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May 2014 Newsletter

Issue #89

Welcome to the May 2014 PSC Newsletter!

We are excited to announce that we were awarded the National Residence Hall Honorary Of the Year Award! We would like to thank Anna Rhoads, Resident Sustainability Advisor For Residence Life, for collaborating with us for some great events!

Many more awesome updates to share with our readers this month! The team celebrated Earth Week April 21st to April 26th. We attended events, tabled and held a Sustainability Retreat Weekend for our guests from out of town! Special thanks to the UC Santa Cruz team, Chico State team, and Andy Bayowski for making their way up to Humboldt!

This month we recap tabling events leading up to Earth Week, the Sustainability Retreat Weekend, and the Stakeholder Meeting. Other articles include information regarding energy supply and the Green Grad event held by the Waste-Reduction and Resource Awareness Program. We wrap up this month's newsletter with a few words from myself as I get ready to graduate from HSU!

Enjoy!

Anais Rodriguez

Newsletter Editor



ABOVE: (left to right) Delia Bense-Kang, Rachael Londer, Anais Rodriguez, John Lococo, and Jenna Bader

Sustainability Retreat Weekend Recap

By Delia Bense-Kang

The PowerSave Campus team at HSU hosted a Sustainability Retreat Weekend April 25th-27th! We were lucky enough to host PowerSave Campus guests from the UC Santa Cruz team and Chico State team, in addition to team lead Colleen Butterfield and stakeholder Andy Bayowski from kW Engineering. We hosted a jam-packed weekend of sustainability and a crash course of what Humboldt has to offer. We kicked off the weekend with our annual PowerSave Campus Stakeholder Meeting. The meeting was full of positive energy and generated great future project ideas. Friday night consisted of roller skating in the neighboring town of Blue Lake and dancing the night away at the "Dance of the Century" hosted on campus! Saturday morning we took a tour of the Arcata Marsh. The tour was informative for both our guests and us locals, as we learned details about the Marsh and Waste Water Treatment plant that we never knew before. After we attended a sustainability tour on campus led by a member of Waste-Reduction and Resource Awareness Program. The tour highlighted the Hydrogen Fuel Station, Shatz Energy Research Center (SERC), and the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT).

After the tour, PowerSave Campus members from HSU, Chico State, and UC Santa Cruz, Andy Bayowski, and Ian Hunter, a student employee at Schatz Energy Research Center, all presented in our Project Showcase. Rachael Londer from the HSU team presented on the Green Workforce Assessment and Certification project, Micah Yaldezian from the Chico team presented on his academic infusion project, and Kristiahn Alvarado from the UC Santa Cruz team spoke about her Cold Water Wash Campaign. Additionally, Andy Bayowski gave a presentation on Monitoring-Based Commissioning (MBCx) and the project kW Engineering is working on in the Founders Hall and Gist Hall buildings on the HSU campus. Ian Hunter presented about projects Schatz Energy Research Center is working on, in particular his work with the Lighting Lab. These presentations were a great way for us to learn about what we have been working on and gave us inspiration for new projects.



PowerSave Campus members from Humboldt State University and UC Santa Cruz with Team Lead, Colleen Butterfield, taking a tour of CCAT.

The weekend was a blast, and we hope our guests enjoyed a little taste of Humboldt. It was great to visit and be able to share the place we love with everyone. We are excited that we will all be reunited soon in San Diego for the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC)!

Stakeholder Meeting Recap

By John Lococo

On April 25th, a group of PowerSave Campus partners converged and engaged in a highly valuable discussion at our annual Stakeholder Meeting. I was delighted to see the stakeholders on the edge of their seats as my teammates and I overviewed our project portfolio of the past year and shared our project ideas for the future. For example, Silas Biggin, Energy Manager at HSU, took particular interest in a project idea regarding a smartphone application that would allow classroom occupants to report directly to Facilities Management if they were experiencing discomfort with the classroom temperature. Consequently, a copiously constructive conversation commenced. Moments like this, of heightened productivity and the cross-pollination of brainwaves, are a major contributor to the success of the PowerSave Campus program.

My teammates and I greatly appreciate the investment of time and energy our stakeholders contribute to our program. This year's Stakeholder Meeting proved to be a quintessential example of the productivity that can be achieved via input from the all-star lineup of our program partners. Special thanks to our stakeholders who traveled to HSU to be here.

