

## 2012 Conference on the Environment

The 2012 Conference on the Environment will be held at the Syracuse Center of Excellence (SyracuseCoE) headquarters, in conjunction with the SyracuseCoE 12th Annual Symposium on Environmental and Energy Systems Oct. 10 - 12.

SyracuseCoE is a coalition of firms, organizations, and institutions. Its mission is to create innovations to improve health, productivity, security, and sustainability in built and urban environments. SyracuseCoE activities include research, product

development, commercialization assistance, and education programs. The scope of application interests include systems that monitor and control thermal comfort, air quality, lighting, sound, water quality and innovative energy systems, including clean technologies and renewable fuel sources.

The SyracuseCoE headquarters has been awarded LEED® Platinum-level certification, established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the nation's pre-eminent program for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

The building was designed to exemplify the highest level of LEED standards. The result is a high-performance building that is becoming world-renowned for collaborations that address global challenges in clean and renewable energy, environmental quality and water resources. A tour of the building has been arranged for conference attendees on Saturday.

On Wednesday, October 10, the Symposium will feature a lecture at Syracuse University by Bill McKibben; environmentalist; author; and founder of 350.org; a global grassroots climate change initiative that organized thousands of events in most of the world's nations on Oct. 24, 2009 (see article, page 2).



SyracuseCoE Headquarters Building Rendering courtesy of Toshiko Mori Architect

On Thursday, Oct. 11 the schedule features a keynote address from Catherine Tumber, author of *Small, Gritty, and Green* (see article page 2) and session tracks that focus on community-based innovation. These symposium activities will be held in Syracuse's Oncenter Complex.

On Friday, October 12, Symposium workshops held at the CoE headquarters will focus on sustainable materials management; green data centers and green infrastructure.

and green infrastructure.

For additional information and registration go to <http://www.syracusecoe.org/coe/newevents-noreg.html?event=18>

NYSACC and NYSAEMC will hold a Friday night awards ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, with a speaker specifically of interest to CACs and EMCs. Our Saturday program will include workshops and the NYSACC/NYSAEMC Roundtable concerning problems encountered by organizations and potential solutions from our members. Board meetings and additional tours will be held Sunday morning.

Additional information concerning the 2012 Conference on the Environment will be posted on the NYSACC website - <http://www.nysaccny.org> as it becomes available.

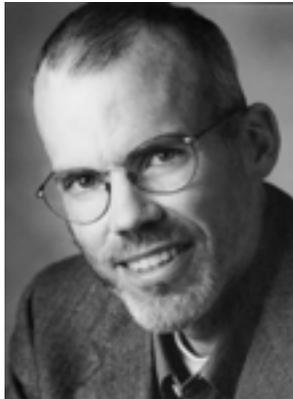
### Save the Date

**Syracuse CoE Symposium  
October 10th - 12th**

**2012 Conference on the Environment  
October 12th - 13th**

## Bill McKibben, Environmentalist

On Wednesday, October 10, Syracuse University Lecture Series will present "350: The Most Important Number in the World" by Bill McKibben, environmentalist, author, and founder of 350.org, a global grassroots climate change initiative that organized thousands of events in most of the world's nations on Oct. 24, 2009.



William Ernest "Bill" McKibben is an American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College. In 2010, the Boston Globe called him "probably the nation's leading environmentalist" and Time magazine described him as "the world's best green journalist."

In 2009, Bill McKibben led the organization of 350.org, which organized what Foreign Policy magazine called "the largest ever global coordinated rally of any kind," with 5,200 simultaneous demonstrations in 181 countries. The magazine named him to its inaugural list of the 100 most important global thinkers, and MSN named him one of the dozen most influential men of 2009.

