

## Gordon Research Conference

### Industrial Ecology Part of the GRC's 75th Anniversary

**Faye Duchin** (duchin@rpi.edu)

**Reid Lifset** (reid.lifset@yale.edu)

For the 6th time, industrial ecology researchers will gather this summer at the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Industrial Ecology. The theme of this year's GRC is: Transforming the Use of Energy, Materials, Water, and Wastes. Session topics are: Energy Policy Challenges, Energy Efficiency and Carbon Mitigation, Energy Sources for Transport, Bio-Fuels and Bio-Feedstocks, NanoMaterials and NanoTechnologies, Satisfying Strategic Material Requirements, Water Resource Management, Assuring Sustainable Use of Materials, and Industrial and Agricultural Use of Water. Speakers represent universities, the private sector, and government agencies. The full program is available at <<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=industeco>>

The Gordon Research Conferences are unique among professional meetings for their quality of content, relatively small size (100-120 people), diversity of participants, cutting-edge science (often still unpublished), and a schedule allowing for extended discussion and informal interactions. Celebrating their 75th anniversary, GRCs are among the most prestigious research conferences in science and technology; for background see <<http://www.grc.org/about.aspx>>

#### How to Apply And Submit Posters

Please submit an application to attend. Find the form at <<http://www.grc.org/application.aspx?id=9367>>

The deadline to apply is 27 July 2008 but early application is recommended as space is limited.

Contact Faye Duchin, Conference Chair, for further information. We look forward to seeing you in August!

There will be two poster sessions, and poster abstracts are now being accepted. Submit these directly to Reid Lifset, reid.lifset@yale.edu. The deadline for poster submissions is 30 March, with additional submissions considered through 30 June as space allows. Guidelines for posters may be found at <<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=industeco>>

*Gordon Research Conference  
on Industrial Ecology*

**17-22 August 2008**

Colby Sawyer College  
New Hampshire, USA

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#### *Inside...*

New ISIE Council announced

ROI introduces Prof. Planet

Lifset says JIE online submission operating

Three websites reviewed

Brandao researches sustainable land use

## **ISIE Welcomes New Members to the Governing Body**

**Beverly Chevalier** (is4ie@yale.edu)

The ISIE office is pleased to announce the results of the 2007 ISIE election:

New Council Members, Marian Chertow and Sangwon Suh replace Yuichi Moriguchi and Matthias Ruth.

Nominating Committee members Arpad Horvath and Glen Peters replace Jun Bi and Ned Gordon.

Additionally, the ISIE membership elected to amend the society's bylaws, adding a provision for ISIE chapters. The revised bylaws may be viewed on the ISIE website <<http://www.is4ie.org>>

For a complete listing of the ISIE governance, please visit the ISIE website and click the link for "Who We Are".

The ISIE staff and leadership are extremely grateful to those members whose terms on the ISIE governance body has ended and look forward to working with you in other capacities to grow and strengthen our society. We offer special thanks to the Nominating Committee for their hard work in putting together the slate of candidates for the 2007 ISIE election. Thank you to all who voted. The strength of the Society depends on the willingness of the members to serve and participate fully.

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## Website Reviews

### **Clean Production Action—<http://www.cleanproduction.org/>**

**J. Kait Alkema** (j.kait.alkema@dal.ca)

Clean Production Action is a non-profit organization that aims to promote cleaner production and safer products to a range of audiences. Focusing on toxic and hazardous substances, the purpose of the website includes education and project promotion. Clean Production Action has North American, international, and research branches and a team of project directors with readily available contact information and bios, contributing to the authority of the online resource. Though there are few links to external sources of information, the organization provides thorough coverage of a variety of applications for the principles of cleaner production in industry. The "Publications" page provides a wealth of information including reports, life cycle assessments, critiques, speeches, tool kits and more. The website has been updated in 2008 and the information and reports are all recent, published within the last several years. Clean Production Action's goal of clean production initiative promotion may reduce the website's objectivity; however, the reports are largely science-based, and provide practical suggestions for cleaner production in industries such as electronics, vehicles, flame retardants, and household chemicals.

*More Reviews on page 3*

*more Website Reviews*

**GreenBlue —<http://www.greenblue.org>**

**Emily Richardson** (em975534@dal.ca)

GreenBlue, a non-profit offshoot of Cradle to Cradle author William McDonough's McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry consultancy, has been operating since 2002 with a mission "to inspire a transformation in the design of human industry... based on principles found in the productive systems of nature... making commercial activity an ecologically and socially regenerative force." GreenBlue's neatly organized site is glossy and professional, and succinctly explains its mission and approach. A list of "key staff" profiles GreenBlue employees, providing relevant experience and educational background. The site also outlines initiatives in which it is involved, including the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, an industry group, and CleanGredients, which features information about the environmental impacts of institutional and industrial cleaning product ingredients. The only indication of the site's currency is a copyright notice dated 2006; as GreenBlue has an objective to become "100% financially self-sufficient within 5 years", it is not possible for potential donors to know when this five-year deadline is supposed to arrive. GreenBlue's neutrality is potentially compromised given that the CleanGredients initiative, for example, is supported by a number of corporate sponsors. Unfortunately, valuable learning opportunities, such as a comprehensive overview of the cradle-to-cradle principles and a number of publications, lie embedded unceremoniously in the "Resources" section; greater elaboration and more prominent positioning would add tremendous educational value to the GreenBlue site.

