



# GREEN SCHOOLS/GREEN CAMPUS NEWSLETTER



Using energy efficiency to strengthen education

UPDATE NEWSLETTER ♦ Issue 33 ♦ February 2006

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ALLIANCE TO  
SAVE ENERGY

*Creating an Energy-Efficient World*

# WATT'S NEW

## 2005-2006 Education Programs at a Glance

### California Green Schools & Green Campus

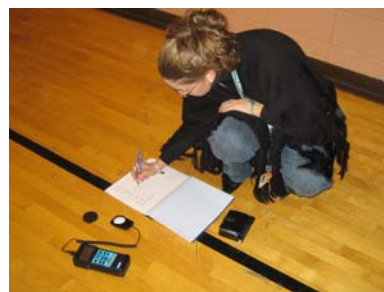
This year the Green Schools Program has expanded to approximately 65 new schools for a total of 104 schools in California – from San Diego County in the south to Humboldt County in the north. In an innovative program component this year, high school student participants in the Green Schools Program are trained and mentored by college students participating in the Alliance's Green Campus Program to conduct energy audits of local small businesses.

Building on the success of its pilot year, the Green Campus Program has expanded to three new campuses for the 2005-2006 academic year: University of California (UC) Irvine, California State University (CSU) Chico, and CSU San Diego. The program will continue to be funded through the 2006-2007 academic year as part of the UC/CSU/Investor Owned Utility partnership. Check out monthly newsletters from all nine campuses at <http://www.ase.org/section/program/greencampus/>.

### Maryland Green Schools

The Green Schools Program kicked off in Howard County, Md., this past fall with a training workshop in November. Seven schools in the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) are currently participating, and three more are slated to join for the second semester. The program is funded by the Educational Foundation of America, Maryland Energy Administration, and HCPSS.

Montgomery County Public Schools continues to fund and administer a Green Schools Program this year for 30 middle and high schools in Montgomery County, Md. Schools receive 40 percent of their electricity savings (with a maximum award of \$5000) for use in supporting the program and staff involved. For more information, please visit <http://www.greenschoolsfocus.org>.



*HCPSS science teacher  
Laura McIntosh takes a light  
meter reading in Homewood  
School gymnasium.*

### New Jersey Green Schools

Six Brick Township schools in Brick, N.J., saved \$20,000 in energy costs over the 2004-05 school year and will receive 100 percent of the savings to reinvest this year when the program kicks off in February. The N.J. Green Schools Program is funded by the N.J. Board of Public Utilities and administered by Global Learning. For more information, visit <http://www.globallearningnj.org/>.

### New York Green Schools

The Rochester City School District (RCSD) Green Schools Program in Rochester, N.Y., kicked off program activities with a training workshop in October – 60 staff members and ten students from 16 schools participated. A total of 19 schools have committed to participation in the program this school year; five of the schools are new to the program. The school district continues to support the program by rebating 50 percent of avoided energy costs resulting from Green Club activities directly to the schools. Documented savings from last year exceeded \$120,000, with more than \$60,000 rebated to schools.

## ★ Alliance's New SuperPowers Campaign ★

Responding to consumer angst over high energy bills, the Alliance to Save Energy has taken to the nation's airwaves with new, humorous Super Powers TV and radio spots and webisodes. The TV spots highlight the tale of Gene and Louise, super heroes with super powers, as they go about saving energy.



A very masculine-looking Gene in his trim blue super hero attire, complete with family crest, dons a frilly apron to cook a turkey with his laser vision glasses. Distracted, Gene "cooks" the dish towel, too; it goes up in flames. Imagine what happens when he later makes fondue....

His equally buff wife Louise—called "Starbright" for her capability to light up a room without electricity—sports matching super heroine attire complete with slinky gloves and kickin' boots. She's tall and blonde like the rest of the super hero family—including the dog, a Golden retriever.



The scene: A darkened room to fit the family's extreme "energy conservation" lifestyle. Overcompensating with her Super Powers to meet her frustrated 'tween daughter's plea for a "little light," Starbright creates a blinding light with her orb which causes the daughter and dog to don big, thick, black arctic glasses.

