarily from the fifteenth century to the present, including the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil catastrophe from 2010. Over 350 environmentalists, historians, and scholars have provided key information that is enhanced through a variety of illustrations, maps, charts, original documents, a comprehensive bibliography, and master chronology. Eight overview essays examining serve as a foundation for navigating major themes in environmental history.



**Solar electricity handbook: a simple, practical guide to solar energy: designing and installing photovoltaic solar electric systems** / Michael Boxwell  
TK1087 .B69 2010

Do you want to know why you should choose a solar electric system? How do you measure electricity? What is solar energy? How do you select solar panels? Although most people have either heard about solar energy or how it might work or be cost-effective, there are still many basic questions most individuals don't know regarding this abundant source of energy. So if you want to know what it's suitable for, what are its limitations, and possibly how to install your own solar system, Solar Electricity Handbook

may answer these questions and get you started in the right direction.



**Human footprints on the global environment: threats to sustainability** / edited by Eugene A. Rosa ... [et al.].  
GE170 .H84 2010

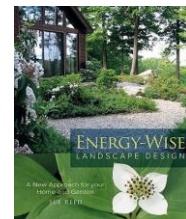
Written by a collection of North American and European scholars, the book discusses human populations and cultures, institutional actions, land cover and use, what drives global environmental change, global threats to sustainability, and what areas might be promising for future research. The authors pose numerous ecological questions that examine a world society at risk of continued ecological calamity.



**Energy-wise landscape design: a new approach for your home and garden** / Sue Reed; illustrations by Kate Dana  
SB475.9.E53 R44 2010

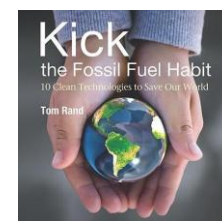
Seven sections highlight ideas for designing landscapes, saving energy, building and caring for landscapes in an energy efficient way, methods for

generating energy, and energy efficient lighting to name just some of the areas covered. Detailed technical information is presented in common sense language. The book gives examples to minimize energy use, provide a cleaner environment, decrease heating and cooling costs, and improve the beauty and value of your property.



**Kick the fossil fuel habit: 10 clean technologies to save our world** / Tom Rand.  
TJ808 .R35 2010

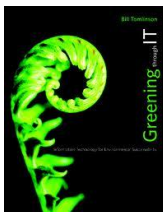
Each chapter discusses a leading clean technology. Each chapter ends with a thought-provoking question regarding investing in that technology. Through exciting photographs, in-depth analysis, and test, *Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit* offers readers an avenue to learn about technologies that affect us all, discuss global involvement, can assist future generations, and provide answers to possible decisions that must be made. Endnotes provide supporting information for comments made throughout the chapters.



## More Library Resources for Sustainability

### Greening through IT: information technology for environmental sustainability / Bill Tomlinson TD145 .T48 2010

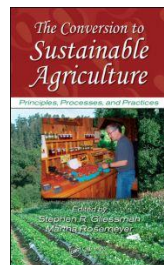
Tomlinson explores how information technology (IT) and the quest for environmental sustainability can join forces to address environmental problems that have been brought on by centuries of neglect. His attempt is to fuse all aspects of information technology with environmental issues across human communities to achieve a better understanding of how green initiatives can be successful. In light of malnutrition throughout the world, as well as the depletion of oil reserves, Tomlinson believes that it is through this interdisciplinary approach, involving technology and the social aspects of sustainability, that human understanding can occur in order to achieve sustainability.



### The conversion to sustainable agriculture: principles, processes, and practices / editors: Stephen R. Gliessman, Martha Rosemeyer S494.5.S86 C665 2010

The theme of the book is that past practices such as increased irrigation, pest damage reduction, and the use of

inorganic fertilizers may have been the culprits and not the remedies to better agriculture. Instead it is through a conversion to better sustainability methods that answers can now be found to make our food system much more productive and sustainable. Global efforts to make farms more energy-efficient, less dependent on fossil fuels, and less reliant on pesticides are the remedy. The contributors argue that through a monitored sustainable agriculture positive results can be achieved to avoid an escalating food crisis.



### Green interior design/Lori Dennis. NK2113 .D48 2010

This multidimensional book by award-winning designer and author Lori Dennis covers a plethora of aspects regarding interior design. Surface materials, fabrics, plants, furniture, window treatments, appliances, and many other areas are discussed. Including over 100 color photographs, the author offers advice on finding the

best green vendors, using nontoxic products, replacing lawns with indigenous plants, using energy efficient lighting, and using sustainable materials such as cork and bamboo. Advice is also given about applying for green certification.

