Reports & Resources

US Taxpayers Bear 'Hidden Cost' of Poverty Wages
UC Berkeley | READ STORY
Stagnant wages and declining employer-provided benefits mean that low-wage workers in the United States are increasingly reliant on federal and state-run public assistance programs. In fact, U.S. taxpayers pay roughly $153 billion each year to supplement employers who refuse to pay a livable wage, according to report published Monday by the University of California, Berkeley, Center for Labor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food service workers</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care workers</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care workers</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time college faculty</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 Reasons Why You Should Eat Local
Strolling of the Heifers | READ STORY
As part of the 2015 Locavore Index this year, Strolling of the Heifers offers 10 reasons to increase the use of local foods, which, the nonprofit says, are better for consumers, better for growers and better for the environment.

President's Corner
Congratulations to MACDEP members Tara Mastel and Tom Harrington, Extension faculty in Jefferson County, for receiving the 2015 NACDEP Excellence in Community Development Work Team Award (Western Region, 2nd place) for their work on the Borden Hotel Renovation Project. Also, MACDEP members Dan Clark and Ashley Kent from the MSU Local Government Center received the 2015 NACDEP Educational Technology Team Award (National) for the Local Government Database Project: An Interactive On-line Tool for Citizens and Public Officials. Awards will be received at the NACDEP Conference in Little Rock, AR May 16-20.
What is the full cost of your commute?

*Discourse Media | READ STORY*

The Cost of Commute Calculator is an interactive tool developed with the aim to capture the full cost and benefit or driving, taking the bus, cycling and walking in Metro Vancouver. The calculator takes into consideration the costs of less obvious impacts like emissions, climate change, accidents, congestion and noise pollution.

Safer Streets, Stronger Economies

*Smart Growth America | READ STORY*

In this study of 37 projects, Smart Growth America found that Complete Streets projects tended to improve safety for everyone, increased biking and walking, and showed a mix of increases and decreases in automobile traffic, depending in part on the project goal. Compared to conventional transportation projects, these projects were remarkably affordable, and were an inexpensive way to achieve transportation goals.
California isn’t the only state with water problems

**Business Insider | READ STORY**
As drought, flooding, and climate change restrict America’s water supply, demands from population growth and energy production look set to increase, according to a [report](http://example.com) from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

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**Yale Climate Opinion Maps**

**Yale University | READ STORY**
The Yale Project on Climate Change Communication has recently released a new interactive mapping tool called [“Yale Climate Opinion Maps”](http://example.com) and an accompanying peer-reviewed paper in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. This tool allows users to visualize and explore differences in public opinion about global warming in the United States in unprecedented geographic detail.

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**National/International News**

*The whole globe is warming - but look at how much of it is caused by the Northern Hemisphere*
Washington Post; Apr 2

*U.S. Carbon Emissions Are Rising - Again*
National Geographic; Apr 21

*U.S. Maps Pinpoint Earthquakes Linked to Quest for Oil and Gas*
New York Times; Apr 23

*Winter spending piles up despite paltry snow at SW Colorado ski areas*
Denver Post; Apr 30
Clean energy is growing fast - but it’s not yet winning the race against fossil fuels

Bloomberg | READ STORY
Bloomberg has recently declared in the report, Fossil Fuels Just Lost the Race Against Renewables, that clean energy is growing faster than fossil fuels.