9th Annual CACS Sustainability Summit

This month witnessed the 9th Annual Sustainability Summit organized by the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS). Green Campus interns were excited to present four different posters from CACS and TGIF funded projects including, “Fight the Flow,” “Green Cup,” “End the Cycle Laundry Campaign,” and our “Operational Excellence Energy Management Initiative Internship.” Later on during the CACS Sustainability Awards, Green Campus intern Kimberly Lam was recognized for her work with the ReUse Team and their efforts at Campbell Hall Team; which diverted materials from the Campbell Hall demolition away from landfill to be reused by the campus community. Green Campus Intern Morwenna Rowe was also recognized for her work with Green Campus throughout her undergraduate career.

The event wrapped up with a Cal Alumni Career Panel, which featured a discussion on the experience and advice of alumni from Dow Kokam, the EPA, Revolution Foods, and Berkeley’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Green Campus was overwhelmed by the projects highlighted at the conference and all the amazing work that is being done in support of environmental responsibility at Cal. The Green Campus team thanks CACS for all of their support and looks forward to next year’s summit!
Berkeley Green Campus welcomes new team members!

After reviewing applications and conducting interviews, the Berkeley Green Campus team is happy to welcome three new members to the team.

Omsri Bharat

Omsri Bharat is a first year Civil and Environmental Engineering student. She’s been interested in the environment and sustainability since an early age because of her family’s love for the outdoors. In her spare time, she enjoys soccer, Alfred Hitchcock movies, new and exciting vegetarian food, and spending time with friends and family.

Emily Wong

Emily Wong, a Cupertino, California native, is currently a second year student majoring in Chemical Engineering. She has always been environmentally conscious growing up, and hopes to influence others to be the same. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she hopes to pursue a career in renewable technology. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, completing DIY projects, and cooking.

Jacqueline Hsu

Jacqueline Hsu is a 1st year from Los Angeles County and is currently pursuing a double major in Environmental Economics and Policy and Conservation and Resource Studies. Her interest in environmental education and outreach has spurred her participation in environmental clubs at UC Berkeley. She is very excited to work with the UC Berkeley Green Campus to not only learn new skills and information about energy efficiency, but also to contribute to the effort of lowering the environmental impact that the university makes. She hopes to help increase energy efficiency on campus through creative solutions. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, hunting for bargains and deals, discovering do-it-yourself ideas, and spending time with her friends and family.

ENERGY TIP of the month

It takes enormous amounts of water & energy to produce clothing items -- even a single pair of jeans can use up to 3000 gallons over its lifetime! Buy less or buy used to conserve.

Unit 3 wins Blackout Battles Spring 2012!

The celebratory ice cream reward party is planned for Thursday, May 3, from 5 to 7pm. Congratulations!

Summary of results (% energy saved):

- Unit 1: 7%
- Unit 2: 9%
- Unit 3: 13%
- Unit 4: 12%

Total: 10% = 169,500 kWh = $16,950 = 88,817 lbs. CO₂
In celebration of Earth Week, Green Campus interns tabled on Sproul to teach students how to build solar-powered ovens and make s’mores. With some aluminum foil, reused cardboard boxes, plastic wrap, and a little newspaper for insulation, students built solar ovens in less than 5 minutes. The ovens cooked up sweet success with a chocolate marshmallow s’mores treat. The event was part of day 1 of Earth Week, which was about making personal lifestyle decisions in order to be more sustainable. Remember to make everyday Earth Day!

**Vending misers back in action!**

The brand new Simpson Center for Student Athlete High Performance opened this past semester, and though it boasted state-of-the-art training facilities and equipment, it was missing a very important energy-saving device - vending misers! During a walk-through of the building, a Green Campus intern noticed that two vending machines located in lower-traffic hallways would be perfect candidates for vending misers. These devices turn off the machine's lighting when there is low foot traffic around and regulate the compression cycles of the machine to save up to 50% of the energy used, while still keeping beverages cold at all times. Interns worked with Cal Athletics' Director of Business and Finance, Josh Hummel, to obtain approval for the two vending misers. Interns are first collecting baseline energy usage data for the vending machines using kill-a-watt meters, and will be installing the misers at the beginning of May. The team is excited to help the high performance athletes become high performing energy savers as well!