Sustainability Retreat Weekend



ABOVE: Retreat attendees taking a tour of CCAT

BELOW: Team Lead, Colleen Butterfield, exploring in the Arcata Community Forest



ABOVE: Retreat attendees at the Arcata Marsh tour

BELOW: Retreat attendees take a stroll through the Arcata Community Forest



ABOVE: Logan Weinberg and Kristiahn Alvarado are all smiles in the Arcata Community Forest



LEFT: Project Coordinators, Alyssa Cordova and Micah Yaldezian, from CSU, Chico with a fellow colleague at May Day

Sustainability Skaters By Andy Bayowski

Stakeholder of the Month, Andy Bayowski, writes about his experience at the Blue Lake Roller Rink...

“I hadn’t laced up a pair of beige pleather out-of-line Size 11s in over a decade, so I found it comforting that orange plastic toe brakes have remained the state of the art while elbow pads and helmets have grown exponentially in popularity. The PowerSave Campus interns may not have been the most graceful, but they successfully persuaded rink management to turn off the gymnasium’s high pressure sodium during Couples Skate and to start using CFC-free aerosol disinfectant. And that’s what made the weekend worth the trip: bonding with a tribe of students from multiple campuses that all share a common passion for making the next cycle better than the last - whether it’s wastewater in the marsh, carbon in the atmosphere, orbits aboard Spaceship Earth, or revolutions around the rink. Thank you for an awesome adventure in Arcata, and see y’all in San Diego!”

Spring Preview Clubs Fair By Lindsay Loparco

Permitted with excellent weather, PowerSave Campus members tabled at the UC Quad and enjoyed the day talking with prospective HSU students. Bright faces traveled from all over to visit our wonderful school in hopes of being inspired and connected with club members. We spoke with many interested students and family members. It was also an excellent time for us to connect with current students and promote our Sustainability Retreat Weekend. We recruited more members for our club, Green Campus, and spent our time talking about the PowerSave Campus program goals and projects.

There was a slight sorrow surrounding the campus as we mourned the loss of ten people that were traveling to visit the campus for Spring Preview. It was wonderful to see the support and love from the HSU campus in these hard times. Our thoughts go out to the families affected by the tragedy.

Beyond a Club: Creating Community for Water Conservation

By Rachael Londer

It was Saturday morning, and I was chopping fruit and setting up poster board for the Green Campus Club’s weekend work party. Green Campus Club members, also known as “Greenies”, had expressed interest in putting on an event during Earth Week and were dedicated enough to meet up on a weekend morning to plan it. With their initiative, we began planning our “Go with the Flow” Water Appreciation Event for the Monday of Earth Week. We designed visual representations of water used per person on campus, tips for reducing water consumption, trivia, and demonstrations about the energy footprint of getting clean water to the tap.

Water conservation issues have become incredibly important not just on our campus, but statewide. In reaction to the recent announcements from Governor Jerry Brown about the drought conditions across the state, Humboldt State Facilities Management has begun emergency for drought conditions.

The collaborative efforts between PowerSave Campus and the Green Campus Club have amplified outreach and therm savings. We are eager to extend our efforts beyond Earth Week with several new project ideas that were generated by club members.

The Green Campus Club and PowerSave Campus Program at Humboldt State have become more than two separate organizations; rather, the two have combined to create a network of dedicated individuals. Both organizations compromised of students who work tirelessly throughout the semester to attain sustainability on campus and are even committed to working over the summer.

Do you know where your electricity comes from? By Jenna Bader

If you are currently living in Humboldt County, you purchase electricity from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E), but what generates the power that we all use? I recently had the pleasure of touring PG&E's Humboldt Bay Generating Station, which is rated at 163 MegaWatts (MW), located just south of Eureka, CA. The Humboldt Bay Generating Station was built in 2010, and provides power for approximately 120,000 homes.

So where does the 163 MW of power come from? Believe it or not, the Humboldt Bay Generating Station is powered entirely by natural gas! Natural gas flows into the station, is then combined with a small amount of diesel fuel for combustion, and the steam from the burning fuel turns the massive engines, which supply our demand for electricity. Although there are ten engines on site, not all are used at once, due to a delicate balance of supply and demand. If an operator on-site gets a call that the grid needs more power, they switch a button in the control room, and the plant can ramp up production in a matter of ten minutes. This is fairly quick compared to nuclear and coal counterparts, which can take days or even weeks to ramp up production.

The most interesting thing I learned at the Humboldt Bay Generating Station was that the engines used to power our electric grid are cruise ship engines! That's right, the same engine that gets you from point A to point B in the ocean, are rotated in the opposite direction at the generating station to generate energy rather than consume it. These engines are each combined with turbochargers, just like you would place on a car engine to increase the horsepower. The turbochargers cost only $\frac{1}{8}$ of the price of the engines, and ramp up the horsepower over 50%!

So next time you turn on your electronics, take a moment to appreciate how this electricity is generated, and as always...reduce your use!



