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October 2013 Newsletter

Issue #84

Welcome to the October 2013 PSC Newsletter!

This is such an exciting time of the year. First off, October officially marks National Energy ACTION Month, we also hired 3 new for-credit interns AND Halloween is just around the corner!

This month's issue includes brief statements from our 3 newly hired for-credit interns. Jenna Bader and Anais Rodriguez share information about our upcoming event, Energy Extravaganza, in honor of Energy ACTION Month. Rachael Londer keeps the excitement going with her fun Halloween Energy-saving Tips that will sure keep your festivities spooky and green. Finally, John Lococo shares his experience attending the HEIF brainstorming sessions in search of project ideas to implement energy-efficient projects.

Enjoy!

Anais Rodriguez
Newsletter Editor

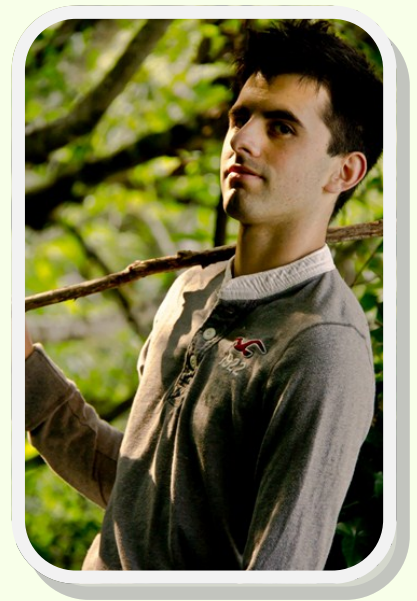


PSC welcomes 3 new intern!!!

Matthew



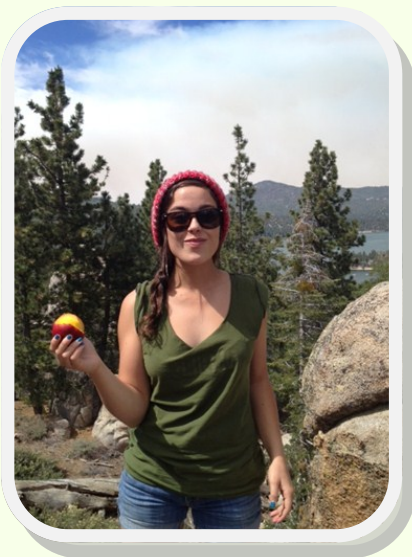
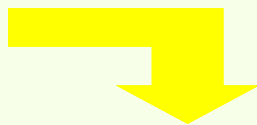
Hello! My name is Matthew, and I am an Environmental Science student with an option in Energy and Climate. I am a transfer student from College of the Redwoods and have lived in Humboldt my entire life. I look forward to working with students and staff to determine new ways to reduce energy output!



Hi everyone, my name is Akira and I am extra excited to be joining the PowerSave Campus team! As a natural resources student, I am eager for all of the hands-on applicable knowledge that I know this internship will impart. I am very grateful that I am getting this opportunity to truly make a difference, and learn as I do it. With the California Student Sustainability Convergence (CSSC) being held at HSU this semester, the Green Workplace Assessment and Certification Program continuing, and Energy Action Month coming up, plus all of the other multitudes of wonderful team projects going on, I know that I will be kept very busy indeed! And, hopefully, this will just be the start.



Lindsay



Akira

Humboldt holds all of the beauty and adventure I could have ever hoped for. Wide-eyed and fresh from Southern California, I am so pleased to be a new addition to the PowerSave Campus team. Growing up with an affinity for outdoor recreation and exploration, it is only right to invest my life towards protecting the very lands I love. I am majoring in Environmental Management and Protection with an emphasis in Natural Resource Planning. PowerSave Campus is an excellent opportunity for me to put my knowledge and passion to good work. I am truly excited to be working with like-minded peers who share the same ideals and put in work each day to make a difference in our consumption of resources. I am very honored to be apart of the team and hope to create new ideas and projects to continue to strive for sustainability on campus, and to spark consciousness amongst the public.

ENERGY EXTRAVAGANZA

A word from Jenna Bader...

You don't want to miss our Energy ACTION Month event, Energy Extravaganza Party!

We will be celebrating on
October 22nd from 10:00am - noon
at the Goodwin Forum.

There will be power pong, energy trivia activities, prizes, food, a power strip drive and a raffle at the event.

We will also be tabling at the event, along with local professionals in the energy field and sustainability groups on campus.



See you all there!

October is Energy ACTION Month!

By: Anais Rodriguez

October marks the month that the U.S. Department of Energy recognizes as Energy Action Month, previously known as Energy Awareness Month. It is a great month to remind ourselves and others the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts as well as considering the effects of our current energy efficiency policies in place. The goals for this month are to commit to energy efficiency, push towards energy efficient policies and technologies, and spread the word! Reducing energy consumption and making energy technologies more efficient mean lowering greenhouse gas emissions and it saves the consumer money. So this month and every month, we ask that you make investments in our future through energy saving efforts that will benefit not only our pockets but our world.

