

Message from Jeff Sachs

In this special newsletter video, Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, announces the launch of another major center of the Earth Institute — the Lenfest Center on Sustainable Energy — made possible by a generous gift from the Lenfest Foundation.

Real Video (6:48)

Quicktime (6:48)

**The Earth Institute Launches Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy**

As the world's population continues on its trajectory towards 9 billion people by 2050, access to reliable energy has become a source of economic and political insecurity. Moreover, with global carbon dioxide emissions currently surpassing 25 billion tons per year, deployment of technologies that supply energy services without raising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations to dangerous levels have become a global priority. [more](#)

[Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy Web site](#)

In the News**Landfills Violate Fundamentals**

Toronto Star, June 1, 2006

Poison Ivy Getting Meaner

Forbes.com, May 30, 2006

Boston's Earthquake Problem

Boston Globe, May 28, 2006

The New Geopolitics

Scientific American, June, 2006

Investments Toward Sustainable Development

Science, May 19, 2006

Cost to Close S.I. Landfill Could Exceed \$1.4 Billion

The New York Times, May 18, 2006

Jeffrey D. Sachs on New York Magazine's Influentials List

New York Magazine, May 15, 2006

Economist Jeffrey D. Sachs Envisions World Without Poverty

Voice of America, May 12, 2006

Foreign Aid Skeptics Thrive on Pessimism

LA Times, May 7, 2006

Global Warming Slows the Winds

Science, May 3, 2006

James E. Hansen Named One of Time's Top 100 People Who Shape Our World

Time Magazine, May 1, 2006

A New Plan to Help Africa's Poor

The Economist, April 27, 2006

Special Events at The Earth Institute

Wednesday, June 7, 2006, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Center for the Study of Science and Religion
Spring 2006 Seminar Series: The Molecular
Reinscription of Race**

Thursday, June 8, 2006, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Taking a Stand: Challenges and Controversies in
Reproductive Health, Maternal Mortality, and**

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**Earth Institute
Web Site Wins
"People's Voice"
Webby**



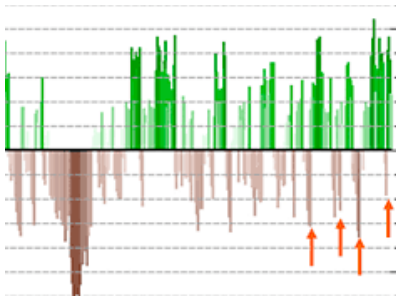
The Earth Institute has won a prestigious People's Voice Webby Award, an honor that The New York Times has called "the Oscars of the Internet." [more](#)

Reports From the Field**Hedgerows in Sauri, Kenya are a Birder's (and a Graduate Student's) Paradise**

by Justin Nobel, graduate student studying Earth and Environmental Science Journalism

Justin Nobel writes from Sauri, Kenya, where he is conducting research for his masters' project: a survey of bird diversity and an assessment of local knowledge about birds. In this special "report from the field," he shares his insights and experiences studying birds of a different feather.

[Read his reports from the field.](#)



Water Shortages in Northeast Linked to Human Activity

Recent water shortages in Rockland County, N.Y., reveal an increasing mismatch between water demand and supply following rapid growth in the Northeast during period of abnormally high precipitation.

With the summer approaching, new research has shown that recent water emergencies in the Northeast have resulted from more than just dry weather. Instead, researchers from The Earth Institute found droughts had more direct, human causes. The result is a condition known as demand-driven drought that may catch more water managers and residents off-guard in coming years. [more](#)

Conference: Living with Climate Variability and Change — Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks, Espoo, Finland July 17-21, 2006

Organized by the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and co-hosted by the [Finnish Meteorological Institute](#) and the [International Research Institute for Climate and Society \(IRI\)](#).

The conference features state-of-the-art research on complex decision-making theory and practice in sectors directly or indirectly sensitive to climate variability and change. For this purpose, the conference will embrace the physical, natural and social disciplines and will thus provide an excellent opportunity for professionals in business, science and the public sector to interact on a broad range of topics of mutual concern.

Read a [Q and A with Stephen Zebiak](#), Director-General of IRI, who discusses why the conference is critical to individuals whose work is affected by climate variability.

For general information, including how to register, visit the [Living with Climate Change event web site](#).

New and Notable Appointments at the Earth Institute

The Earth Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Steven Cohen, formerly the director of Education Programs, to assume the new position of Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer; and Joanna Rubinstein as Chief of Staff to the Director and Director of Strategic Initiatives. Cohen and Rubinstein will assist Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, in setting goals for the Institution, now embarking on its second decade of research, education and policy actions aimed at addressing the challenges of sustainable development. [more](#)

Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

[Past issues](#)

HIV/AIDS

Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
[Department of Earth and Environmental Science](#)
[Thesis Proposal](#)

GISS Director James E. Hansen Named One of Time's "People Who Shape Our World"

James E. Hansen, director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), a part of The Earth Institute, was named to *Time* magazine's annual list of 100 "People Who Shape Our World." The May 1 issue of the magazine included a [profile](#) written by climate change advocate and former vice president Al Gore, in which he described Hansen as "a brave, plainspoken Iowan who had the audacity to believe that the facts speak for themselves, that science should drive policy and that politics should not be allowed to distort the data." [more](#)

Recent Awards

G. Michael Purdy Awarded 2006 Maurice Ewing Medal

G. Michael Purdy, director of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was recently named as the recipient of the 2006 Maurice Ewing Medal by the American Geophysical Union (AGU). According to the AGU, the award recognizes his "significant and original contributions to our understanding of oceanic crustal structure and as a developer of new geophysical instrumentation for use in the deep sea." [more](#)

Workshop: Clean Technologies for Coal-Based Thermal Power Generation, Delhi, India, September 22-24, 2006

The goals of this bilateral workshop between the United States and India are to evaluate technological options for clean coal and share research approaches between U.S. and Indian researchers. In particular, it will provide a platform for sharing research on developing coal technologies through collaboration on a project proposal for a zero emission power plant in India. The workshop is funded by a grant from the [Indo-U.S Science and Technology Forum](#).

The workshop is co-hosted by The Energy Research Institute and the Center for Sustainable Energy, part of the Earth Institute.

For more information, please contact: Jonathan Schrag, js2716@columbia.edu



Building a Better Cookstove in Mayange, Rwanda

In areas throughout the world, prolonged inhalation of indoor smoke leads to illness and disability for many, as well as more than 1 million deaths per year. Earth Institute Fellow Susan Doll is working with local partners in Mayange, Rwanda, a Millennium Village, to help find a better way to cook meals that are easier on the health of villagers and the environment.

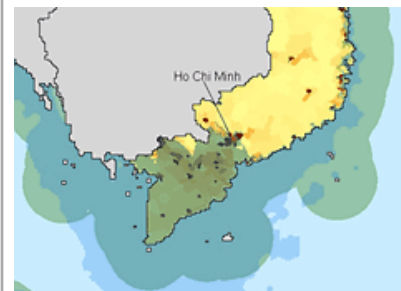
[View slideshow](#)



Working with Rural Communities in India

Q & A with Nirupam Bajpai

Nirupam Bajpai is leading a team of Earth Institute experts along with faculty from the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad to help scale-up the provision of essential services such as health care and education, among others, in some of the most underserved areas of India. [more](#)



Researchers Assess Risks Associated with Living in Low-Lying Coastal Areas

A recently published study by researchers from The Earth Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development suggests that as much as 10 percent of the world's population is vulnerable to sea-level rise. In particular, the authors have found that many large cities face risks posed by rising sea level and increased storm intensity. [more](#)