ABOVE: Jenna Bader at the Humboldt Bay Generation Station

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority invites you to participate in a No-Cost Energy Efficiency Assessment!

All renters and homeowners in Humboldt County who are Pacific Gas and Electric Company customers are eligible. Reduce your energy use, save money, and improve the comfort of your home by scheduling an in-home appointment with one of our Energy Technicians. We can assess: lighting, water heating, appliances, building envelope, and heating systems. You may be eligible for no-cost and reduced-cost upgrades including: LED light bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps, low-flow faucet aerators, and low-flow showerheads. Contact us today!

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Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: 707-269-1700
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People Power

by Monique Gil

This month, the PowerSave Campus team tabled at numerous events in order to spread the word about our Sustainability Retreat Weekend. We tabled at the Eco-Summit at the "J" and Eel River Brewery in Fortuna to table to promote all the Earth Week events!

There were many opportunities to participate in the fun! At the Eco-Summit, two water-conscious residents each received prizes courtesy of CCAT after winning the Water Trivia Game! The biggest attraction at the Eco-Summit was the button-maker, students were able to make buttons after signing a pledge to save water. At the Eel River Brewery Fair, Johnny Lococo made a great connection with a local recycling center who then invited us for a tour of the plant. Attending these events was a great opportunity to interact with students and community members.

Water Awareness Month Photo Contest Winners

By Matthew Ware

Throughout the month of March we hosted a Water Awareness Month Photography contest to help promote recognition of water conservation. We were very impressed with the submissions we received from the community. The team voted collectively on first, second, and third place winners.

The Humboldt State PowerSave Campus team would like to congratulate Rachael Sauvage, third place winner, Nichole Besyk, second place winner, and Neil Shearer, this year's first place Water Awareness Month photo competition winner! Their photographs were displayed at Los Bagels during the Arts! Alive event in Arcata, CA.



ABOVE: Winning photos displayed at Los Bagels

A Greener Graduation

By Akira Brathwaite

At Humboldt State University, environmental consciousness is a way of living. Since 1987, HSU graduates have been encouraged to take a Graduation Pledge promising that after graduation they will continue the consciousness so embodied at this institute: *"I pledge to thoroughly investigate and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job opportunity that I consider."*

The Waste-Reduction and Resource Awareness Program (WRRAP) on campus decided to take this dedication one step further. Their pledge? To take into account the social and environmental consequences of the graduation ceremony itself. There is absolutely no reason to wait until after the ceremony to start thinking about the impacts one has and ways to reduce them.

I am proud to announce that, through our Green Campus Club, PowerSave Campus will be helping WRRAP "green" Humboldt's graduation ceremony. This Green Graduation, organized and led by WRRAP's Take Back the Tap Co-Director Corinne Krupp, is a Zero Waste Certified event. All concessions will be run solely through us which means primarily local, sustainable, compostable goods. Furthermore, no water bottles will be sold; instead clean, municipal tap water will be made available along with reusable metal bottles. In this way, we hope to help our university uphold its sustainability ideals and to encourage students to make good choices. Consequences are not restricted to the job market. You can make a difference in all aspects of your life.

Peace Out Humboldt!

By Anais Rodriguez

The first time I heard about PowerSave Campus I was sitting in my Intro to Environmental Science class. Jenna Bader made an announcement about the program and positions available. I was so eager to learn about the hands-on work being done on campus. I attended their events and soon after decided that applying for a for-credit internship was a right fit for me. My experience as a for-credit intern was so rewarding. I was able to work alongside Project Coordinators and learn about the importance of energy efficiency. The semester after my for-credit internship ended, I started my position as a Project Coordinator. As a Project Coordinator, I have been able to take creative control of projects and organize events that educate the campus community about energy and water savings. I have to admit, graduating is bittersweet for me, I love the campus and the friends I have made while attending HSU so departing will be difficult to adjust to. I plan to move to San Diego, CA and start my job search after summer ends which means I will be reunited with my PowerSave Campus family at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) being held at San Diego State University! See you all there!

Picture of the Month



ABOVE: (Top row, left to right) John Lococo, Matthew Ware, and Lindsay Loparco. (Bottom row, left to right) Shohei Morita, Monique Gil, Rachael Londer, Delia Bense Kang, Jenna Bader and Anais Rodriguez.

Stakeholder of the Month



Andy Bayowski, Business Developer at kW Engineering, attended all the events during the Stakeholder Retreat Weekend! Thanks for the support!

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APRIL METRICS

1,283

Website Hits

342

Direct Interactions

31

Pledges

29

Facebook Likes

7

Outreach Events



"The Alliance to Save Energy's PowerSave Campus Program is funded by the ratepayers of California under the auspices of SCE, PG&E, and Southern California Gas Company"