Watching from his window, bemused neighbor Bob finds these over-the-top super heroes "aren't so super at saving energy." Pretending to have super powers himself, Bob "adjusts" the programmable thermostat but admits he really doesn't even have to lift a finger to save money, energy, and the planet every day when energy-efficiency/ENERGY STAR® does the job for him. Visit the Alliance's new web section at <http://www.projectssuperpowers.com/case1.htm> for additional interactive projects and consumer tips to lower your energy bills at [www.ase.org/consumers](http://www.ase.org/consumers).

## Green Campuses and Green School Win "Flex Your Power" Awards

Every year *Flex Your Power*, a marketing and outreach campaign funded by the California Public Utilities Commission and other associations, recognizes certain organizations, businesses, and individuals dedicated to making energy efficiency a priority. 2005 was a big year for Flex Your Power; honorees included Adobe Systems Inc., Johnson and Johnson, and even the city of San Diego! Also receiving awards were three Alliance Green Campus Programs – UC Berkeley, UC San Diego and CSU San Bernardino – and one Alliance Green School – Sultana High School.



**UC Berkeley** – Taking top honors this year, UC Berkeley received one of three Best Overall Awards. Whether through retrofitting the college's physical plant, promoting energy-efficiency education, or designing LEED certified silver buildings, UC Berkeley is truly dedicated to an energy-efficient future. UC Berkeley's Green Campus program was a big part of this effort, implementing programs such as the student-run class Energy 101, the Blackout Battles energy competition, and a Light Bulb Exchange to promote student awareness.

**UC San Diego** – UC San Diego received an honorable mention for Education and Leadership. In addition to the efforts of the Green Campus Program, UC San Diego saved 3.4 million kilowatt-hours and nearly 684,000 therms of natural gas through retrofits.

**CSU San Bernardino** – Congratulations to CSUSB who, thanks primarily to its Green Campus Program led by interns Felicity Blue and Lisette Ortiz, won a Flex Your Power award for Education and Leadership. CSUSB interns helped make a lasting impression on campus by organizing events and projects such as Powerhouse, Energy Awareness Day, the Energy Star Demonstration Dorm Room, and CFL Lightbulb Exchange. CSUSB's Green Campus Program was mentioned in print ads and featured on a radio program.

**Sultana High School** – Winner of an Education and Leadership honorable mention, students at Sultana High produced two energy-awareness commercials, audited the campus, and avoided roughly \$85,000 in energy costs!

Congratulations again to all the winners for showing us what it truly means to "Flex Your Power." For more information, visit: <http://www.fypower.org/feature/awards>.

### **\*Green Schools/ Green Campus Sponsors\***

- California Ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission
- Educational Foundation of America
- Howard County Public School System
  - Maryland Energy Administration
  - Rochester City School District

# GREEN SCHOOLS & GREEN CAMPUS INNOVATIONS

## High School and College Students Conduct Small Business Energy Audits



The Alliance to Save Energy, in partnership with California-based non-profits Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) and Energy Education Program Influencing Change (EEPIC), recently piloted an exciting new collaboration in which interns from the Alliance’s Green Campus Program trained and supported high schools students participating in the Alliance’s Green Schools Program to conduct energy audits of local small businesses. SEI began using college students to mentor high school students through their Awareness for Communities about Energy (ACE) program in Hawaii in 1997. Last year the Alliance worked with SEI to implement this project in two cities in Northern California – Fortuna and Pinole. The Alliance also worked with EEPIC to implement a similar project in San Diego. Here are the highlights:

### Fortuna, Calif.

Three students from Fortuna High School, Kylee Krohn, Malori Harmeyer, and Jason Allen, attended a one-day training workshop on small business lighting audits, which included sessions on lighting surveys, documentation, report writing, and tactics for working with businesses. After the training, the students produced and distributed marketing and outreach materials, including a letter of support from the Chamber of Commerce, flyers, and t-shirts to be worn by the lighting surveyors.

With the support of Amanda Solnit, an intern from Humboldt State University, the students recruited and successfully completed an audit of 25 small businesses. Following the audits, the students developed reports with recommendations, presented their reports in the form of customized action plans, and conducted follow-ups for each business, which included installation of compact fluorescent light bulbs for some businesses thanks to a free local Pacific Gas & Electric giveaway. The small business audit program concluded with an awards ceremony for the students and participating businesses. The students identified 68,750 kilowatt-hours of energy savings per year, roughly \$11,000 or the equivalent of 3,500 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Pinole, Calif.

