



GREEN SCHOOLS / GREEN CAMPUS UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Using Energy Efficiency to Strengthen Education



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GREEN SCHOOLS/GREEN CAMPUS TEAM:

Merrilee Harrigan, Vice President of Education
Jo Tiffany, Sr. Program Manager
Renee Lafrenz, Senior Program Associate
Jennifer Alvarez, Program Associate
Emily Curley, Program Associate
Peter Jenkins, Program Associate
John Ullman, Intern



ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY

Creating an Energy-Efficient World

WATT'S NEW

Teams Gear Up for 2007-2008 School Year

New Year, New Plans

With most schools back in session and another fall professional development meeting around the corner, Green Schools team members have been busy planning new and improved activities for the 2007-2008 school year in Green Schools around the country:

- Building on the success of a first-ever Film Festival in Howard County, MD last year, the team is planning to engage Green Schools in Southern California in a similar contest. Besides being an exciting activity that gets students thinking creatively, a Film Fest will be an opportunity for students to do research on a question addressing energy efficiency. They can then demonstrate all the things they've learned by screening the video at their school and in the community. Not only will students show their star power, but will be able to concisely deliver an entertaining and educational energy efficiency message and spread awareness to those outside their Green Schools group. We are sure that our CA students will have some great films to show. In the mean time, check out the Howard County Films at <http://ase.org/content/article/detail/3872> .
- Climate change has been everywhere in the news this summer! Luckily, our students already know that energy efficiency is a great way to combat climate change. To drive home that point, the Green Schools team has been developing curriculum that integrates the link between energy and climate change into the classroom, as well as encouraging our schools to spread the word that saving energy means saving carbon. It is imperative that the youth of today--who will be most affected by climate change--learn to take the lead in curbing it.

Other initiatives are in the process of being developed as well, such as a Green Schools interactive website and comprehensive Best Practice guide to saving energy in your school. We are excited to continue Green Schools this year with 25 new schools, hundreds of new students, and new projects.

Green Campus Interns Tour SCE

SCE Provides Training and Networking Opportunities

In July, Green Campus team members and interns from UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Bernardino, San Diego State University and UC San

Diego converged for a special training session at Southern California Edison's Customer Technology Application Center (CTAC) in Irwindale, CA. Representatives from Southern California Edison (SCE), a major funder and supporter of the Green Schools and Campus programs, designed specialized informational presentations specifically for the Green Campus attendees. The event day was filled with technical lectures, a facility tour, and opportunities for the interns to network and learn about careers for up and coming energy professionals.

Interns first met with members of the CTAC Technical Support group who performed some demonstrations of efficient technologies and gave the interns an introduction to energy efficiency. The CTAC group was largely impressed by Green Campus interns' knowledge, background, and experience in the energy efficiency field!

As part of the Alliance to Save Energy's goal of developing the next generation of energy professionals, interns were granted a meeting with the Manager of Business Planning & Analysis. SCE has many employees in a wide range of energy-related topics, and the Manager was able to introduce internship and career opportunities to the interns, some of whom graduated this past spring.

Turning focus again to the interns' main interest as facilitators of energy efficiency on their campuses, the Accounts Manager briefed Green Campus interns with an overview of SCE's Energy Efficiency programs. They learned more about the rebates program as well as other means of facilitating their campus projects. Additionally, in a session on Energy Audits, professional home and office auditors offered insights into effective procedures and reporting mechanisms to enable the interns to streamline and expand auditing projects on their respective campuses.

Finally interns got to explore Cal Poly Pomona's Central Plant. Members of Southern California Edison and Sempra accompanied Green Campus interns and team members on the tour, which proved to be a great networking opportunity for the interns. The Alliance to Save Energy thanks CTAC for opening their doors to our Green Campus interns as they continue to learn skills and develop their knowledge bases to save as much energy on their campuses as possible.

GREEN SCHOOLS & GREEN CAMPUS INNOVATIONS

Mt. Vernon Educates Shoppers

Year-round Students Use Their Time (and Energy) Wisely

Mt. Vernon Elementary School has joined the summer's community outreach efforts in a new and creative way.

The Green Schools students at Mt. Vernon have been working in the community with Stater Bros. Markets in Southern California to get the effort going. In order to educate their customers and, hopefully, make people think while they shop, the grocery chain will distribute paper grocery bags to Mt. Vernon students who will decorate them with pictures and energy efficiency tips, and then give them back to the grocery store.



The kids hope that receiving the bags will help Stater Bros. patrons think about energy efficiency in their daily lives. The project recognizes that we can "vote with our dollars," and buy products that are energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The decorated bags will make for cheerful and helpful reminders.

