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2011 Earth Week events provide opportunities to learn and engage

Summary: From speakers to discussions, from clothing swap to bike ride, Earth Week is jam-packed with events.

(April 19, 2011)-Several groups at Morris have organized learning and action opportunities during 2011 Earth Week, April 18–22. All of the events are free and open to the public.

Monday, April 18: economist and author Chris Farrell's address

Chris Farrell, author of *The New Frugality: How to Consume Less, Save More, and Live Better*, will speak on Monday, April 18, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in Edson Auditorium. A reception and book signing follow. Chris advocates living "modestly," but not "cheaply," and will share innovative solutions and new financial models. An award winning journalist, Farrell is a regular contributor to "Marketplace Morning Report" and chief economics correspondent for American Public Media's documentary unit, American Radio Works, and Minnesota Public Radio. He writes for Bloomberg Businessweek and is a weekly columnist in the Star Tribune. [Read more](#)

Tuesday, April 19: green energy tour and World Café conversations

The Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) has organized several Earth Week events for the campus and community. The organization is "a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit, student-directed organization that empowers and trains students and engages the community to take collective action in the public interest throughout the state of Minnesota." Its first event of the week is a green energy tour of campus initiatives conducted through the newly established Green Ambassadors program. Participants should meet at the Welcome Center at 12:30 p.m. for a one-hour tour of campus renewable energy initiatives like the wind turbines and biomass facility.

On Tuesday evening, MPRG will host an informal, round-table conversation on sustainability at 7 p.m. in Turtle Mountain Cafe in the Student Center. Representatives of campus sustainability projects and programs will facilitate discussions.

Wednesday, April 20: clothing swap and innovative professor and author Jim Farrell's talk

MPIRG will sponsor a clothing swap on Wednesday from 2 until 6 p.m. on the campus mall. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in Oyate Hall. Participants are asked to bring only clean, gently used clothing items to exchange with others. Nonclothing items will not be accepted for this event.

Jim Farrell, author, professor, and frequent speaker on "greening" college campuses, will give his address, "On The Nature of Our Lives: Sustainability and College Culture," on Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Imholte Hall room 109. A reception and book signing follow. The Boldt Distinguished Teaching Professor at St. Olaf College, Farrell developed Campus Ecology, a course that makes students the subject of their own environmental studies. He also teaches Consuming College Culture and Campus Ecology. He is the author of *The Nature of College: College Culture, Consumer Culture and the Environment*. [Read more](#)

Thursday, April 21: Professor Cyrus Bina book reception and talk, and film

Professor of Economics Cyrus Bina will discuss his newly released book, *Oil: A Time Machine—Journey Beyond Fanciful Economics and Frightful Politics*, at a reception and book signing event at LaFave House, 305 College Avenue, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2011. Bina's new book is a systematic study of oil in its historical stages and an exploration of domestic, foreign, and global environmental policies. [Read more](#)

At 7 p.m., MPRIG will show the National Geographic film *The Human Footprint* in Imholte Hall room 111. The film explores how much of the world's resources an individual consumes and uses science and visual effects to illustrate the average American's human footprint.

Friday, April 22: Earth Day Critical Mass bicycling event

This MPRIG event will promote commuting by bicycle in the community of Morris. The community ride will emphasize the ease of biking in Morris and foster motor vehicle awareness through a positive, high-visibility event. Meet on the mall at 4 p.m. Helmets encouraged.

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