Adam Borelli, a college intern from UC Berkeley, led a training workshop for three Pinole Valley High School students, including sessions on recruiting small businesses and conducting lighting audits. The survey team then recruited and audited 13 small businesses in Pinole, including a large fire station. Under Mr. Borelli’s mentorship, the high school students created a report for each business with suggestions on potential savings from retrofit installations. The students identified total potential savings of 33,071 kilowatt-hours and \$4,300 (see chart above; calculations are based on data for 11 audits, as two sets of data were lost in a computer malfunction). They then returned to each business to present their results and discuss their findings with the owner.

|                           | Current Lighting | Recommended Lighting |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Total kWh/Year</b>     | 152,949          | 119,878              |
| <b>Total Cost/Year</b>    | \$19,883         | \$15,584             |
| <b>Total \$ Savings</b>   | -                | \$4,300              |
| <b>Average \$ Savings</b> | -                | \$391                |

*This chart compares current total and average lighting usage and cost for 11 businesses to the potential lower usage and cost and resultant savings that could be achieved through implementation of retrofits identified and recommended by students.*

Months later the students returned to the businesses to check on their progress. One student reported that most businesses were proud to show them that they had positively changed their energy awareness and behavior. Another student commented that before the audit employees at the exercise gym “Curves” used to keep all of the lights on all day; however, they now turn off the lights in the smaller rooms when there are no scheduled classes.

### San Diego, Calif.

In a slight variation of the model described above for the two Northern California cities, Tim Haag and Rebecca Hartstrom, Green Campus college interns from UC San Diego, not only developed a small business audit training program for high school students, but also included a residential component. The college interns coordinated trainings for two Juvenile Court and Community Schools in the metro San Diego area – McPhatter Summit and Thurgood Marshall – and attended weekly meetings with the students to support them in conducting home energy audits and creating a professional report of recommendations. Eleven home audits have been conducted to date and students are in the process of recruiting small businesses to audit in the near future.

## Campuses Boast ENERGY STAR® Demonstration Dorm Rooms



*Students listen as Green Campus intern Desirae Early explains some of the UC Berkeley Green Room's features.*

In an effort to ensure that campus residents purchase the most efficient appliances on the market, students and staff at three California universities participating in the Alliance's Green Campus Program created ENERGY STAR® Demonstration Dorm Rooms. The three rooms – located at the University of California (UC) Berkeley, Humboldt State University, and California State University (CSU) San Bernardino – differ in their particulars, but each is a showcase of energy efficiency in a residence hall setting. All three rooms feature ENERGY STAR® certified models of lighting, appliances, and electronics commonly found in student rooms, such as DVD players, compact refrigerators, and stereos. Regular tours are available or planned for each of the three dorm rooms, all of which feature signage explaining the benefits of purchasing ENERGY STAR® labeled products instead of conventional products. In the case of CSU San

Bernardino, the University recognizes the potential energy savings and educational impact of the project, and the room is shown to all prospective college students as part of the University's orientation tour.

Along with energy efficiency and conservation, the UC Berkeley “Green Room” also demonstrates sustainable practices, such as buying locally produced organic products and reducing material waste and water consumption. UC Berkeley's Green Room was made possible by a U.S. Department of Energy grant and implemented by local non-profit Strategic Energy Innovations, in collaboration with UC Berkeley students and staff, including Green Campus student interns. For more details, on the Green Room and other ENERGY STAR® Dorm Projects, you can visit <http://greencampus.berkeley.edu/GR.htm>

Plans for new ENERGY STAR® Dorm Room Demonstration projects are underway at CSU Chico and at UC Santa Barbara. Other ENERGY STAR®-related projects underway at Green Campuses include mailings of ENERGY STAR® product information to all incoming student residents and exchanging ENERGY STAR® certified compact fluorescent lamps for incandescent bulbs in campus residence halls.