Keeping Green Campuses Fresh

Interns Recruit Incoming Freshmen

As the 2007-2008 school year gets started, the Alliance's Green Campuses are starting where they left off last year. As with any campus club, their first job is to recruit and educate freshman to participate in the clubs and carry on their energy efficiency projects.

Humboldt interns participated in the Humboldt Orientation Program's Club Day, where freshman and their parents wandered from table to table, exploring extracurricular possibilities. Green Campus interns were afforded a prominent quad table to promote their volunteer club and distribute information on energy efficiency. They met with great success and recruited over half of the freshmen with whom they spoke to serve as volunteer supporters in the Green Campus Club.

On the Chico State campus Green Campus interns met with Miguel Sahagun, the Admissions Coordinator for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) in order to shape their involvement in the upcoming Summer Bridge program. Summer Bridge is an alternative freshman orientation program. An estimated 150+ students will participate in the event. Green Campus interns plan to attend in order to encourage volunteer participation in their club, discuss energy saving opportunities and screen the Humboldt State Green Campus video production, The Phantom Hunter. They hope to create a fun atmosphere surrounding Green Campus activities that will encourage participation from this year's freshman class. After all, future Green Campus interns are among them.

Fall is not just for recruiting students, however. Educating students as soon as they reach campus is often the best time to affect their future behavior in their dorms and on campus, and to let them know that their new school and classmates care about the environment.

Accordingly, Green Campus interns at UC Santa Barbara developed and produced green buying guides as part of a move-in informational packet for incoming freshmen and parents. Similarly, Chico Green Campus interns created and distributed over 300 informational brochures entitled *Sustainable Product Guide: Local, Organic & Eco-Friendly Products*. The handout provided new campus community members with an overview of energy efficient and green living, as well as local resources for procuring energy efficient and eco-friendly products.

To reach both Resident Assistants (RAs) and their incoming students, the UC Berkeley Green Campus Team made a presentation at the Resident Assistant Training Workshop to help familiarize RAs with energy basics and sustainable living in dorms. They also walked RAs through "Programs in Box," which is a new Green Campus online resource that outlines ready-made programs for the campus residential community to implement.

During orientation week at San Diego State University, Green Campus interns distributed CFLs and also hosted an informational booth and wore t-shirts with energy efficiency tips on them. In addition, the interns hosted a raffle for RAs who pledged to post Green Campus produced energy savings facts (so-called "Bulletins-in-a-Bag: Energy Quenchers") in key locations on their residential floors.

The campuses have gotten off to a great start and they have many exciting initiatives on the way for this coming year.

Energy Saving Tip:

Saving water means saving energy, especially in late August droughts. Use cold water when washing clothes, install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators, and use sprinklers sparingly!

SCHOOL & CAMPUS RESOURCES

Focus Your School with Focus the Nation



National Initiative Brings Spotlight to Climate Change

As climate change enters the thoughts of the American mind through the spotlight of American politics and pop culture, we often ask the question: "*But what can we do?*" Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed bills to lower emissions by Americans in the next few decades. But will it be enough, and will it be soon enough?

From the confusion emerges an initiative called Focus the Nation. The organization dedicates itself to doing just what its name implies, and making the American nation, one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases, truly take notice of the problem and work honestly to find a solution. It is a two year project, signing on thousands of organizations and millions of individuals all over the country,

Focus the Nation believes that the change will start with students. As such, colleges and universities are the group's target audience, and more than 1,000 campuses have joined the effort, informing student bodies and communities of the effort. Videos have been made, groups have been formed, and plans are coming into reality.

After months of work, Focus the Nation will culminate in a nation-wide symposium on January 31, 2008. College groups are encouraged to organize an event of large proportions on their campus, get endorsements from local businesses, and plan activities. The group suggests:

- Teach-ins with professors from multiple disciplines,
- A screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*,
- A letter-writing party to encourage local and regional lawmakers to fight climate change,
- Inviting local government officials to speak at events,
- Work with community organizations, especially high schools, middle schools, and other colleges or universities in order to get them involved,
- Or come up with your own creative ideas to spread the message of climate change, and encourage law makers to act.

Focus the Nation also encourages high schools, middle schools, and even elementary schools to lend their strength and energy. Schools can take a day to focus classes on climate change, its challenges, and its solutions. Kids can write letters to their lawmakers, and older students can watch *An Inconvenient Truth*. After-school community activities can be organized, and students from neighboring schools can team up to "run" letters to nearby policy makers. For more ideas for getting involved, visit www.focusthenation.org, and get ready to be part of history on January 31, 2008.

