

Green Campus Newsletter Humboldt State University

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Issue 9



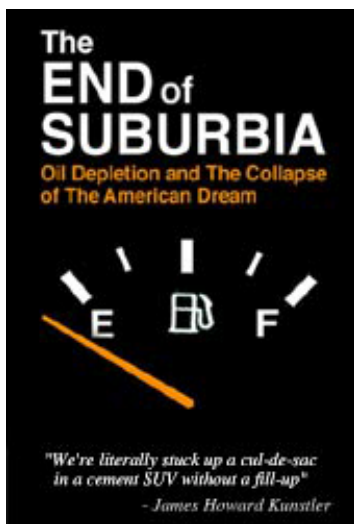
At the Mid Year Meeting Humboldt Interns (from left to right: Andrea, Krystal, Jeff, and Jocelyn) worked together planning, networking, and learning.

GREEN CAMPUSES CONVERGENCE IN BERKLEY

The Green Campus Mid Year Meeting was held at UC Berkley January 26th through 28th. The focus was expansion and education. It was exciting for interns located across the state to meet and exchange ideas, successes, and lessons learned. It was also equally exciting to have many folks from both the UC and CSU system brainstorming on programs and projects for the future of our program. In addition brainstorming and networking trainings on conducting energy audits, conducting focus groups, and newsletter writing. Humboldt had two important guests in attendance. **CONTINUED PAGE 2**

FILM SPARKS DIALOGUE

To kick off the semester Green Campus showed the documentary, "End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the End of the American Dream." Fifteen students were in attendance. The film gives the history of America's suburbs, transportation, oil depletion, and about our future. The documentary goes into detail about how our society will have to face the results of our oil dependent culture and deal with the reality of this finite resource. This film does not provide an answer to our petro-problems. It does, however, bring light to the peak oil situation that the world is facing and what that means for America. **CONTINUED PAGE 2**



BERKLEY, CONT.

Both Michael Winkler, a Research Engineer at Schatz Energy Research, and George Wright, a Manager at Plant of Operations, helped HSU Program Coordinators to map out plans for the spring semester.

Each of the nine campuses had stakeholders present to share information and help develop the future of the program.

There were also guests from the UC Office of the President, CSU Office of the Chancellor, the EPA. The meeting was successfully organized by the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) and Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI).

STATE OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION

"Here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world," stated President Bush in his State of the Union Address on February 2nd. He continued with, "The best way to break this addiction is through technology. [...] To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants; revolutionary solar and wind technologies; and clean, safe nuclear energy." Energy conservation, efficiency, as well as the concept of "clean" energy are coming into the focus of the public sphere even if it is only as a side thought of Homeland Security issue. The more people aware of the problem at hand the more likely we are to see a change in our society. Although, some of the methods are questionable in terms of long-term solutions, it is important that we starting thinking about solutions to our over-consumption of resources.

FILM, CONT.

A discussion followed the viewing; many of the students expressed the doomsday feeling that the film left them. Many feel that in the coming years, when oil as a commodity will be very expensive and not easily accessible, many people will die due to riots, lack of heating and air conditioning, and lack of food. However, some also stated that we are living in amazing times. Many tried to recognize and focus on the benefits of this future, the best thing that some students foresee happening is intra-dependent communities – communities that can sustain their own needs.

Although Green Campus does not work to reduce fossil fuel consumption in general, we do work to reduce energy usage measured in kilowatt hours (kWh) and British Thermal Units (BTUs). Raising awareness about energy consumption is an important step towards reducing our dependence and moving toward a sustainable culture.



Interns, shown right, enjoy each others company while working to cook and clean up after a recent dinner meeting.

WEEKLY MEETINGS HELP FOCUS THE ENERGY

To keep ourselves on track this semester Green Campus holds weekly meetings Tuesday evenings. Along with the Green Campus interns Morgan King of Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) often attends our meetings. Morgan offers advice and ideas for Green Campus projects and we feel privileged to have him.

Meeting locations are rotated each week. We take turns hosting the meetings in our homes. Roles of facilitator, scribe and timekeeper are also rotated.

Proceeding GC business is dinner, which offers a good opportunity to socialize. Recently, we watched the State of the Union address together before getting to work. We feel our time together helps to strengthen our group; enabling us not only to give project updates, but to also sample each others cooking, advice, motivation and support to one another.

MOVING THE FORWARD – THE GREEN WAY

Our plans are falling into place for this semester. After our Green Campus Mid-Year Meeting in Berkley we feel motivated to initiate our projects.

In following up with the Energy Competitions from last year and continuing with the example set from our Energy Star dorm room in the Manor, we will be working to certify each of the Residence Halls buildings through EPA's Energy Star Certification Program. This program uses software called Portfolio Manager to analyze energy data and compare the energy consumption to other buildings across the nation of similar use and in similar climates.

Among some of our other projects this semester include writing an energy star purchasing /energy efficiency policy for Housing and campus-wide, publishing monthly energy data around campus to increase awareness, **CONTINUED. PAGE 4**

SUCCESS OF CLUBS FAIR DEPENDENT ON SUNSHINE

On Tuesday, January 31st HSU held its semi-annual Clubs fair. This year's fair was weakened by location. An administrative decision moved the event indoors, which put it out of the rain as well as the reach of most students. In addition, the Green Campus table was located in a corner of the room, where it saw even less foot traffic. Regardless, it was an opportunity to spread the name of Green Campus to the general population. The fair was a good venue to promote the upcoming showing of "The End of Suburbia." While we were disheartened by the lack of outreach that could be had, hopes remained high that word of mouth and class announcements would gather a crowd to movie screening. An additional logistics issue was the failure to create a "Green Row" containing the groups of the Environmentally and Socially Responsible Clubs Coalition (ESRCC). In an attempt to preserve the unity of the cause, we actively sought to inform the rest of the Coalition that the idea was merely postponed.

MOVING FORWARD, CONT.

conducting energy audits and small scale upgrades of offices across campus, creating an Energy Patrol Team to track where energy is being wasted, and creating permanent signs about energy use and energy saving tips across campus.

Now that there are four interns working together, we will be a lot more efficient and far-reaching to accomplish projects on our campus. Yet, we are very ambitious and counting on a dedicated team to work with the Green Campus club in actively making HSU a better place by seeking creative solutions to reduce reliance on our oil economy and invest energy savings into other programs to benefit students into the future.

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