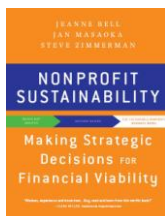


It's easy being  
**green**

***Library Resources, cont.***

libraryreference@westernnc.edu

**Nonprofit sustainability: making strategic decisions for financial viability** / Jeanne Bell, Jan Masaoka, Steve Zimmerman  
HD62.6 .B45 2010



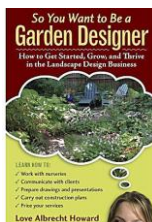
**Powering the future: a scientist's guide to energy independence** / Daniel B. Botkin with Diana Perez.  
TJ163.25.U6 B68 2010



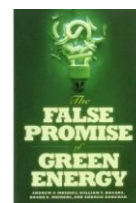
**Electricity from sunlight: an introduction to photovoltaics**  
/ Paul A. Lynn  
TK1087 .L96 2010

**Wind power in America's future: 20% wind energy by 2030** / U.S. Department Of Energy  
TK1541 .W57 2010

**So you want to be a garden designer: how to get started, grow, and thrive in the landscape design business** / Love Albrecht Howard.  
SB472.45 .H69 2010



**The false promise of green energy** / Andrew P. Morriss ... [et al.].  
HD9502.5.C542 F35 2011



**State of the world: 2010, transforming cultures: from consumerism to sustainability** / Linda Starke and Lisa Mastny, editors  
HC59.15 .S734 2010

**Illustrated history of landscape design** / Elizabeth Boults and Chip Sullivan  
SB472.45 .B68 2010



## Websites



### GreenLaCrosse

GreenLaCrosse.com is a community website designed to bridge the Green efforts in and around La Crosse, Wisconsin and support local business. GreenLaCrosse.com unites the Public, Private and Non-Profit organizations that are working together to improve the quality of the environment in the Upper Mississippi River Valley, strengthen the local economy, and improve the health of the community. <http://www.greenlacrosse.com/>

### Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE): Advancing Interdisciplinary Study of People and the Environment

This research center disseminates information from the "study of pressing global problems stemming from interactions between human activities, natural resources, and the environment." Abstracts describe research papers in global systems, land use, water, agriculture, ecosystems, human health, science, and policy. Also included are computer models and datasets, an Atlas of the biosphere, and categorized links. NOTE THAT THIS IS A UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON SITE <http://www.sage.wisc.edu/>

### Green Tier

Green Tier is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources innovative collaborative system of contracts and charters which are crafted jointly and co-operatively between the DNR and businesses that choose to participate. Green Tier is designed to help environmentally responsible companies achieve both economic and environmental gains. <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/>

### WasteCap Wisconsin

WasteCap, a nonprofit industry-supported organization, works to transform construction, demolition, electronic, and organic waste into useful resources. It delivers training classes in recycling, sponsors volunteers who conduct waste assessments and write recommendation reports, hosts open houses at businesses with successful waste reduction strategies, offers telephone and email assistance, and publishes monthly bulletins about new markets for recyclables, descriptions of the latest technologies, and case studies of innovative programs. <http://www.wastecapwi.org>.

### Wisconsin Environmental Initiative

"Do well by doing good" is the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative's adjuration to businesses. They want businesses to profit economically by doing what's right for the environment. At their Website, look for articles addressing current issues of sustainability and section links to the Environmental Policy Forum, the Energy Forum, Green Built Homes, Agriculture and Land Use, waterfront property ownership, and Business & the Environment. <http://www.wi-ei.org/>



### Green Guide

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/>

### Green Home Guide

<http://www.greenhomeguide.com/>

### Garbage: How Can My Community Reduce Waste?

<http://www.learner.org/exhibits/garbage/>

### Green Design/Sustainable Architecture: Resources

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/GreenAll.html>

### Minnesota Green Affordable Housing Guide

<http://www.greenhousing.umn.edu>

### Smart Communities Network: Creating Energy Smart Communities

<http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/>

### Washington State Department of Ecology: Sustainability, Waste Reduction and Recycling

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swf/na/sust.html>

### Go Green: Edutopia's Green Teacher's Resources

<http://www.edutopia.org/go-green>

### Greenhomebuilding.com

<http://www.greenhomebuilding.com/>

### National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

<http://www.nrel.gov>

### NextStep

<http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/>

### Sustainable Communities Network

<http://sustainable.org/>

Energy conservation

**Solar greenhouses**

## **Alternative agriculture**

**Green technology**

**Horticulture**

## **SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS**

# **Environmental policy**

**Renewable energy sources**

**ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

**GREEN MOVEMENTS**

solar energy

**Wind power**

Landscape design

**Photovoltaic power generation**

**CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRIES**

**Energy policy**

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## Western Library

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La Crosse, WI 54601

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(608) 785-9142

E-mail:  
[library@westerntc.edu](mailto:library@westerntc.edu)



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### We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

[westerntc.edu/library](http://westerntc.edu/library)

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### Library Staff:

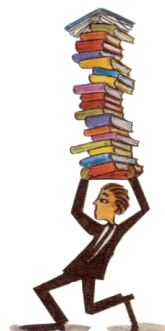
*Director of Library Services*  
Ronald G. Edwards

*Reference/Instruction Librarian*  
Sam Wood

*Circulation*  
Linda von Uhl  
Nicole Clutter  
Heather Turner

*Cataloging*  
Deborah Blum

*Computer Lab*  
Charlie Callan



### Library Hours:

Monday – Tuesday  
7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Wednesday – Thursday  
7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday closed

Any modifications to the  
above will be posted in  
advance