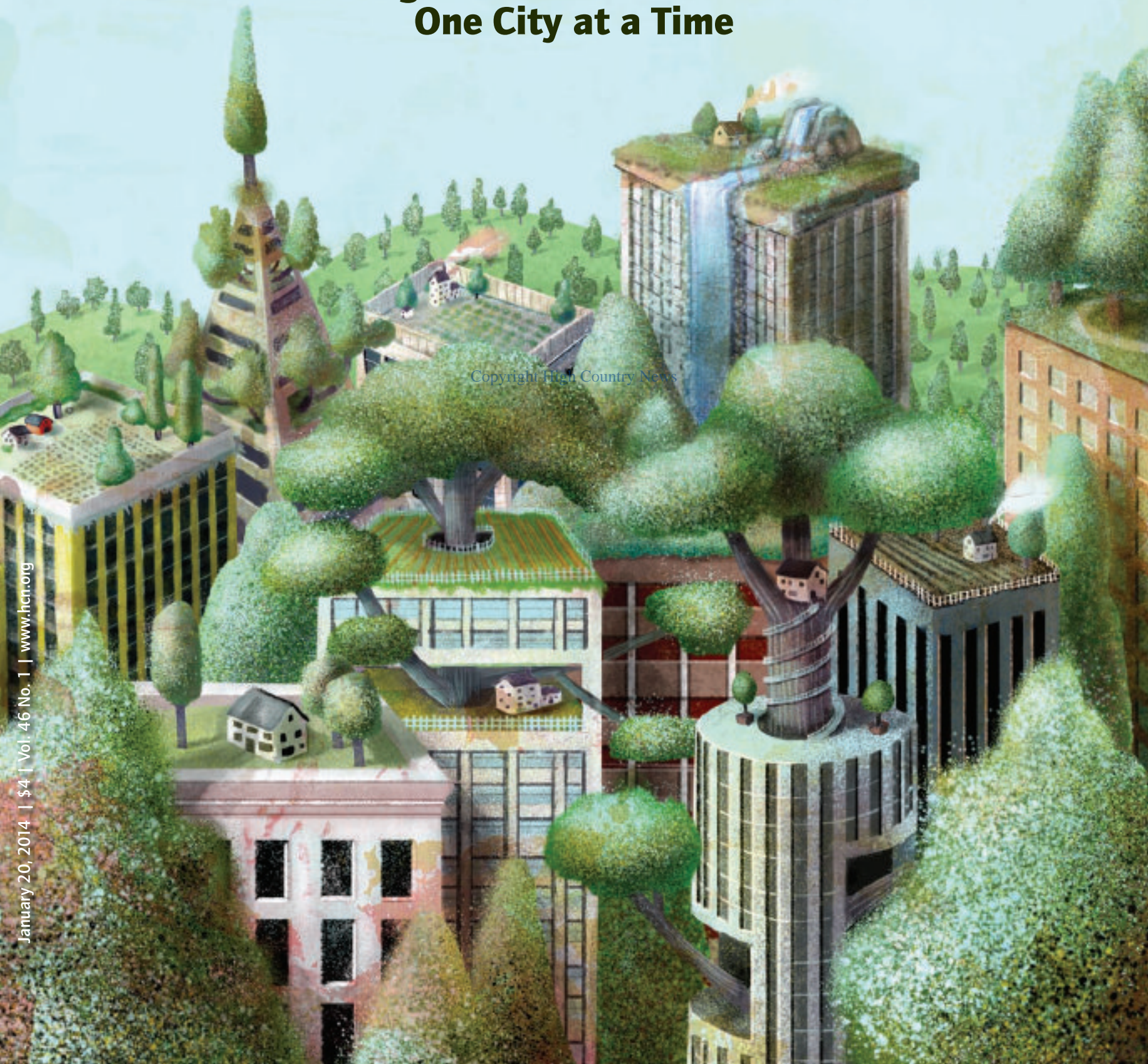


High Country News

For people who care about the West

**Building a More Sustainable West,
One City at a Time**



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business, political science, environmental science and ethics. They complete a service-learning project of their own invention that applies their major's skills and ideas in the real world.