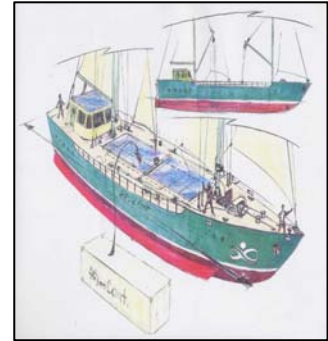


*An ENERGY STAR stereo in CSUSB's demonstration dorm room.*

## SCHOOL & CAMPUS RESOURCES

### Greenheart “Green Power” Poster Contest

Greenheart, a nonprofit committed to sustainable shipping, fair trade, and aid, is sponsoring a contest for students of all ages from around the world. The contest calls for original designs for posters, postcards and flash web pages based on the theme of green power and a sustainable future for all. The deadline for entries is **March 31, 2006**. Winners will receive a certificate, website graphic, publication in the International Child Art Foundation’s 2006 magazine, and a VIP invitation to visit Greenheart’s touring solar powered vessel, which promotes the practice of environmental protection, fair and equitable trade relations, and the responsible use of renewable resources. For contest information and a printable flyer, please visit <http://www.greenheartproject.org>.



*All Hands on Deck!!  
One prize is a tour of a  
solar-powered ship.*



LifeSmarts.org is an internet-based program run by the National Consumers League that encourages high school students to learn about the consumer issues they face today and the new challenges the future carries. Teams of four to five teens, grades 9-12, compete in district and state matches, with the state winners advancing to the national competition in Philadelphia in April 2006 to vie for the national LifeSmarts title! Get a team together and register at [www.lifesmarts.org](http://www.lifesmarts.org).

### Teachers, Do You Need More Resources?

If you are a teacher, librarian, guidance counselor, or coach in the public schools of Chicago, the Gulf Coast, Los Angeles, New York City, North Carolina, the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma counties), or South Carolina, DonorsChoose invites you to submit a project proposal for materials or experiences that would help your students learn! If a donor funds your proposal, DonorsChoose will purchase and deliver what you requested. Visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/teachers.php> to begin your proposal process. No deadline for entries!



### NRDC’s “Green Squad” Campaign

The Natural Resource Defense Council recently released their “Green Squad – Kids Taking Action for Greener, Healthier, Schools” campaign. Students are encouraged to investigate the school environment and learn ways to make their facility more sustainable. Numerous resources and tutorials are available, as well as an environmental poster, which can be printed in both English and Spanish at <http://www.nrdc.org/greensquad/poster.pdf>.



*“Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I will understand.” Chinese proverb*

## CAMPUS CORNER

### **Energy Action Coalition Releases Blueprint for Clean, Efficient Energy Use on College Campuses**

Nonprofits Apollo Alliance and Energy Action are seeking to help college campuses nationwide implement energy-saving policies with the release of a new report. The report lists a number of strategies for making campuses energy independent, including implementing energy audits and retrofits, encouraging conservation among students, and reducing power use from computers. In addition, the report includes examples of schools already employing these strategies, including contact information. For a free print-out, please go to: [http://www.fypower.org/pdf/campus\\_energy.pdf](http://www.fypower.org/pdf/campus_energy.pdf). Also, read over a register of simple, no-cost initiatives at <http://www.fypower.org/inst/edu.html>.



### **Meet the Campus Climate Challenge**



Recently, a coalition spearheaded by 30 environmental and social justice organizations began a campaign to engage 500 college campuses in the U.S. and Canada in efforts to transform our energy systems. The Campus Climate Challenge is a long-term competition between campuses that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create an online community of student, faculty and staff climate advocates to share resources, get new ideas, and build local and state-based networks. The Challenge will also leverage campus activism toward changes in local, state, and federal policies, as well as raise awareness and support among the broader youth population and key decision-makers. For more information, please

visit: <http://www.energyaction.net>

### **Partner with Clean Air-Cool Planet**

Colleges and universities, as institutions dedicated to education and research to support a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for humanity, are ideally positioned to play a leadership role in addressing global warming – and in the Northeast, many universities have proven their support. When partnering with Clean Air-Cool Planet, northeastern campuses receive:

- ◆ A climate action tool kit, which includes the Clean Air-Cool Planet Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Calculator, case studies and technical resources, and a practical framework for campus climate change leadership and action;
- ◆ Up-to-date, non-partisan information about climate change science and policy initiatives;
- ◆ A regional network of campus contacts; and
- ◆ Publicity and communications assistance.



For additional information, visit: [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for\\_campuses.php](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_campuses.php).

***Thanks for reading!***