



# GREEN SCHOOLS / GREEN CAMPUS UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Using Energy Efficiency to Strengthen Education



**March 2009**

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### **GREEN SCHOOLS/GREEN CAMPUS TEAM:**

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Jo Tiffany, Director of CA Education Programs  
Renee Lafrenz, Green Campus Project Manager  
Jennifer Alvarez, Senior Program Associate  
Emily Curley, Senior Program Associate  
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**ALLIANCE TO  
SAVE ENERGY**

*Creating an Energy-Efficient World*

## WATT'S NEW

### Nationwide Green Schools Programs Draft Policy, Involve Students, Share Activities

Green Schools programs in California, New York, and the District of Columbia held their second big meetings of the school year in February, where student participants and school faculty shared project ideas and challenges, and discussed the roles students can take to achieve substantial energy savings and communicate their savings recommendations to others in their schools and community.

#### **DRAFTING DISTRICT-WIDE ENERGY POLICY IN CALIFORNIA:**

Sponsored by Southern California Edison, the California Green Schools program held three meetings for its Southern California school participants: Hesperia Unified School District, Temecula Valley Unified School District, and Murrieta Valley Unified School District. Over 100 participants attended the meetings, in which school team members reviewed preliminary energy savings, revisited teacher lesson plans, and shared successes and challenges from the first half of the year.

The California Green Schools program also introduced a Student Film Competition, encouraging Green Schools student teams to create and submit short, educational videos about energy efficiency to be awarded and screened during the End-of-Year Celebration in May. And, to kick off the second half of the year, team members from the Murrieta Valley District sat down to draft a district-wide energy policy.

#### **STUDENTS TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:**

Saving Energy in DC Schools (SEDS) - the newest Green Schools program on the block - held a fun and successful mid-year meeting on the evening of February 5. What made the workshop especially exciting was the presence of about 40 students from the 4th to 12th grades, all of whom will be taking on leadership roles within their schools' energy clubs and teams. With their school teams, these students discussed the roles they will carry out in order to best collect energy data on school buildings, make savings recommendations based on that data, and communicate savings opportunities to others in their schools and the community. These include:

- **Energy Bill Analyzer** – responsible for tracking and analyzing energy bills to look for emerging trends, amount spent on energy, and any eventual savings.
- **Energy Audit Manager** – responsible for heading up energy audits of the school, serving as a central receptacle for all data, and taking the lead on making savings recommendations based on the findings.
- **Energy Outreach Organizer** – responsible for finding creative and compelling ways to present school energy data and findings, and serving as liaison between students and others.

Within these roles, students of all ages can take the lead on school-wide energy saving projects, and develop the skills and interests relevant to careers in energy and sustainability.

The next SEDS meeting – an End of Year Celebration - will be in late May and open to the public. Students will showcase their energy projects; high-level special guests are expected to attend. For more information about this program, please contact Emily Curley, ([ecurley@ase.org](mailto:ecurley@ase.org)).

## **SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN TO SAVE IN NEW YORK:**

The veteran Rochester City School District Green Schools Program held a Mid-Year meeting for participating schools, convening about 40 teachers and custodians representing a mix of high schools and middle schools from around the school district.

Each of the schools took turns sharing a few of their best activities from the first half of the school year. Teams have been very creative, undertaking projects such as developing a "going green" thematic instructional unit; educating school staff about centralizing classroom appliances; and instituting a weekend and school-break "checklist" to ensure devices are turned off and unplugged before long hiatuses. Teams also engaged in a discussion to brainstorm continued student leadership and involvement.



## **Over 60 Student-Interns Trained at Green Campus Summit**

At the 2009 Green Campus Energy Efficiency Summit, held this year at UC Irvine from January 24 – 26, nearly 60 Green Campus Interns joined over 40 Green Campus stakeholders for three days of energy efficiency activities and discussions.

During the summit interns learned about energy efficiency opportunities both on campus and in the working world. There was a full day of training, including three blocks of concurrent sessions, orientations for new and intermediate interns, audit trainings, peer exchanges and a metrics tutorial. Interns also learned about energy efficiency careers from a panel that included Alliance President Kateri Callahan, Trane Vice President Jim Pape, TAS Director Peter Armstrong, Food Service

Technology Center Energy Analyst (and Green Campus alumna) Lauren Mills, and Southern California representatives Carlos Hernandez and Juliet Murphy. In addition, California Public Utilities

Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon addressed a group about his workforce education and training initiatives in California.

Interns and stakeholders alike shared ideas at the World Café brainstorming event, discussing how technical and policy-oriented developments in energy efficiency pertain to their institutions and to Green Campus projects. Interns also had a look at other energy efficiency projects underway at UC Irvine, UC Santa Cruz, Humboldt State, and Cal Poly SLO during the Green Campus Showcase.

Green Campus converges twice a year and aims to facilitate ongoing networking and collaborations following this event and before the 2009 UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference at UC Santa Barbara.

## **UC Irvine Saves 300,000 kWh and Wins *Flex Your Power Award***

### **RECOGNIZED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND OUTREACH**

In December, Flex Your Power named UC Irvine one of five Best Overall Award winners in the 6th annual Flex Your Power Awards. In recognizing the accomplishment, UC Irvine Energy Manager Paul Wingco noted the contributions made by the Green Campus Program to UC Irvine's overall success with energy efficiency and conservation as these were included in UCI's Flex Your Power application.

