




TISHMAN CENTER · SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Green to the Core: The Top Five Headlines About Our Commitment to Sustainability

 [GreenHeadlines-796](#) From the [achievements of its fashion alums](#) to the [launch of its new visual identity](#), The New School has been popping up in the news a lot as of late. But the media has also turned its attention to the university for an entirely different reason: its efforts to confront climate change. Here's a look at the top five news stories

about The New School's green initiatives, including its divestment from fossil fuels, its commitment to green buildings, and the appointment of a new sustainability-minded dean at the School of Fashion at Parsons. ["The New School Divests Fossil Fuel Stock and Refocuses on Climate Change"](#) *New York Times*, February 6, 2015 Reporter Jason Schwartz's lead says it all: "Many universities have decided to drop fossil fuel stocks from their investment portfolios, but the New School in New York City has decided to go a step further." In announcing The New School's plan to divest from all fossil fuels in the coming years, Schwartz also highlights the university's commitment to "reshaping [its] entire curriculum to focus more on climate change and sustainability." ["This Earth Day, Green Is the New Denim"](#) *New York Times*, April 22, 2015 Reporting on the growing influence of sustainability in fashion, Vanessa Friedman cites the appointment of Burak Cakmak as the new dean of the [School of Fashion](#) at [Parsons School of Design](#). "We were looking for someone who could articulate the future of fashion and be a crossover figure, and Burak," an expert in the field of sustainable design, "made the most compelling case," Parsons Executive Dean Joel Towers tells

Friedman. [We Chatted With A Future Fashion Designer About How She Wants To Change The](#)

[Industry](#) *Collectively*, April 14,

2015 Reporter Rachel Singer visits

Parsons' [Alternative Fashion](#)

[Strategies: Design Incubator with](#)

[Green Eileen](#) exhibition and comes

across the “future of ethical fashion”:

in this instance, Parsons student

Nica Rabinowitz. “When people think

about design, they sometimes

isolate it into one little step,”

Rabinowitz tells Singer. “They’re not

thinking about the manufacturing, or

the farm where fabrics came from,

and then what’s the process—it got

woven, or crocheted, and then

thinking about what happens after a

customer buys it. How are they

going to wear it, how will it wear

over time, should I design it so it’s

designed for wear over time, or

should I put holes in it already? We

have to be thinking about the whole

system.” [“The Rat Paths of New](#)

[York”](#) *New York Times Magazine*,

April 23, 2015 In his fascinating piece

about how rats “get to where they’re

going” in New York City, reporter

Ryan Bradley interviews The New

School’s own Timon McPhearson. A

professor of urban ecology,

McPhearson uses the subject of rats

to open up a larger discussion on the

benefits of building a connected city.

“McPhearson’s fundamental point,”

Bradley writes, “is that spaces where

animals can move freely are good for people too.”[Step Inside The 10 Best Green Buildings of 2015](#)*Fast Company*, April 22When the [American Institute of Architects’](#) Committee on the Environment announced its list of the 10 Best Green Buildings, it was no surprise that The New School’s University Center was among them. *Fast Company’s* Adele Peters writes, “As one unique feature in its quest to meet LEED gold standards, the building stores ice at night to help cool more efficiently in the summer. Super-efficient LED lights and natural daylight reduce power use, while an onsite cogeneration plant harvests heat while it generates electricity. Greywater collected from toilets and sinks is used to water a 13,500-square-foot green roof.”

This article originally appeared on [The New School News](#). Photo courtesy of The New School.



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