In 2010, McKibben and 350.org conceived the 10/10/10 Global Work Party, which convened more than 7,000 events in 188 countries. In December 2010, 350.org coordinated a planet-scale art project, with many of the 20 works visible from satellites. In 2011 and 2012 he led the massive environmental fight against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project and spent three days in jail in Washington D.C. as leader of one of the largest civil disobedience actions in America for decades. Two weeks later he was inducted into the literature section of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bill McKibben is the author of a dozen books about the environment, beginning with *The End of Nature* in 1989, which is regarded as the first book for a general audience on climate change. He holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts and Maine, the State University of New York, and Whittier and Colgate Colleges. In 2011 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### NYSACC Individual Memberships

Individual memberships in NYSACC are available for an annual fee of \$30.00

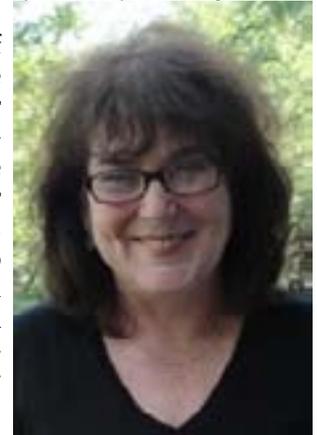
For more information, contact Arlene Kaufman at [teach23456@gmail.com](mailto:teach23456@gmail.com)

## Catherine Tumber Historian and Journalist

Catherine Tumber is the keynote speaker at the Symposium on Thursday, Oct. 11. Catherine is an independent scholar and journalist, currently living in Boston. She holds a doctorate in United States Social and Cultural History from the University of Rochester. She has taught United States history at the University of Rochester, Syracuse University, and St. Lawrence University, and has worked as an editor for the Boston Phoenix and the Boston Review. Her essays and reviews have appeared in both publications as well as in *Book Forum*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wilson Quarterly*, *In These Times*, *Commonweal*, and *American Literary History*, among others.

Tumber is the author of *Small, Gritty, and Green*, *The Promise of America's Smaller Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World*, in which she argues that the best hope for an economically revitalized, greener America — one no longer built on carbon-based economies — comes from the kinds of smaller industrial cities that have in many cases been given up for dead: from Flint and Youngstown to Springfield and Lowell. Tumber sees cities like these — with their small, manageable infrastructures and history of industrial manufacturing — as the potential epicenters for the US's emerging green economy, as well as for small-scale farming.

Tumber is also the author of *American Feminism and the Birth of New Age Spirituality: Searching for the Higher Self, 1875-1915* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002) and co-editor (with Walter E. Fluker) of *A Strange Freedom: the Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life* (Beacon, 1998). She is also a former research affiliate in the Community Innovators Lab in MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning.



### NYSACC News

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NYSACC News is published three times a year. CACs are encouraged to submit press releases, articles, artwork or photography to the editor.

For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.

## Available Grants

### Brownfield Grants

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is currently accepting applications for Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs). TAGs are tools available to eligible community groups to increase public awareness and understanding of remedial activities taking place at certain contaminated sites in their communities. The grants are intended to help the community understand existing environmental data developed about the site, comment on site remedial activities and proposals, and share them with the community. No matching contributions are required on the part of the grant recipient.

Under the TAG program, eligible sites include State Superfund Program and Brownfield Cleanup Program sites that pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. Grants will number up to \$50,000 and are currently being accepted on an ongoing basis.

Grants will number up to \$50,000 and are currently being accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information please contact Larry Enist at NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233 or by phone at 518-402-9764 or email ldennist@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

### Multifamily Building Incentive Program

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is giving owners and developers of multifamily buildings—including condominiums and co-ops ways to reduce energy waste and save money. NYSERDA is offering higher incentives for all existing multifamily housing, including significantly increased incentives for affordable housing buildings that burn only natural gas for their primary space heating, and buildings that exceed energy savings expectations. NYSERDA has also added a fast track for multifamily buildings with five to 49 units, which offers a faster, easier process for identifying improvements to the building and payment of the entire incentive upon completion of improvements.