UC Irvine's Green Campus initiatives which involve and engage students in campus energy efficiency projects; saved over **290,000 kWh** of electricity during the 2007-2008 school year. Green Campus interns also conduct outreach projects such as laboratory energy audits and initiate energy competitions to educate lab users and promote energy conservation on campus.

Mr. Wingco notes, "We consider Green Campus as one of the key partnerships we rely on for direct student involvement in implementing real energy savings on campus. I believe Flex Your Power recognized this important partnership and considered it as one of many factors in UCI's winning the award for Best Overall Category."

## **GREEN SCHOOLS & GREEN CAMPUS INNOVATIONS**

### **Green Campus Cultivates LEED-ers in Energy Efficiency**

At UC San Diego and UC Berkeley in California, Green Campus interns are leading school-wide efforts to combat wasted energy in buildings, which accounts for nearly 40% of total wasted energy and CO2 emissions. By working towards recognized green buildings requirements, the students are improving energy waste on campus one building at a time.

### **UC SAN DIEGO INTERNS LEAD LEED EFFORTS**

Since the summer of 2008, UC San Diego (UCSD) Green Campus interns and other students and staff have been working hard to submit documentation that will make the Campus Services Complex the first UCSD building to receive certification by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

As the project nears completion, the Green Campus program and nearly a dozen other students have turned to two new LEED certification projects: the campus Sustainability Resource Center (housed in the Price Center) and Sverdrup Hall (a laboratory building on the Scripps campus).

To ensure lessons learned on the first LEED project are not forgotten, the Campus Services Complex project team is working to make the LEED documentation easily accessible and writing a "LEED How-To Guide" that will serve to guide and inform future LEED projects on campus. Green Campus and others plan to apply lessons learned from the first LEED project to these two new LEED-EBOM and LEED-CI certifications, respectively, to ensure that the university's LEED teams can effectively reach out to building occupants, and green all aspects of building operations.

## **UC BERKELEY INTERNS CERTIFY GREEN**

Green Campus Interns at UC Berkeley are working closely with Sustainability Director Lisa McNeilly to continue plans for a Green Department certification standard that would be applied to departments in different buildings around the university. The team agreed to pilot the program in the HAAS School of Business, Environment, Health & Safety, and Residential Student Services Program buildings. Departments will earn points for sustainable attributes based on criteria the team puts together. The team determined the following mandatory requirements:

- A "Green Team" convened by each building that would meet at least once a semester and develop a plan of action.
- Recycling bins on each floor
- Development of an individual behavior program and pledge
- Use of post consumer paper

Departments can also earn extra points for particularly innovative ideas of their own. Green Campus will develop a checklist of energy components required for the certification and the pilot phase of the certification process will begin next month. They hope that this Green Department certification will empower teams on campus to take ownership of their own sustainability for years to come.

## **CA Energy Tour with Former Green Campus Interns**

This summer four of our former Green Campus interns from **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** - Chad Worth, Nancy Cole, Eric Veium and Neil Bulger – will lead the [California Energy Tour](#), a fun and innovative opportunity for young energy professionals. From June 15 - 20, the former interns will lead a group of 20-25 students and young energy professionals on a trip across California to visit places pioneering a clean and renewable energy economy.

Designed by the former interns, the California Energy Tour was created to give the next generation of leaders the collaborative and teamwork experience they'll need in order to build the sustainable communities of tomorrow. Traveling from Sacramento to the Bay Area, participants will visit state and

local entities, research institutions, private consultant firms, community-based organizations and non-profits to understand how to transform California's production and consumption of energy.

## SCHOOL & CAMPUS RESOURCES

### Project Learning Tree® (PLT) GreenWorks! Grants

**Deadline: April 30, 2009**

Project Learning Tree® (PLT) awarded 58 GreenWorks! grants for service-learning projects in 29 states. GreenWorks! is PLT's service-learning program that engages PLT educators, students, and communities in environmental improvement projects. Since 1992, PLT has distributed over \$600,000 to fund 873 grant projects in communities across the country. Proposals for the Spring 2009 cycle of grants are due on April 30, 2009. Grants up to \$5,000 are available. For more information visit:

[http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/31\\_41\\_58.html](http://www.plt.org/cms/pages/31_41_58.html)

### Gloria Barron Prize Opens 2009 Nominations for Young Environmental Heroes

**Nomination Deadline: April 30, 2009**

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2009 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people (ages 8-18) who have made a significant positive difference to people and our planet. Each year, 10 national winners each receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. For more information visit <http://www.barronprize.org/>

### Summer Sustainability Seminar for Educators ~ California

**June 22-24, 2009 ~ Berkeley, California**

The Center for Ecoliteracy is now offering "Smart by Nature: Schooling for Sustainability," professional development seminar to individuals and teams of K-12 educators, parents, and others interested in schooling for sustainability. Topics will include: food and its connection to health, academics, and the environment; the integration of ecological teaching across the curriculum; and the campus as a system and ways in which schools are incorporating building design, energy use, and waste practices in their schooling for sustainability efforts. Participants also will receive guidance and support for designing project-based learning activities for the classroom, service-learning, and informal learning environments.