**EcoDesign Resource Society—<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/edrs>**

**Angela Alambets** (alambets@dal.ca)

As the first 'green design' not-for-profit organization, the EcoDesign Resource Society (EDRS) website presents current sustainable design practices, with the aim of providing resources and a forum for discussion on green design issues. It stems from the Vancouver Community Network. As such, there is an EDRS listserve, an events page (although not up-to-date) and project page to promote the continual networking of users working in industrial ecology. Some topic pages have an overview of that topic by the site owners, while the backbone of the site is the extensive list of very useful and applicable resources and links for academia, eco-design companies, contractors, builders and designers, planners, and government regulators on 18 sustainable design topics. Thus, the information is based on more complex and advanced green design issues. Some resource lists are more comprehensive than others. The information presented appears accurate, current and unbiased, and the external links provided are all current and reliable. The website is missing information on the latest revision date and limited contact information is available.

### **Academic Program Listing Updated**

**Kristan Cockerill** (kristanc10@earthlink.net)

Since 2002 we have compiled information about academic programs that emphasize industrial ecology. This information is summarized in a spreadsheet noting the university, the degree granted, the primary department or program of study, and other information about what students may pursue relevant to IE. There are now more than 70 institutions in a dozen countries included. The increasing attention to industrial ecology is reflected in the continued growth in the number of programs that are included in this compilation.

Instructors may find this useful in advising students seeking graduate programs in IE. The links to the various programs are a valuable resource for gathering ideas about course offerings and research efforts.

To download the spreadsheet, go to the ISIE website <<http://www.is4ie.org>> and click on "Academic Programs in IE."

**If your university is offering degree programs or significant research opportunities in IE, submit your information to be included in ISIE News and in the next academic update!**



### **Resource Optimization Initiative Introduces Educational Cartoon**

**Ramesh Ramaswamy** (office@roi-online.org)

At the Resource Optimization Initiative (ROI), we are experimenting with a new way to communicate Industrial Ecology concepts. Comic strips with a new character, Prof. Planet PhD, are being created. The initial strips are available on the ROI website <<http://www.roi-online.org>>

The website describes the motivation behind Prof. Planet. "Now that environmental issues are being discussed in every living room, a basis is required for people in general and policy makers in particular to think more clearly about environmental and health issues. The Prof. Planet series intends to put in perspective many contemporary environmental issues being talked about today."

Current strips feature Prof. Planet discussing biofuels, the tradeoffs between cotton and synthetics, and the idea of virtual water. We plan to release a few of these strips every month on different topics and these will be made available to the press and the web, free of cost. All releases will be updated regularly on ROI's web site, so that anyone can copy one or more of the strips.

## JIE News

### **JIE Submission Site Now Live**

**Reid Lifset** (reid.lifset@yale.edu)

The JIE's new web-based manuscript submission and peer review system, called Manuscript Central, is up and running. ISIE members who have previously submitted papers or served as reviewers for the JIE—and whose names were thus in the old manuscript tracking system—will soon receive an automated email asking them to log into the new system and update their contact information.

From this point forward, all papers should be submitted to the Journal via the JIE Manuscript Central submission site at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jie>. Papers currently in review under the old system will finish their journey through the peer review process using the old system. Revised papers can be submitted via the new system, but please contact the editors before uploading them through the new JIE submission site.

The JIE submission site is easy to use. You can log in now (see URL above) to explore the site, access help features, and update your own ac-

count information. To get started, type your email address into the field labeled Password Help on the front page. This will generate an email to you containing your password for the system. If the JIE database does not contain your contact information (or if we have an out-of-date email address), the system will indicate (in a message at the top of the page) that it is unable to locate the account. If this happens, please register as a new user.

Once you log in, you will be able to enter your own "Author Center" and/or "Reviewer Center". In the Author Center, a link directs users to submit a new manuscript. The JIE submission site allows the author to upload a main article, supplementary files and cover letter. Once a submission is complete, the site will generate a confirmation email that contains a Manuscript ID number. The JIE Manuscript Central system provides a means to email editors within the web-based interface after a manuscript is submitted, so that external (conventional) email is unneeded after that point.



### **Deadline Extended for Submissions to Special Issue**

The deadline for submissions to the special issue on complexity and industrial ecology has been extended to April 1, 2008. Information on the special issue can be found at <http://www.yale.edu/jie/cfp-complexity.htm> or contact the guest editors, Prof. Lauren Basson (L.Basson@surrey.ac.uk) and Prof. Gerard Dijkema (G.P.J.Dijkema@tudelft.nl).