The expanded options are part of the new Multifamily Energy Performance Portfolio (MEPP), which brings together all NYSERDA multifamily programs under one brand to give owners, managers and developers greater ability to enter into energy efficiency at the point where they are most comfortable. Properties that make energy efficiency upgrades can generally realize significant cost savings and offer residents units that are more comfortable, healthy and sustainable.

MEPP includes the Multifamily Performance Program, the Energy Reduction in Master-Metered Buildings Program and the Multifamily Building Financing Program. For more information about NYSERDA's MEPP, call 1-877-NY-SMART or visit their website.

## This Green Life

### *A journal by Sheryl Eisenberg*

In *This Green Life*, at website [www.nrdc.org/thisgreenlife/](http://www.nrdc.org/thisgreenlife/) Sheryl Eisenberg explores a green living issue from a personal perspective every month. A writer, website developer and long-time advisor to the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) with a lifelong interest in nature and the environment, Sheryl began the column in 2004. Over the years, she has built a library of close to a hundred pieces on a wide range of topics, from ethical eating to green burials to the health risks of everyday products.

Back in 2004, green living guides were all over the web. They were informative as far as they went, but their “eat your vegetables” approach suggested green living was just a matter of changing habits, instead of one’s life. Nowhere did they acknowledge the difficulties—or rewards—of change. The goal of *This Green Life* was to be more honest, for lack of a better word. It was to consider the living part of living green. At least, that was Sheryl’s goal. For NRDC, it was something different. NRDC takes its membership very seriously, and around that time, members had begun clamoring for information on what they could do to help preserve the planet on a day-to-day basis. They were completely on board with NRDC’s efforts in courts, legislatures and communities, but for many, it was no longer enough. They wanted to follow Gandhi’s dictum, whether or not they were aware of it, and be the change they wanted to see in the world. And NRDC wanted to oblige, so *This Green Life* was born.

Personal writing about green living is no longer an unusual thing. Many individuals blog about it every day. But *This Green Life* is still unique in that it not only reflects a real experiment in green living conducted by an actual person. It is also backed by NRDC and vetted for accuracy by NRDC’s scientists and policy experts. NRDC is an effective national environmental action group, combining the grassroots power of 1.3 million members and online activists with the expertise of more than 350 lawyers, scientists and other professionals.

Sheryl makes her home in New York City, where she tries to put her environmental principles into practice. She has also written Greentips for the Union of Concerned Scientists and designs websites for environmental groups and others with her firm, Mixit Productions.

### **Groundwater for the 21st Century - A Primer for Citizens of Planet Earth by John A. Connors**

*Groundwater for the 21st Century* is intended to be a useful and authoritative source of solid information for anyone interested in understanding groundwater. The book includes an introduction to groundwater science and a concise overview of groundwater resources, their importance, status, and management in today’s world.

## President's Message

Times are changing, so NYSACC and NYSAEMC are trying an experiment with this year's Conference on the Environment. A typical conference doesn't work anymore. The costs are often not covered by municipalities and counties at the same rate as in the past. We are reluctant to skip a conference for a year because I feel that if we lose touch it may sound a death knell for NYSACC and NYSAEMC.



We are trying a new conference approach while protecting the integrity of our goals of networking, fellowship and idea-sharing. We realize that we are departing from our typical weekend schedule. We know this is different and may be inconvenient, but if we don't experiment we will not know whether a different format will work. Joining with a renowned symposium while preserving our typical hotel dinner, awards, exciting speaker, talking into the night and workshops geared specifically to our needs presents an exciting opportunity.

We are joining with the highly regarded Syracuse Center of Excellence Symposium and tacking on a Saturday program with the topics which we usually cover. We will have a Friday night awards ceremony with a speaker specifically of interest to CACs and EMCs. Saturday will include the well regarded NYSACC/NYSAEMC Roundtable concerning problems and solutions from our members. Workshops on award-winning projects with information for replication will be included. Dinner with a keynote speaker, building tour of the state-of-the-art Center of Excellence LEED certified award-winning building, board meetings and additional tours will be held Saturday and/or Sunday morning.

See you in October,  
Joy Squires

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