NEW MEXICO

The undergraduate minor in sustainability at the **University of New Mexico** (sust.unm.edu) in Albuquerque requires students to tackle projects to make both the campus and the greater community more sustainable. One course teaches the history of farmers markets and explores the nutritional, economic and social benefits they provide. The students design, organize and run a local food market on campus. UNM's sustainability studies program is also seeking space for a student-run farm that will grow food and contribute to a seed collective. And UNM offers sustainability field courses in New Mexico, Nicaragua, Nepal and elsewhere.

OREGON

Sustainability is a core value of the strategic plan at **Lane Community College** (lanecc.edu/sustainability) in Eugene, Ore. The college's Institute for Sustainable Practices administers two-year degrees in fields like energy management and water conservation technology. And the college has ambitious campus sustainability initiatives, including LEED gold or platinum certification for new buildings, low-water landscaping certified as wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, and a program that gives prizes to campus administrative and academic offices that meet waste-reduction and energy-saving goals. Lane Community College also has a student-run Learning



WATERWORKS Students collect crawdads in Lake Tahoe, part of an undergraduate sustainability program. (SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE)

Garden that supplies produce for the campus and hosts an annual apple cider-pressing party.



At **Portland State University** (pdx.edu/sustainability), there's no distinction between sustainability students and their peers — every Portland State student finds ideas and practices for sustainability woven into classes and campus life. The Institute for Sustainable Solutions focuses on building better cities, working on ecosystem services like water filtration and improving quality of life by giving people equal access to health care, nutritious

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food and community development. The entire 50-acre campus is a laboratory for researching and implementing sustainability ideas that can then be transferred off campus. And PSU recently joined the Sustainable Endowments Institute's Billion Dollar Green Challenge, which helps universities set up revolving funds to pay for energy-saving and greenhouse-gas-cutting improvements, reinvesting the savings into future upgrades.

UTAH

At the **University of Utah** (sustainability.utah.edu) in Salt Lake City, undergraduates can major or minor in environmental and sustainability studies and may study abroad in Costa Rica for credit. Graduate students can apply for fellowships and research funding from the school's Global Change and Sustainability Center. The center also supports post docs conducting research on interdisciplinary sustainability projects, and provides four-year scholarships for financially challenged undergraduates studying sustainability science, technology, engineering and math. The campus's Office of Sustainability supports student-driven projects, including the rapidly expanding Edible Campus Gardens and the University of Utah Farmers Market, open from August through October.

WASHINGTON

Evergreen State College and the Washington State Department of Corrections run sustainability in prisons projects (sustainabilityinprisons.org) at 12 correctional facilities in the state. They provide daily activity, leadership

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responsibility and training to inmates and help conservation and scientific organizations. Prisoners have hatched thousands of caterpillars of the endangered checkerspot butterfly and released them into the wild. They rear bees for honey, research bee colony collapse, and produce lip balm and lotion from the beeswax. They also grow endangered native plant species, and much more.



Western Washington University's (www.edu/sustain) sustainability initiatives include wintertime Sweater Days when students, staff and faculty turn the thermostat down a few notches and wear gaudy sweaters to trigger discussions about campus energy-saving efforts. In addition, the campus runs a five-acre farm and wetland where students learn about food production. The campus supports a sustainable office certification program, wherein administrative and other campus offices cut energy consumption and reduce waste to earn points toward a bronze, silver, gold or platinum certification.

WYOMING

At the **University of Wyoming** (uwyo.edu/haub/academics/undergraduate-students/sustainability), students can add a minor in sustainability to any undergraduate degree. Coursework covers environmental and natural resource ethics, campus sustainability and other material, and students choose a general track or focus on food systems or energy sustainability. ■



TOUGH AUDIENCE Forest ecologist Nalini Nadkarni teaches prisoners about trees as part of Evergreen State College's Sustainability in Prisons project. (BENJ DRUMMOND/EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE)

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