Teen Ink is Looking for Your Submission

Teen Ink Magazine Environmental Writing Contest
<http://teenink.com/Contests/EnvironC.html>



Energy efficiency? Hybrid cars? Organic food? Solar and wind energy? Pay-as-you-throw trash programs? Required recycling? If you have a plan to save the world, *Teen Ink* would sure like to hear about it. And if you know a lot about a current problem facing the planet - pollution, overpopulation, natural resource consumption/destruction - whip out your green pen and share your idea to solve an environmental problem or describe a solution. In June at least one teen will be honored for the best environment article published in Teen Ink in the past 10 months.

National Student Design Competition for Sustainability

Your Chance to Get Funding to Solve a Real World Challenge

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of the P3 Award Program, is seeking applications proposing to research, develop, and design solutions to real world challenges involving sustainability. The P3 competition highlights people, prosperity, and the planet - the three pillars of sustainability. The P3 Awards program is a partnership between the public and private sectors to foster progress toward sustainability by achieving the mutual goals of economic prosperity, protection of the planet, and improved quality of life for its people. The EPA offers the P3 competition in order to respond to the technical needs of the developed and developing world while moving towards the goal of sustainability.

P3 Awards will be given to the winners of the second phase of this national, intercollegiate design competition among interdisciplinary student teams for their research, development, and design of solutions to the scientific, technical, and policy challenges confronting sustainability.

Submissions will be competing for a grant to actually get their solutions implemented up to \$10,000 per Phase I grant . Upon the successful completion of Phase I, Phase I grant recipients will have the opportunity to apply for Phase II funding of up to \$75,000 for two additional years including direct and indirect costs. So if you have a good idea, this could be your chance to see it in action!

Please see the P3 website (<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/P3>) for more details about this program.

KIDS' CORNER

At Science Fair, Kids Teach Grown-ups

By Rachel Allan

- 5th grade, Veterans Memorial Elementary School - Brick, NJ

One of the most special things I can remember that our Veterans Memorial Elementary School Green Team has done is making science fair presentation boards on energy efficiency for our schools first annual 4th and 5th grade Science Fair. We were asked to look up and learn about something to do with energy and be able to share what we learned with others. That was a great way to be "green." Once we found a topic we liked we found important information and retyped it so it was reader friendly. We decorated the boards and glued everything we learned onto the board. At the science fair we got all of the green schools projects and put them together for people to see.

Members of our team made boards on windmills and how they work, how solar energy works, the difference in heat with CFL bulbs and regular bulbs, how long it takes for things to biodegrade, and what energy lights a light bulb.

We then talked to everyone at the science fair and told them all about how people should save energy and how to do it. It was a huge success. People liked the science fair, but most of all people left knowing something they didn't know before they got to our school.

We also learned something we didn't know before. Now we can take what we learned and teach other people what we know. Our class read a book called *The City of Ember*. It was a great book. It had a lot of things about reusing and saving. The people used can labels to write on and used pencils to the very end. They were very limited in what they had, but they got through the hard times. We also did a packet in class called Energy Hogs. It told us about the Energy Star label on appliances and that we should look for them. It also said to leave down the heat and gradually warm it up. It said if you make the heat five degrees warmer it uses more energy than gradually making the temperature higher. The packet also showed all of the different energy saving sources like solar, wind, and oil. Our Green Schools group also went on the computer and looked up sites that have to do with energy. We had fun doing it, but we also learned something from it.



Do you know that leaving your computer on stand-by wastes more energy than just turning it off? See. Those little things that waste energy add up and become huge. That is what is hurting our earth. Just by turning off your computer after you're done using it and turning off your TV when you're done watching it. As little as that can make a difference.

We couldn't have had this whole science fair work without Mrs. Damiano, my teacher. She got everyone aware of what is happening to our earth. That is what made me want to be on the Green Schools committee. I became aware of pollution and the ozone. I went to the beach and I made sure I was wearing suntan lotion. I came home burned so bad. I felt sad because that meant the sun's rays are coming closer to the ground and burning people more easily. More skin cancer and problems. All because the ozone is "crumbling."

We need to change NOW! NO more waiting!

(Pictured above from left to right: Maranda Tullo, Rachel Allan, & Peter Beaugard)

What is YOUR school doing to save energy? Write in and tell us! We might just publish your article and give YOU a \$25 gift certificate.

The Success Stories Book has been published!

The 2006-2007 edition of Students Leading the Way is on our website now. Check out the successes of California Green Schools last year.