Berkeley Team Presents to China National Academy of Mayors

Berkeley Green Campus interns Morwenna Rowe and Kimberly Lam gave an enlightening presentation on Friday, September 16 to twenty-three visiting Chinese mayors and government officials about how universities can use student-driven energy-efficiency programs. This visit to the University of California, Berkeley campus was part of the “Eco-Cities Development Training” for The China National Academy for Mayors September 2011. The Alliance to Save Energy organized this visit on behalf of the Department of Energy and the National Academy for Mayors in China.

The mayors and officials visited Denver and Boulder Colorado, and the Bay Area in California on an ‘eco-cities’ educational visit, meeting with local government officials, industry folks who work in energy efficiency, and other sustainability experts.

In Berkeley, the Alliance to Save Energy collaborated with Kira Stoll and Lisa McNeilly from the Office of Sustainability to put together a morning of short presentations. Ms. Rowe and Ms. Lam used current Green Campus projects as case studies of different types of educational outreach tools to effectively reach the broader audience. “Even though it may be impossible for some of our specific projects to be directly implemented at university campuses in China right away, it was great sharing broad project ideas and logistics that may be transferrable to Chinese campuses,” said Lam. A translator with the mayors’ group helped bridge the language barrier.

After the morning presentations, seniors Taylor Zhou and Joanna Young, interns with the Office of Sustainability, led the campus tour. This walking tour showcased many unique sustainability features at Cal, including the new demand-response system at Sutardja Dai Hall, and the restored watershed ecosystem on a section of Strawberry Creek.

The Green Campus Team feels very fortunate to have been apart of the “Eco-Cities” tour. “This was a unique opportunity for an international exchange of ideas regarding energy efficiency and it was interesting to see how our cultural differences shape our efforts,” commented Rowe. The Berkeley Green Campus team enjoyed this rare opportunity to interact with Chinese mayors and officials, and looks forward to future opportunities!

Above: Green Campus interns pose with the Chinese mayors alliance in front of the famous Sather Gate.


MWh Saved: **3,668***
$ Saved: **$363,500***
Carbon emissions avoided: **2,988,800 lbs.***
*CFLs distributed: **7,777**
Number of people who have attended presentations given by Berkeley Green Campus: **2,075**
Publications about Green Campus projects: **30**

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Green Campus by the numbers

23 = # of Chinese mayors who visited Cal this month for an “Eco-Cities” tour
3 = # of new for-credit interns collaborating with the Operational Excellence Energy Management Initiative
31 = # of students enrolled in the fall 2011 Energy DeCal, a course taught by Green Campus

greencampus.berkeley.edu
Adjusting to college life as a freshman at a school touted as one of the “greenest universities” can be overwhelming. "The Little Green Book" streamlines the green marketing efforts in the residential units into a unifying theme, a robust brand, and a good story line. This guide to everything green in Berkeley is a project spearheaded by Environmental Economics & Policy senior Elizabeth Chan, and funded by the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability’s Green Fund Grant.

Over the summer, Green Campus interns gave some input into the poster design and content. “The Little Green Book” is actually an 11x17 inch robot-themed poster, highlighting simple and effective sustainability tips relevant to students in the six categories of water, waste, energy, food, school, and the social scene. The style of the poster is refreshing and creative each of the six categories of sustainability are represented by a robot humorously named after that category (Energy Ro-Watt = Energy, Mr. Ro Bro = Social, Nerdie Wordie = School).

These posters are now ubiquitous in the residence halls, and the website is in its final stages of development. Two hundred “Little Green Books” have been posted in the residence halls, and Green Campus is helping to purchase 60 more to post in the remaining housing units, dining commons, International-House, and campus family housing. In addition to the posters on each floor, Elizabeth Chan has also created a corresponding pledge: “Students can choose to sign their name and check off sustainable habits they will adopt. Hopefully this public pledge will motivate students to stick to their commitments,” says Chan. Residents who complete the pledge receive a 10% discount on green merchandise from the Cal Student Store.

Check out the website component of this project, littlegb.berkeley.edu for green restaurants, environment-related classes, green tips, and much more!
Meet Our For-Credit Interns!

To provide an educational opportunity for students in the energy field, Green Campus created a new for-credit internship program. In collaboration with the Operational Excellence Energy Management Initiative, the interns will conduct energy surveys and energy conservation educational outreach campaigns in campus buildings. The course is listed under the Mechanical Engineering department and is sponsored by Professor Paul Wright, Director of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society at Berkeley.

Our new interns are Amy Chavez, Chika Kondo, and Kevin Tanouye. Amy is a junior studying Conservation and Resource Studies and an alumnus of the Alliance to Save Energy’s Green Schools Program. Chika is a junior studying Political Science and Society and Environment who gained an interest in energy efficiency after an externship with the Senior Director of the Climate and Energy Department of the United Nations Foundation. Kevin is a senior studying Environmental Economics and Policy Major and brings great experience to the team having worked with the Rising Sun Energy Center to conduct energy retrofits in homes of underserved communities. Stay tuned for updates on the interns’ progress.

