



The PowerSave Current

Oct. 2014, Issue #91

Riding the PowerSave Current

This month we are excited to unveil our new newsletter name, The PowerSave Current! We chose the name because of the multiple meanings it has in relation to energy, water, and Humboldt County. It implies an energy current, a current moving through the water, and staying “current” with the world around us. Being that our team is located on the North Coast where the ocean is a strong part of our identity, the name is a perfect fit to combine our efforts for energy conservation to the nature that surrounds us.

We hope our readers enjoy our new name as much as we do! Please continue to ride the sustainability current with us!

-Delia Bense-Kang



Want to have the coolest Jack-O-Lantern on the block? Try one of these designs!



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PSC welcomes 6 new interns!!!

Jon Hearn

My name might be Jon Hearn, but I try to be a jack of all trades. I cook, I dance, I draw, I compose, I fence, and I dabble in literature and computer code. The best part of that is, I apply all of those skills to my life's goal of disseminating knowledge of environmental practices, technologies, and political actions to change America's paradigm!

Molly Daly

Hey Energy Savers! This is my third year at HSU as a Environmental Policy major with a minor in Oceanography...so the environment, ocean, wildlife and keeping the earth clean is really important to me. I'm looking forward to challenging myself as well as my peers to do their part in reducing resource consump-

Michelle Dowling

I am a Political Science major that transferred from Santa Rosa Junior College. I grew up in Hawaii and Northern California and have developed a strong commitment to social, economic, and environmental justice from my own life experiences.



From left to right top: Molly, Shiloh, Tessa, Robert, Monique

Bottom: Michelle and Jon

Robert Yuwiler

Hello, I'm Robert Yuwiler an Environmental Science major, with a minor in philosophy. I love it here in Humboldt, this place has taught me much about who I am and about the place we live. I hope to be able to affect change in the future, even through small steps.

Tessa Lance

My name is Tessa Lance and it's my second year here at HSU! I'm super excited to be joining the PowerSave team and to work on awesome projects with awesome people. I love forests, mountains, beaches, rivers, and even grasslands; basically nature in its entirety is just the best! My passion for the Earth and quest for conservation are what brought me here to Humboldt and now, the PowerSave team.

Shiloh Green

I am an Environmental Studies student and an avid dog lover. After graduating, I plan to help retrofit and design entire cities to meet green and LEED standards. Additionally, aside from universal sustainability, the only things I need in life is a garden full of edible plants, room-temperature water, and my future rescued dogs named Marvin and Piper.

Ice Bucket Challenge: Shedding light on ALS and Water Conservation

By: Monique Gil

Most everyone who participates in social media has heard of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. The ALS Associations' Ice Bucket challenge is charity that raises money for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Despite the Ice Bucket Challenge's growing popularity, there has been quite a controversy over people dumping buckets of ice on their heads during one of the largest droughts California has seen.

In response, some have chosen to make a statement about wasting water during a drought (dumping buckets of sand on their heads) while others turned the challenge into something a little more sustainable. Chico State took a sustainable ice bucket challenge by having a large group of students jump into a large swimming pool. The sent the challenge over to us, the Lumberjacks to come up with a sustainable challenge of our own! President Rossbacher suggested that we top Chico's warm weathered afternoon swim by having a large group of students run into the frigid waters of Trinidad Beach on a gloomy Friday afternoon. Once in the water, President Rossbacher and AS President Jerry Dinzes each had buckets of freezing ocean water dumped on their heads.

Fellow PowerSaver, Rachael Londer, and I teamed with the Campus Center of Appropriate Technology's Co-Director, Annette Penny, to help soak the two Presidents and ourselves!

In my opinion, the Ice Bucket Challenge has done a lot to raise money for ALS but also, it has shed light on the current drought that is plaguing California. Realizing that water is being mindlessly wasted has led to the formation of #droughtshaming.



Instead of focusing on what is being wasted, we should focus on small daily actions we can partake in that reduce water consumption. Shortening your shower by two minutes, turning the water off while you scrub your dishes, and flushing the toilet less often are small tasks that you can do to conserve!

Did you partake in a sustainable form of the Ice Bucket Challenge??? We want to see it! Tag @PowerSaveHSU

Haven't participated yet?? PowerSave challenges YOU to complete a sustainable Ice Bucket Challenge!

Sustainable Tricks for Halloween

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!



