

# Green Campus Newsletter Humboldt State University

March 5, 2006

Issue 10

## A VALENTINE'S GREEN [C]RUSH

On this February 14th, Valentine's Day, HSU was introduced to a new kind of love, one for all humans and for the Earth itself. While that idea may not be exactly new, it now has a new face – the Environmentally and Socially Responsible Clubs Coalition (ESRCC, also fondly referred to as "the Coalition"). The Coalition, in solidarity, tabled on the quad on Valentine's Day for an event they titled "Green Rush" to show HSU a good time and bring attention to their mission. Each club had its own activities, including an environmentally themed "Pictionary," charades and live music. Green Campus facilitated energy themed trivia questions with prizes of heart-shaped cookies or CFLs and a recycled materials Valentine-making station. Green Campus suggested to students who were making valentines to consider making one for our governor, representative or even University President, to raise more awareness about how important saving energy is. The trivia was a great success; people were lined up to get their chance to win a cookie! Making valentines was a good idea, but was hampered by an unusual amount of wind. (Several times during the day, we had to run and catch some runaway magazine cutouts.) Green Rush was great exposure and a lot of fun for all the clubs; the ESRCC is already planning on doing more coordinated events, which Green Campus will be proud to participate in.



Jeff (center) plays "I ♥ Energy Trivia" with students, giving out CFLs & heart shaped cookies



Excited students look on, create recycled valentines, and play a little trivia for prizes

## CALPIRG & THE COALITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Krystal had the opportunity to meet Ben Smith, a campus field organizer from CalPIRG (California State Public Interest Research Group), while he was visiting HSU's campus. CalPIRG has student chapters on campuses throughout the state working on initiatives from affordable text books and campaign reform to clean energy and carbon emissions reductions with the Campus Climate Challenge. Their main priority is standing up for California's consumers by conducting investigative research, publishing consumer reports and exposés. They "advocate new laws and other protections at the local, state and federal levels. And when necessary...take corporate wrongdoers to court." They also offer leadership training and will be working together with active clubs at HSU like Green Campus to improve campaign strategies, organizational and leadership skills, and recruiting techniques to find future student leaders. Currently, CalPIRG does not have a chapter at HSU. However, there are many social and environmental clubs on our campus **CONT ON PAGE 4**

## **TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY & BEYOND: INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABILITY**

As "Earth in Mind" author David Orr says, "No institutions in modern society are better equipped to catalyze the necessary transition to a sustainable world than universities." The California State University (CSU) system, the largest four year university system in the world, is making that transition. The CSU "has committed to meeting 20% of its energy demand with renewable power by 2010. CSU will begin by purchasing 34,000 MWh worth of Renewable Energy Credits (RECS) from 86% wind energy and 14% landfill gas. Significant quantity has established CSU as a leader in clean energy procurement." This is only one of the goals outlined in the system-wide policy that resulted from the two-year-long Renew CSU student-led campaign. The others include: using 15% less energy use per gross square foot by 2009/10, requiring all new buildings and major renovations meet the equivalent of LEED Certified 2.0 rating, and producing 10 MW onsite renewable power on campuses by 2014.

This is an amazing victory that stands as an example to the country and the world. HSU's Green Campus Program would like to add to this by exceeding CSU standards with a specific policy that will ensure these goals are met at the local level by mandating sustainable practices on our campus. **CONT ON PAGE 3**

## **LUMBERJACK GETS THE GREEN EYE SCRUTINY**

On February 24 Green Campus interns Jeff and Andrea performed an energy audit for the office of HSU's Student newspaper, the Lumberjack. With the goal of raising awareness about energy consumption across campus, Green Campus has decided to audit three offices frequented by staff and students alike; the Lumberjack Clubs' and the Associated Students offices. Dates for audits are to be determined.

The Lumberjack highlighted many areas for improvements such as lighting and computer management. Green Campus would like to thank the Lumberjack and staff present during our audit for being extremely helpful and forthcoming to our presence and questioning of office habits. With their help we were able to get a more complete picture of energy use patterns. Look for a comprehensive account of our findings, recommendations, and implementations in next month's newsletter.

We hope use these assessments as a vehicle to teach others how to do basic energy audits. In the coming weeks Green Campus will host an energy audit workshop with the help of Morgan King of SEI. After our basic training course, we will involve interested students in the audits. We hope that once we are finished these three offices will become models of energy efficiency for other offices and departments to follow.

## **GREEN CUP PLOT TWIST**

There are new winners for the Green Cup Energy Competition that occurred during October 2005 that are due to corrected data. Due to some data blunders, including information about Cypress's meter multiplier and some confusion about the establishment of the baseline, the winners that were announced in November were not accurate.

A total of 23,217 kWh were saved during the Green Cup Energy Challenge, it is approximately a 2.5% reduction in overall consumption for the residential halls. At electrical rates for the month of October it equates to a total monetary savings of about \$ 2,700.