## Student Chapter

### **Food or Energy? Towards Sustainable Land Use A Multi-Criteria, Life-Cycle Approach to Carbon Footprinting of Land Use**

**Miguel Brandão** (m.brandao@surrey.ac.uk)  
Centre for Environmental Strategy, University of Surrey,  
Guildford, U.K.

As part of the strategy to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, government policy in the United Kingdom and elsewhere is promoting the production and use of biomass energy. This policy also contributes to other political and social objectives, such as reduced reliance on fuel imports and increased income to farmers and rural communities. Debate over the benefits of biofuels is intense and many issues deserve attention, including the limited potential of energy supply from biofuels and bioenergy, competition for land with food crops, rising food prices, the high variability and sensitivity of study results regarding the amounts of potential emission savings, and the consideration of changes in carbon sequestered in the soil and in above-ground biomass



*Miguel Brandao,  
Graduate Student  
at the University of  
Surrey, UK*

To address the issues summarized above, this research aims to study the role of land use in achieving a low-carbon economy, or its potential contribution to reduce global net carbon emissions. This will be done by identifying more sustainable land use options for food and energy

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### **Planning Your Conference: Lessons from the Potawatomi Group**

**Hilary Grimes-Casey** (grimeshg@umich.edu)

**Amy E. Landis** (ael30@pitt.edu)

Following the success of the second student-run Potawatomi Sustainability and Industrial Ecology conference in 2007, it is time to encourage students around the world to steal this concept and create their own meeting place and a regional academic community. From early organizing (get your university's support; identify the audience, the goals, and the activities) to thinking about funding (we've done it on little, but some institutions might be interested in supporting such a unique event) to planning (make sure the student organizers are in communication; find a venue that has everything you need) to the actual event (relax, have fun, and let the networking and collaboration flow!), prior student organizing committee members of the "Potawatomi" conference have compiled some great tips on how to get started, what not to do, and how to make sure it all comes together into a novel approach to academic and professional development for all participants. Visit <http://www.isiestudents.com/IEconfHOWTO.htm> for the step-by-step suggestions!

## Quotable

**There is nothing  
more frightening  
than ignorance  
in action.**

—Johann von Goethe

## Conference/Exhibition Listings

SCORE! : Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP): Framework for Action  
10-11 March 2008, Brussels, Belgium

2008 IEEE International Symposium on Electronics and the Environment  
19-21 May 2008, San Francisco, US

3rd International Symposium on Environment  
22-25 May 2008, Athens, Greece

### **Gordon Research Conference on Industrial Ecology**

17-22 August 2008, New London, US

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION 08: Future Products, Technologies and Industries  
27-28 October 2008, Malmo, Sweden

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### *Brandao continued*

crops in the UK. The emphasis is on quantifying emissions of greenhouse gases associated with different types of land use and their products, which requires the improvement of existing life cycle assessment methodologies and, subsequently, the development of a multi-objective optimization life cycle model for land use.

Because of my background in ecological agriculture and environmental, ecological and development economics, I find this topic fascinating and therefore look forward to continue working on it as a post-doc after finishing my PhD this year. My main interests are on agroecology, human ecology, land-use change, energy systems, ecological and environmental economics, multi-criteria

decision analysis and, more generally, sustainable development. Indeed, I have found sustainable resource management through efficient resource allocation promoted by appropriate markets, institutions, policies and practices a fascinating area of study. In addition to my research, I am part of the Postgraduate School of Industrial Ecology (PSIE) and have lectured and tutored on Ecological Economics, Life Cycle Approaches, Agriculture and Food Security, Globalization and Poverty, and Bioenergy Sustainability.



This space available.

**What would you put here?**

**Send it to us!**

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## **International Society for Industrial Ecology**

The International Society of Industrial Ecology (ISIE) promotes industrial ecology as a way of finding innovative solutions to complicated environmental problems and facilitates communication among scientists, engineers, policy makers, managers and others who are interested in how environmental concerns and economic activities can be better integrated.

### **Officers**

President—Marina Fischer-Kowalski

President-Elect—Roland Clift

Treasurer—Joule Bergerson

Secretary—Claudia Binder

### **Council**

Marian Chertow                      Sangwon Suh

Edgar Hertwich                      Thomas Theis

Ramesh Ramaswamy              Valerie Thomas

**Student Liaison**—Ming Xu

### **Nominating Committee**

Diana Bauer                      Arpad Horvath

Tracy Casavant                      Sinichiro Nakamura

Paulo Ferrao                      Glen Peters

**Executive Director**—John Ehrenfeld

**Editor, *Journal of Industrial Ecology***—Reid Lifset

<http://www.is4ie.org>

### **ISIE News Editors**

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### **ISIE News Schedule**

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
Jun 2008 v8n2	16 May 2008
Sep 2008 v8n3	15 Aug 2008
Dec 208 v8n4	14 Nov 2008

Send submissions to the appropriate editor.

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