SIGMA XI The Scientific Research Society

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Kimberly Gray is a Professor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Chemical and Biological Engineering at Northwestern University. After receiving her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University she worked as a research engineer for the Lyonnaise des Eaux in Paris, France for 2 years. Her areas of expertise are environmental catalysis and physicochemical processes in natural and engineered environmental systems with particular focus on energy and sustainability applications Gray was a recipient of the NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award. She was the Associate Director of the NSF Environmental Molecular Science Institute for Environmental Catalysis at NU from 1998-2005 and since 2003 is the Director of the Environmental Science, Engineering and Policy Program (joint between WCAS and MEAS). Other honors include selection as a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer and the 2008 Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow by the Woods Institute for The Environment at Stanford University.

# The modern American city: can we ever make it sustainable?

The short answer to this question is "not at the rate that we are going." Yet, if we really wanted to, we could make great strides in the short term and with our current technical knowledge in the ways we use energy and resources. So what is stopping us? In this presentation, I will discuss the various perspectives on "sustainability," a term that means very different things to different people, and make the case for why this is a pressing issue to be addressed sooner rather than later. To me the strongest case for changing the patterns by which we live and move can be made by considering the energy picture – supply, demand and consequence. I will discuss the requirements and the feasibility of developing truly renewable energy sources and consider the role of technology in finding solutions to the problem of sustainability, but stress that technology, alone, will not supply the answers.

**February 3, 2009**
**Pfendler Dean's Auditorium**
**PFEN 241**
**3:30 p.m.**

## Free and Open to the Public

**Sponsored By:**
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**Reception at 3:00 pm**
**2nd floor Lobby**
**PFEN**

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