

MIT Earth Week: Environmental Leadership and Sustainable Living

Press Release, April 18, 2008

Website: <http://web.mit.edu/earthday> for complete event listings and details

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MIT Earth Week 2008 has grown to an unprecedented series of high profile events featuring exploration of global environmental issues and opportunities to change our personal impact on the Earth. This year's Earth Week includes a major policy address by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, the screening of the high profile documentary film "King Corn" with a producer Q&A, and multiple opportunities to interact with student, staff, and vendors who are making MIT and the world more sustainable. MIT Earth Week is planned collaboratively by a total of nine departments and groups, representing the academic, staff, and student communities at MIT. A list of organizations is provided below.

In a landmark event on Tuesday, April 22nd, **Gov. Deval Patrick** will present his ideas for "**Clean Energy for the Commonwealth.**" This major address in Kresge Auditorium will discuss the Governor's energy policy plans and the collaborative efforts of the Patrick Administration, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and MIT to make Massachusetts a center of energy innovation. The event is sponsored by the MIT Energy Initiative.

Taking a more personal angle on the energy challenge, **King Corn** is an irreverent documentary in which two filmmakers move to Iowa and grow an acre of corn to explore the crop's role in the life of America. The Earth Week screening on April 24th will offer a chance to talk with the producer Ian Cheney about the making of this film that the *Washington Post* called "lively, engaging and visually arresting," and Salon.com described as "a deceptively intelligent new entry in the regular-Joe documentary genre."

Earth Week also seeks to connect the MIT community to projects and resources on campus through two major exhibitions – the EcoExpo and the Earth Day Fair. Building on its very successful premiere in 2007, the **EcoExpo** on April 23rd is a chance to interact with students doing pioneering projects in environmental research and working to make the campus and the world more sustainable. The **Earth Day Fair** on April 24th is the trademark event of MIT Earth Week and will feature a variety of MIT groups and vendors to let you know how you can make your life more sustainable and lend your voice to the growing dialog on environmental issues. The fair will also include food, giveaways and entertainment for making your Earth Day fun.

Seeking to change the impact of MIT, this year Campus Dining has become a new and active partner in Earth Week and is unveiling its **Low Carbon Diet** in house dining rooms on April 24th, suggesting food choices that can reduce students' environmental impact. Another significant area of impact on the MIT campus will be discussed at **Greening the Mail**, a presentation by the U.S. Postal Service on sustainable mailing and packaging.

MIT Earth Week is Tuesday, April 22 – Friday, April 25. Event details are provided on page 2 of this release and at <http://web.mit.edu/earthday/>. All MIT Earth Week events are open to the public.

Event Sponsors

- MIT Campus Dining ([link](#))
- Share a Vital Earth (SAVE) ([link](#))
- MIT Department of Facilities ([link](#))
- Sloan Energy & Environment Club ([link](#))
- MIT Environmental Programs Office (EPO) ([link](#))
- Sloan Net Impact ([link](#))
- MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) ([link](#)) & the MIT Laboratory for Energy and the Environment (LFEE) ([link](#))
- Students for Global Sustainability (SfGS) ([link](#))
- The Working Group Recycling Committee (WGR) of the Working Group on Support Staff Issues ([link](#))

Event Schedule

April 22, Tuesday

[Governor Deval Patrick: Clean Energy for the Commonwealth](#)

4:15PM, Kresge Auditorium

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick will deliver a major public address for Earth Day, in which he will discuss his vision for the future of clean energy in the Commonwealth.

Sponsored by the [MIT Energy Initiative](#).

April 23, Wednesday

[EcoExpo](#)

5PM to 7PM, MIT Stata Center's Student Street

A showcase of the sustainability work being done on MIT's campus.

Sponsored by [Students for Global Sustainability](#).

April 24, Thursday

[Earth Day Fair](#)

11AM to 2PM, MIT Stata Center Lobby

The signature event of MIT Earth Week is our Earth Day Fair! This year's fair will showcase over 30 campus and local organizations that are making an impact towards improving the environment, whether through new ideas for daily life or action on wider community issues. Several groups from MIT and the local community will be on hand to demonstrate many of the exciting things going on around campus.

Low Carbon Menu

5PM to 9PM, Simmons Hall, Baker House, McCormick Hall, and Next House dining rooms

MIT Residential Dining Chefs will unveil the Low Carbon Diet, which suggests food choices that have a reduced environmental impact. Please contact us for details on the menu.

[King Corn](#)

Screening and Discussion

6PM (screening), 7:30PM (discussion), Room 35-225

In King Corn, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. Join us for a screening of the film followed by a Q&A session with co-star/co-producer Ian Cheney.

April 25, Friday

Greening the Mail: A Vision for Sustainable Mailing Practices

12PM to 1:00PM

Room 56-114

A talk presented by the United States Postal Service

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