Bios of New Green Campus Paid Interns Coming Soon!

In the last weekend of September a fresh round of applicants faced a more intensive submission and interview process for the coveted paid project coordinator position. Thirty applications in all were received from students of very diverse academic and cultural backgrounds and we were amazed at the quality of work and breadth of experience. After a very difficult screening process Anton Walker, ('14) Sara Seacat ('15), and Manon von Kaenel ('15) were selected as the newest members of our thriving organization. Stay tuned for new intern biographies in our next newsletter.

The program would like to particularly thank all the applicants who put such sincerity and effort into their application and encourage our readers to keep an eye out for the next cycle of hiring in the Spring 2012 semester.
October 1st marks the first day of Blackout Battles, the energy saving competition between the residence halls! During this three month competition, students band together with their residence hall to compete and find creative ways to save more energy per capita than other residence halls. Green Campus interns will be tabling in the residence halls to publicize Blackout Battles, give students additional energy saving tips, and allow students to understand the difficulty of generating energy with a manually-powered-smoothie-making bike blender! In addition to tabling, interns will hold events such as the ever popular Run the Trail event to encourage students to run outside in the trails of Berkeley as opposed to the energy hogging treadmills. The residences of the winning unit will not only be able to brag about being champion energy savers, but will also be awarded with an ice cream party!

A few months ago we announced how we were fortunate enough to receive two TGIF (The Green Initiative Fund) grants, one of which was to hold a Greek energy savings competition. Things are quickly moving as we plan to run our competition for October and November. Some of the proactive houses have already sent representatives to gain basic audit knowledge to receive free materials to help them save energy, including CFLs, shower heads and other small-scale items. Since the winner will be receiving a $2,500 prize, the pressure is on to be the house with the greatest savings (percent per person). During the competition, students will fill out surveys so we know what methods are effective, receiving educational material and a dose of healthy environmental background. Unlike Blackout battles which is in the school residence halls, we are able to add-on to the competition with free items to fix up their houses.

Since 2004, Green Campus has been teaching students about the basics of energy. This year is no different as we build on our successful program with 31 eager and interested students. So far this semester, the DeCal has featured two guest speakers, Desirae Early from PG&E and Lisa McNeilly, Director of Sustainability at UC Berkeley. Through these guest speakers, students learned about California energy policy as well as campus-specific policies and energy consumption. Students have also been assigned a home energy audit, through which they will analyze their personal energy consumption and brainstorm energy-saving behaviors. In keeping up with current events, students will be working on group projects that go hand-in-hand with Operational Excellence, which aims to help reduce the campus spending to keep up with the budget cuts. The students will work in target buildings to help identify ways the campus can save energy in campus buildings and then recommend changes to the building manager. We hope this real world tie-in with Operational Excellence will help students apply their knowledge from the DeCal to practical results.

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GREEN CAMPUS PROJECTS

Brief descriptions on all of the current Green Campus projects:

HOUSING PROJECTS:

**Blackout Battles Energy Competition:** The Blackout Battles is an energy competition between Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, and Unit 4 (Foothill, Bowles, and Stern) in the residence halls. These competitions have been held every semester since Spring 2005 and include prizes such as ice cream parties.

**Laundry Campaign:** Green Campus encourages residents in residence halls to adopt sustainable laundry practices by placing static laundry machine stickers on machines in residence halls advertising the energy savings realized from washing with cold water instead of hot water and the corresponding "cycle" to choose.

**Fight the Flow:** Fight the Flow is a TGIF-Funded retrofitting project for the showerheads in the Unit 3 Residence Halls. The project aims to conserve over 570,000 gallons of water over the next year by installing UZLOW™ valves onto the showerheads, which enable students to reduce the flow of water while shaving or shampooing.

**Green Cup:** This T.G.I.F funded project is an energy saving competition between Greek houses and provides them with free low-cost retrofits in return. Some things include light-bulbs and showerheads. The winning house will receive a $2,500 retrofit.

CAMPUS PROJECTS:

**Energy DeCal:** The 2-unit course utilizes innovative curriculum to teach a class of 30-40 students about the lifecycle consequences of our energy consumption as well as alternative energy technologies. Students complete assignments such as a personal energy audit and a group project that involves designing materials to teach other students and staff about how we can reduce energy consumption at UC Berkeley. Green Campus has taught this course to over 250 students since 2005.

**Green Departments:** In collaboration with UC Berkeley’s Office of Sustainability, the project establishes guidelines and a checklist, similar to the Bay Area Green Business Certification, for UC Berkeley departments to take the extra step to make their workspace “green.”

**Vending Misers Installation:** Vending misers are motion sensors that power down vending machines when they are not in use. Green Campus has installed vending misers on 14 machines across campus and has monitored their energy consumption on a weekly basis.

**“Shut the Sash” Fume Hood Campaign:** This campaign educates lab researchers to close the sashes on fume hoods when they are not in use to reduce energy consumption and improve air quality. This program currently targets Tan Hall and uses stickers, flyers, and emails to disseminate information. It involves a competition to see which lab can “Shut the Sash” most consistently.

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