

## About Green Campus

The Alliance to Save Energy's Green Campus Program is currently in place on twelve California university campuses: Humboldt State, Sonoma State, CSU Chico, UC Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, CSU San Bernardino, Cal Poly Pomona (in development), UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and San Diego State University.

Our nation's institutions of higher education spend a significant portion of their annual operating budgets on utility services, diverting funds from valuable programmatic and community-building activities. The Alliance to Save Energy's Green Campus Program is leading the way towards campus sustainability by bridging the divide between students and institutional energy costs. Through Green Campus, students are working to save energy on campuses by building general campus awareness, incorporating energy conservation and efficiency into course curricula, and implementing projects targeting energy use, student purchasing decisions, and operational changes.

### Program Goals

- Design and implement student-led campaigns that result in measurable energy savings;
- Create effective and lasting student-staff partnerships that lead to systemic and sustainable energy efficiency;
- Foster environmental stewardship by raising campus awareness about the relationship between energy and the environment;
- Develop replicable energy education curriculum and integrate it into academic offerings.

### Program Structure and Resources

- Green Campus interns work closely with administrators, faculty, and staff to create a strategic plan that addresses each of the program's goals and is uniquely tailored to the needs, challenges, and strengths of their school.
- Green Campus is a student-driven program; each Green Campus school has funding for forty hours of intern time per week.
- The Alliance to Save Energy recruits, selects, and oversees between two and four interns per campus; with supervision from Alliance staff, and input from campus staff, these interns are primarily responsible for the day-to-day implementation of Green Campus at their school.
- The Alliance supports Green Campus interns through continuous remote consultation, regular on-campus visits, and bi-annual program-wide convergences.
- Interns at Green Campus schools have an operating budget that they use to secure space for events, incentivize student conservation, and purchase new metering equipment.

### Program Rationale

- Educational campaigns can result in significant energy savings by changing behaviors and purchasing decisions.
- Students are effective advocates on college campus, able to reach their peers and high-level decision makers.
- Students can offer valuable assistance in greening campus operating procedures; student research can defer information gathering costs inherent in switching from conventional to more sustainable practices.
- Green Campus enriches students' educational experience while allowing them to take more responsibility for campus operations.

## Green Campus Program Research

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Following is a synthesis of information gathered through phone interviews to campuses who currently have the Green Campus Program at their University. We were interested in knowing the following:

- How is your Green Campus program funded?
- Can you tell me about the various student-led activities around energy savings? Energy awareness?
- Have faculty been able to replicate energy education curriculum and integrate it into academic offerings. If so, can you tell me a little bit about the courses?
- What is the organizational structure of your Green Campus program? Is it student led?
- Have you been able to form alliances with other Green Campus Programs?
- Do you have partnerships with other organizations, community based organizations
- What type of student involvement is there on campus around the Green Campus program?
- What is the application process like for a university?
- What type of meeting topics do you have and how are the meetings structured?
- What have been challenges?
- Successes?
- Lessons learned

### Green Campus projects and activities led by students:

- Energy Ninjas that patrol the campus at night after faculty and staff have left, looking for energy waste violations, and then giving out a ticket in the shape of a door hanger to the perpetrators to let them know what they could do to save energy.
- Fume Hood Project is where interns ask lab managers to shut off fume hoods on campus when they are not in use. Turning off one fume hood could save as much energy as three houses in one year.
- Every semester we have CSL exchange, that's where they have a table set up and we trade light bulbs for free CSL light bulbs.
- There are Office audits, where they go to all offices on campus and take watt meters and measure how much energy they use and send them a report of how they can reduce that by 30% and also buy them more energy efficient electronics to save energy
- Power management software, where we installed software with sleep mode to save energy and things like that and put in on every computer we could. We figured out that just by installing this software we were saving the school \$1500 annually just from the computer lab.
- Green Cup card, which supports using reusable containers, and participants get stamps that are later raffled for prizes.

- Take the stairway, not elevators all day is when we put up signs and posters for people to use the stairways instead of the elevator and we hand out candy and paper that says thank you and information about energy savings.
- We have Meter readings on campus where we can figure out how much energy is being used and then we have energy competitions to see which dorm can save the most energy is a matter of time. The students really like to get involved, the winners get prizes which motivates a lot of students to join in and compete. We go around and give energy awareness to the residences on how they can save energy and win the competition so we can outreach to them as well as give them something fun to do.
- We have educational video series that we play for students about the environment and energy. One great movie watched by students is, An Inconvenient Truth, an Al Gore movie, about global warming and energy saving. Also a student created movie called "The Phantom Hunter" is a great movie about energy awareness.
- We also created a Sustainable House; there are 16 residents in the house for honor students. The house is full of all energy saving devices, environmental safe products and recycled.
- Redo the lighting in the campus halls and removed lights that were not being used all together and just wasting energy.