The new winners are as follows:  
1<sup>st</sup> Canyon East (Madrone, Tan Oak, Pepperwood, and Maple)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Canyon West (Chinquapin, Alder, Hemlock, and Cedar)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunset

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## **WATCH FOR....**

### **Coalition Meetings:**

March 10 & March 24  
Fridays, 5pm @ Muddy  
Water's G St in Arcata  
(After the month of  
March meetings will be  
the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of the  
month)

### **Audit Trainings:**

Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
4pm CCAT

### **Energy Audits:**

Of Associated Student's  
& Club's Office TBA

### **Films:**

(Free Popcorn)

"The Formula"  
Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
7pm FH 111

"Ecological Design"  
Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>  
7pm FH 118

### **Energy Patrol:**

Thursday, March 9  
5pm South Lounge

## **INSTITUTIONALIZING CONT FROM PAGE 2**

One of Green Campuses main focus points this semester is to create an energy efficiency policy in housing. In tandem with this effort, we will be working with Associated Students to write a resolution about energy conservation and efficiency as well as the creation of a sustainability coordinator staff position at HSU.

HSU's Green Campus interns are currently working to draft an energy efficiency policy that will include measures about purchasing energy efficient equipment, upgrading inefficient buildings, renewable energy, providing incentives/rebates for students who consume below a pre-determined average consumption rate, and possibly fees for those using super load-intensive appliances like mini-fridges.

We have been researching what other campuses across the country have been doing to lighten their impact. A wonderful resource is the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)'s website which offers a wealth of resources for everyone. You can login with your school email address, through HSU. Membership allows faculty, staff, students and administrators to access locked files. They also have a weekly bulletin. Check it out: [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org)

Energy Action is another great resource that has compiled a very useful document called "New Energy for Campuses" report. It features case studies of what other campuses are doing to make their campuses more efficient. Check it out at:

[http://www.apolloalliance.org/docUploads/rp-new\\_energy\\_campus.pdf](http://www.apolloalliance.org/docUploads/rp-new_energy_campus.pdf)

Other campuses such as Duke University have inspired us, because they have recognized their impact as a major purchaser of goods and services. Humboldt State definitely shares that same power in our local economy.

We are currently working to write the draft of the housing policy that should be ready to present to housing mid-March. As always, any input or ideas you have to contribute are welcome.

## **GREEN CUP CONT FROM PAGE 2**

The 1st place winner, Canyon East, reduced consumption by 5.33%. They will receive a prize equivalent to \$678.50. Canyon West reduced consumption by 3.99%. They will receive a prize equivalent to \$407.10. The 3rd place winner, Sunset, reduced their consumption by 3.62%. Their prize equivalent is \$271.40.

Although the announcement of the true winners has been very disappointing for many, Green Campus sees this as an opportunity to learn from our mistakes and is seeking input and advice relating to the competition. On Monday, March 6 we will be holding a focus group from 5-7pm in the Aquarium of the "J" this is an opportunity for residents and operation staffs to give us their feedback. We look forward to hearing everyone's opinion and seeing where the prize money will go.

## CALPIRG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that have recently formed a coalition to network and merge on similar projects; working together to unite on campus-wide events, proposals and projects. The goal of the Coalition is to move the campus forward in a sustainable and social just way. Participating clubs are working on a wide array of sustainability issues. The latest projects are creating proposals for a sustainability coordinator position as well as a campus-wide sustainability policy. The Coalition is also working on establishing a coalition website, and writing skits to present at the annual Sustainable Living Arts and Music Festival (SLAM Fest). Hopefully, the Coalition will continue to network, reach out, and improve efforts through our connection with CalPIRG.

To get more info about these projects contact [hsucoalition@googlegroups.com](mailto:hsucoalition@googlegroups.com).



If you'd like to learn more about CALPIRG student chapters, check out what some of them are up to at: <http://www.calpirgstudents.org> or contact Ben at [ben@calpirgstudents.org](mailto:ben@calpirgstudents.org).

## PUTTING ENERGY ON DISPLAY

To raise awareness about energy consumption on campus, Green Campus has decided to pursue publishing energy use data about various buildings on campus. Working with energy manager George Wright, Green Campus has access to information on a building-by-building basis of energy consumption and costs.

We plan on taking this information and making it available to everyone on campus by creating charts and graphs to be displayed and updated regularly. These displays will give information on both energy consumption and costs.

Our goal is to raise awareness of building users and influence their decisions when it comes to energy management. Energy costs ultimately come back to students in the form of tuition and by putting concrete numbers on display we will make this connection more accessible. Currently, we are working on procuring space within buildings to house what we foresee as permanent displays to be updated by current and future Green Campus interns.

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*The Alliance to Save Energy's "Green Campus Program" is funded by the California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Strategic Energy Innovations is a sub-contractor of the Green Campus Program.*