**Laundry posters take over campus**

Endless laundry settings got you confused? Fret no more! The End-the-Cycle posters are now beautifying laundry room in the I-House and Fraternities and Sororities near you! Look out for our laundry tips poster for information on how to save energy while washing and drying your laundry! So far posters have made their way to all the laundry rooms in the residence halls, university village, and now I-House and the Greek Houses!
Green Cup wins Best Practice Award

UC Berkeley was recently recognized as one of the winners of the eighth annual Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Best Practice Awards Competition. The Green Campus team entered the Green Cup Energy Saving Competition in the Student Energy Efficiency Program category. The prepared application highlighted the significant energy savings achieved through the competition as well as the importance of involving students who no longer live in Residence Halls in energy efficiency programs. Collaboration with other student groups was also an important element of the competition and Green Cup was organized through a collaboration between Green Campus and the Greek sustainability organization, Greening the Greeks. Green Campus interns will present the project and accept the award at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference this summer in Davis, CA.

DeCal finishes with stellar projects

This semester’s DeCal finished with style on Wednesday the 25th with a potluck and presentations on this year’s collection of OE Energy Projects. Projects included energy surveys of the residence halls and Hildebrand lab, an energy-saving competition in the Graduate Division, and a “shorter shower” campaign in the units. The projects were quite successful and employed many aspects of Green Campus’ vision of energy efficiency: education, evaluation, and actual savings. The Graduate Division competition, which is still ongoing as of this writing, saved over 400 kWh in the last three weeks, or the equivalent CO2 diversion of planting 23 trees! The top two participants in the competition, which took place in Sproul Hall and used the MyPower database along with participant data, received power strips with occupancy sensors to complement their suite of energy-saving supplies and behaviors. The shorter shower campaign used many concepts of behavioral psychology to encourage residents to shorten their showering time by taking a pledge and promising a pizza party to the floor with the most pledges. Overall it was a very successful season for the DeCal, which managed to thrive with lively discussion and thorough, well-executed projects. Thanks to all the willing participants and the interns look forward to an exciting new semester this fall!
Final cycle of Laundry Campaign

In the final steps of the Laundry Campaign, interns tabled throughout the week at the dining commons to distribute post-surveys to dorm residents. The surveys questioned residents’ laundry practices and asked whether they had seen the stickers and posters installed by Green Campus. The data is still being collected and analyzed, but will eventually help Green Campus determine the success of the campaign and help conclude the year-long project. To encourage residents to take the survey - which some residents took on our Kindles - interns provided free samples of sustainable laundry detergent, and the chance to win a giftcard to Yogurtland in a raffle. The raffle winners have been chosen: (name and where from?). This post-survey tabling session marked the end of a successful project, and Green Campus hopes that the students will continue to practice energy-efficient and sustainable laundry habits, even after they move out of the residence halls.

Green Campus connects with Ukraine

Berkeley Green Campus has established a partnership with an energy efficiency program from Kiev Polytechnic Institute (KPI) in order to exchange information about energy saving competitions. This is their first year having an energy savings group on campus so Berkeley Green Campus helped provide ideas on how to calculate savings and how to best outreach to students. Currently KPI is holding 4 competitions including a best energy savings ideas competition and an energy retrofit competition. Our collaboration has also resulted in tons of new great ideas to implement here on campus such as using the campus radio to broadcast energy tips or giving away gloves, scarves, and hats as prizes to encourage lowering the thermostat. Collaborating with Kiev Polytechnic Institute has given Berkeley Green Campus insight into how energy is used in other regions in the world and what challenges need to be overcome in regions that aren’t a major energy hub. Energy needs and global warming resulting from the burning natural gases and coal are global issues that need to be addressed on an international scale and Green Campus is excited to take part!
Ongoing Projects

Descriptions of all of our current 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 creating static laundry machine stickers 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.

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 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 ten semesters of this course to over 210 students.

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.