Halloween Energy-saving Tips

By: Rachael Londer

Elaborate costumes, ghoulish decorations, and decadent treats make everyone's favorite spooky holiday complete. Halloween comes only once a year making this holiday a unique opportunity to get creative with how green you can be. Instead of scaring your friends with fake blood and ghost stories, encourage them to add sustainability to their celebration. This year, I'll give you a hand with a few of my favorite tricks and treats:

- 1) If you are living off campus and have no pets, **use candles instead of string lights** to get the eerie feel. This way you can avoid plugging anything in and you will get that authentic ambience you crave. Just make sure you blow them out before going to bed.
- 2) While we are on the subject of lights, **invest in an LED or crank flashlight**. You can purchase a handheld one at Ace in Arcata for under \$5. Your path will be illuminated all night long without having to waste batteries or inefficient bulbs.
- 3) To really have a wacky Halloween, **host a glow stick party** complete with acoustic music and a bonfire. Invite all your friends to avoid having too many individuals at home with the lights on. Have everyone bring their favorite locally produced treat and remember to properly dispose of any waste.
- 4) If you're staying home to pass out sweets to the neighborhood kids, choose your treat wisely. Now, no kid wants to receive a shower timer or a kilowatt meter on Halloween, but **handing out treats with minimal packaging that are made locally** is a great way to spread sustainable practices. You can't go wrong with Arcata made chocolate bars.
- 5) Instead of heading to Wal-Mart to buy a costume for this year's escapades, **make your costume out of repurposed items**. Take the boxes you moved into the dorms with and become the most low-tech robot in town. Use old linens to become the ghost of everyone's nightmares. Drape yourself in used plastic bags and be the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The world is your oyster and the possibilities are endless with recycled materials.

Remember every day is a day to talk about sustainability and take action towards achieving our green goals. With Halloween around the corner, we can incorporate simple tips into our celebration, so that we don't wake up on November 1st regretting our frivolity from the night before.



Get spooky with it!



HEIF Brainstorming Session

By: John Lococo

The abundance of late-summer sun we received here at HSU seems to have generated an influx of student ideas about improved energy systems on campus. Last month, the one-and-only Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF) hosted brainstorming sessions that resulted in the culmination of over 20 unique student project ideas aimed at reducing the environmental impact of energy use at the HSU. I attended one such brainstorming session facilitated by the HEIF Committee's Project and Development Managers, Jocelyn Gwinn and Roger Tuan; and, boy, was it a high-energy exchange of diverse intellect from students, faculty and staff of all corners of the campus. The diversity of the discussion inspired me. Project ideas ranged from the installation of real-time electric load monitoring devices for campus administrators to chemical-free, outdoor urination stations from which soil amendments could be produced.

Every semester HEIF gathers thousands of dollars from student fees in order to develop and implement student visions, ideas and proposals. And, in all stages of project formulation, research, implementation, and evaluation students are involved. In other words, the fun never stops! HEIF is currently accepting Idea Papers and organizing student teams to write full length proposals. Writing an Idea Paper engages students in critical thinking about the project's potential success, anticipated economic costs and benefits, and applicability to HEIF's mission. The Idea Papers also formalize the project idea for the HEIF Committee to approve.

PSC has worked with HEIF in the past to accomplish big changes that resulted in huge energy savings for the HSU. This year the team plans on continuing that legacy. We have been working on brainstorming ourselves over how we can take advantage of the incredible opportunity that HEIF provides by cross-pollinating our projects with their funding. For example, Rachael is currently working on an Idea Paper that would provide staff and faculty offices with energy efficient light bulbs, electronics and appliances as part of our Green Workplace Assessment and Certification Program toolkit. We are also working on developing a darn good lighting retrofit plan for our library based on how our counterparts at UC Santa Cruz retrofitted theirs. In addition, we are researching how many therms could be saved by investing in a swimming pool cover and also looking into sourcing heat from the nearby cogeneration unit that burns natural gas to produce electricity.

Now, before I make any promises, we better get busy on our Idea Papers...

What is HEIF?

The Humboldt Energy Independence Fund (HEIF) fund was created by an HSU student initiative in 2004 aims to implement energy conservation projects on campus. Every student pays \$10 per semester to make this initiative happen . The HEIF Committee distributes that money to approved project proposals like water bottle hydration stations, behavioral studies, compost bins, or lighting retrofits. The possibilities are endless!

Have an idea? Submit a proposal!

For more information check out humboldt.edu/heif



Fall 2013 PSC Team



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

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Photo of the Month:



PSC team at the HSU Centennial Homecoming Parade. (Left to right) Lindsay, Anais, John, Matthew, and Jenna.

OCTOBER METRICS

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Direct Interactions

1438

Remote Interactions



"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"