### **Funding:**

- California Public Utilities Commission which comes from the ratepayers themselves
- PG&E Utility District
- Pacific gas and electric public utility company
- partnership in the CSU system that also helps fund; each campus receives around 7,000 dollars for spending cash for the program
- Recently Green campus is no longer funded by tax dollars so students are now taking on the funds be themselves
- the alliance to save energy and utility funds
- from the California rate payers under the offices of the California utilities
- UC/CSU/IOU energy efficiency partnership
- CSU office of the Chancellor
- Local stake holders and on campus, people who are interested in your efforts, they will be your stake holder

### **Academics:**

To educate and facilitate interaction on sustainability between faculty, staff, students, and community. We will create, disseminate, and assess knowledge using sustainable practices through classroom instruction, research, service learning, and visual and performing arts."

### **Related Courses & Degree Programs:**

- Environmental Studies
- Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
- Geography
- Global & International Studies
- University Leaders for a Sustainable Future
- Resource Page on Sustainability Degree Programs
- Arizona State University  
School of Sustainability
- Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP)

### **Organizational structure of your Green Campus program:**

The Green Campus Program is student led. Under the alliance to save energy, interns have to be students, full time, and 3.0 at least. There are 3-5 student interns, known as program coordinators. Each coordinator works about 10 hours a week; they have responsibilities to make sure they develop ideas and work with their stake holders. Lots of the ideas are from the students, but the staff and faculty are needed to follow through with ideas and plans. Student interns have partnerships with the entire campus and other campuses as well. Students have the most responsibility, but there are a lot of other people on campus to consider. So Students are the ones doing the projects but they have direction from the managers when making decisions and talking to faculty members, so it's a team effort to work together.

### **UCSB Sustainability Conference: June 24-27, 2007**

Define sustainability as:

*Meeting our own needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, particularly with regard to use and waste of natural resources. Sustainable practices support ecological, human, and economic health and vitality. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, and should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to long-term priorities and consequences of the ways in which resources are used.*

UCSB hosted the sixth annual UC, CSU and CCC Sustainability Conference with over 850 people in attendance. The conference brought together administrators, faculty, staff and students from various University of California, California State University and California Community College campuses to discuss each institution's impact on the environment as well as ways to lessen each school's detrimental impact on its surroundings. The event also featured several keynote speakers and honored current leaders in environmental sustainability.

The goal for this conference is to share ideas, learn from each other's expertise and best practices, build collaborations and begin a dialogue that will definitely continue long after the conference is over. Together we will put ideas into action to help create a sustainable future for our world.

The conference highlights the sustainability champions throughout California campuses giving them the opportunity to share how they were able to reduce their university or

college's impact on the environment, complete with the practical steps which enable participants to take the message back to their campuses.

#### Conference topics included:

- Transportation
- Green Building
- Energy
- Water
- Institutionalizing Sustainability
- Food Systems
- Procurement
- Waste Management

**Next Conference: Save the date for the 7th Annual UC, CSU, CCC Sustainability Conference: 2008: July 31st-August 3rd 2008 at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, new homepage to be launched shortly at: [University of California, San Luis Obispo](#)**

You will learn about best practices in sustainability at California Campuses, build collaborations with other campuses, government, business, and non-profit entities. Last year's conference brought in close to 850 participants and representatives from all over the state including all ten UC campuses, 20 CSU campuses, and 10 community colleges. The conference was also an opportunity for over 30 exhibitors and over 50 companies to present and attend.

#### Top Ten Ways to Reduce Energy Usage:

- Turn off lights, appliances and computers when not in use. Even for a few minutes!
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Plug electronics into power strips and turn them off when not in use to avoid phantom loads.
- Turn down your thermostat and put on a sweater!
- Turn your computer Monitor to save mode, screen savers don't save energy!
- Enable Power Management: In Windows XP; In Mac OS X, You go to 'System Preferences', click on the 'Energy Saver' icon, and set the computer and display (monitor), and Hard Drive to go to sleep. Alternatively, you can use a third-party program, or Press Cmd-Shift-Eject and your OS X Mac will immediately enter sleep mode.
- A properly compiled Linux kernel will listen to what you put in the BIOS, among other methods.
- Buy Energy Star® labeled appliances.
- When doing laundry, wash full loads and use cold or warm rinses Take shorter or cooler showers.
- Waiting until after 7pm (after peak) to use appliances, such as, washers, dryers, and electric heaters, can help reduce to use of the dirtiest power plants. Share a fridge with room/suite mates and keep it full.