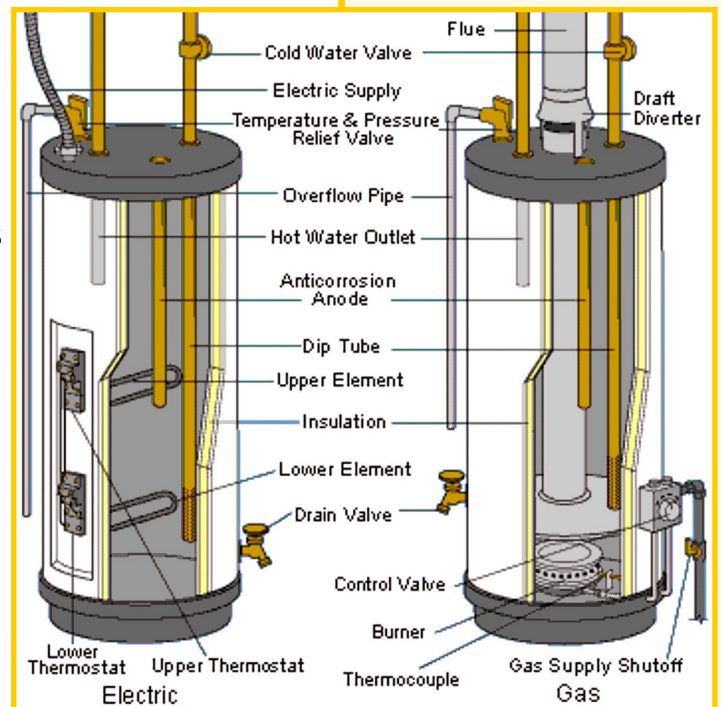
The Muscle Behind Domestic Hot Water

By: Jenna Bader

As the sun rises, and the birds chirp their morning songs, they say hello to your hard-working house-mate, the water heater, who has been working through the night, ensuring your water is up to temperature whenever you need it. In the average American home, water heaters are the second largest consumer of energy, and 15-30% of it's energy used goes towards keeping the water hot, just in case you need it. A loyal companion, the water heater ensures your comfort on those cold winter mornings, or any time of day, 365 days per year. I say, it's time to be good to your water heater for a change. Kick in that reciprocity, and work together to save valuable heat energy!

Give your water heater, whether it's gas or electric, a check-up by following these simple energy-saving tips:

1. Adjust the temperature setting on the heater to 120 degrees F. For every 10 degrees F you lower the water temperature, you can save 6% of your water heating energy!
2. Put your hand on your water heater. If it feels warm to the touch, that means heat is escaping, in turn, making your little buddy cycle on more often than it needs to. Add a water heater blanket, and watch your utility bill drop!
3. Insulate the hot water pipes leaving the tank, wherever they are accessible. You can find foam sleeves or foam tape with adhesive backing at a local hardware store. (Safety tip: For at least the first 5 feet, keep insulation three inches away from the gas flues on gas heaters)



People-Power!

If 10,000 households lowered the temperature of their water heaters by 10 degrees F, we would avoid burning 3 million pounds of CO₂ into our future air supply. Any takers?!

[Source: Larry Weingarten, Elemental Enterprises, He may be America's top authority on water heaters, and loves talking about them, give him a call if you have a question (408)394-7077]

Climate Change in the Nation

By: John Lococo

President Obama has yet to proclaim this October as National Energy Action Month, which has been a tradition for the past three years. Nonetheless this a critical time to reflect on and contribute to our nation's progress towards a clean energy future. This year Energy Action Month immediately follows Climate Week NYC, which culminated with the gathering of over 100 world leaders at the UN Climate Summit in New York City. There, President Obama reached out to his counterparts claiming no nation is immune to climate change.

He admitted that our nation is the second greatest carbon polluter, but also pledged our commitment to achieving climate neutrality. The US now generates three-times the wind energy and ten times as much solar energy as it did when Obama came into office. Every major domestic automaker now manufactures electric vehicles, and fuel efficiency in America is expected to double within the next decade. Additionally, the nation's carbon pollution has reached a 20-year low. With that, Obama pleaded the emerging economies represented in the room to join the US in committing to climate resiliency.

The purpose of the UN Climate Summit was to generate momentum for the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled for December 2015 in Paris, where nations are charged with devising a legally binding agreement on global climate policy.



Community Connection: A Chat with Justin Fricker

By: Matthew Ware

With the upcoming PowerSave Stakeholder Appreciation event on October 23rd, we thought it would be fun to interview one of our stakeholders, Justin Fricker, from Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)! Fricker is a former student of Humboldt State University and was a volunteer with PowerSave when the program was known as Green Campus. He is currently working for the RCAA's services division and recently contacted the PowerSave team to collaborate on providing information to Humboldt State students on countywide energy programs that could be useful to students!

One program in particular that Justin works hands-on with is through RCAA's no-cost weatherization and energy efficiency program for low-income qualifying residents. This program would be particularly beneficial for students living off-campus who still wanted to reduce their energy and water consumption! The program could potentially provide these students with an Energy Star rated refrigerator, energy-saving light bulbs, new double-pane windows, and much more!

With that being said, the Humboldt PowerSave team is very excited to have the opportunity to work with Justin Fricker and RCAA! We look forward to seeing him and all our stakeholders at this semester's PowerSave Campus Stakeholder Appreciation Event Thursday October 23rd!



PowerSave Campus Stakeholder Appreciation Event

Please join us Thursday, October 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00 PM

The purpose of this event is to bring PowerSave campus' stakeholders together to learn about current and upcoming projects. This will also be a great opportunity for us to work together to determine and implement projects on campus and to build meaningful connections with our stakeholders. We would not be as successful without your help, so this event is an opportunity for us to show our appreciation.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hope that you will join us!

Sincerely,
Humboldt State PowerSave Campus Team

Please RSVP by September 29th
powersavehsu@gmail.com



Stakeholder of the Month



Annette Penny from CCAT with PowerSavers, Rachael and Monique, post ice bucket challenge. Annette is a powerful student leader who is always open for collaboration and making changes! We appreciate her efforts and enthusiasm.

Contact the Project Coordinators

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Thanks to our For-Credit Team

Jon Hearn

Michelle Dowling

Molly Daly

Shiloh Green

Tessa Lance

Monique Gil

Robert Yuwiler

Photo of the Month:



PowerSave Team making incandescent light bulb terrariums with residents at an Eco Fair on campus.

OCTOBER METRICS

Potential Savings

442,458 kWh

Remote Interactions

15,051

Direct Interactions

307

Contact HSU PowerSave Campus

Website: PowerSaveHSU.com

Email: powersaveHSU@gmail.com

Social Media: facebook.com/HSUpowersave

Blog: PowerSaveHSU.com/blog.html



“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”

