

# Green Campus Newsletter

## Humboldt State University

November 2006

Issue 17

### THE ENERGY DETECTIVE®: KNOWING IS HALF THE BATTLE

Electricity is one of the few things a household will use without actually knowing its cost until the bill comes weeks later. Thanks to whole house energy monitoring devices like The Energy Detective® (TED), households can take greater control of home electricity consumption and thus save energy and money. TED displays real time and monthly electrical energy use in kilowatts and kilowatt hours. Furthermore, TED displays up-to-the-minute and monthly cost information for electricity being used in the house. According to research, real-time monitoring devices like TED have generated household savings up to 10–15 percent.

Three TED devices have been installed in houses on campus. The Multicultural Center (MCC), Youth



Meet TED, the newest member of the Green Campus Family.

TED helps residents determine each household's "Night Time Load". There are many devices that use electricity 24 hours a day seven days a week (think fridges and answering machines). TED will help students and staff make sure that everything that can be turned off is off before leaving for the evening, or in CCAT's case before going to bed!

The TED devices were installed in October with the help of Robert Cherry and Lineman Tony of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), as well as Plant Operations' Electrician Jim Long. Soon each device will have an interactive display that includes instructions for use and gives energy saving tips.

With TED keeping students and staff informed of their energy use, HSU will reduce its energy consumption, save money, reduce our ecological footprint. TED will increase staff and visitor awareness of campus household energy consumption, leading to energy and cost savings (as well as ecological footprint reduction) for the

### RESULTS OF A CFL EXCHANGE BONANZA

During the 7 weeks of our light bulb exchange, Green Campus successfully traded 912 fluorescent bulbs, and gave away 52 (*Jocelyn: should we combine these and just say we traded 964?*). Thirty-three of these were directly put in campus offices by our volunteers on Energy Star's National Exchange a Light Bulb day. With an average daily exchange of roughly 59 bulbs, we traded 98 on our busiest day. Assuming that each bulb will be used for about 4 hours a day, our efforts created energy savings of 70,895 kilowatt-hours. This is equivalent to a reduction of over 13 tons (26,798 lbs.) in carbon dioxide emissions.

The campus community responded favorably, several people visited the CFL exchange every week with incandescent bulbs they collected from their neighbors. Forgetfulness and the inconvenience of bringing large amounts of incandescent bulbs to campus, especially for bike-riders, were the primary reasons given by students not participating in the exchange. Another barrier was that many students did not understand the benefits of the CFL; however, our strong marketing and weekly presence in the Quad during the exchange contributed to the education of the entire campus community on the benefits of the CFL. Green Campus envisions tremendous success with the return of the exchange next semester.

## WATCH FOR....

### Coalition Meetings (What Coalition are you referring to?):

Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
5 - 6 p.m. Sacred Grounds

### Cold Turkey Thanksgiving:

Over Thanksgiving Break be sure to turn off all electronics and lights before leaving your room, office, and home. You can bust your phantom loads with power strips.

### Office Audits:

November 17<sup>th</sup>: KRFH, HSU's student radio station  
December 5<sup>th</sup>: President's Office

### Holidays Unplugged:

A Library Display on 12 ways to save Energy during the

## THE POWER (WAS) YOURS!™©®

October is over, and so is the Green Campus movie series, which featured episodes of the animated series, Captain Planet™. Attendance was consistently in the teens and made up of mostly the same people each time. Variation in attendance was an issue that arose with last year's movie series, but this series differed in that each showing had the same theme.

Since the attendees were mostly the same people, it became easy to update them on events that were developing on campus, such as Campus Sustainability Day. We also bonded and created a tight-knit community of Captain Planet fans.

During the last showing, a newcomer got really excited about the prospect of watching Captain Planet, but was disappointed when he learned that this was the last showing of the movie series.

Perhaps the Sustainability Council could take on this tradition to keep on-campus residents entertained and get them more aware of sustainability issues.

## POWER STRIPPING ON THE QUAD

Following with the general spirit of Halloween this year, Green Campus had a spooky "Energy Vampyre" themed trivia game and power strip giveaway on the HSU quad. GC Coordinators Jeff (disguised as a hipster) and Carmen (dressed as a vampire), were there to greet people and help them play the trivia game. Approximately 60 of the 100 power strips were given away during the event, and many people showed interest in the principles of phantom load busting. The trivia questions addressed what kinds of appliances have phantom loads, and the full extent of the phantom load problem in the United States.

A question that many people found baffling was, "True or False: The US wastes enough electricity in phantom loads every year to power the countries of Peru, Vietnam, and Greece combined." And unfortunately the answer, as you may have guessed, is true. We have a long way to go in this country in order to change the mentality of energy users, but it can be done with the help of simple technologies such as power strips and by remembering to eliminate phantom loads by turning those power strips **off**.



Program Coordinators, Jeff and Carmen quiz students on phantom loads, giving power strips as prizes

## GREEN NUMBERS

CFLs Exchanged: **20**

CFLs Given Away:

CO<sub>2</sub> Saved:

Power Strips Given: **63**

CFLs Given Away: **27**

## CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY DAY

Wednesday, October 25, was National Campus Sustainability Day. Green Campus tabled with myriad other sustainability organizations on the quad.

Students were given buttons after having calculated their monthly carbon dioxide footprints. The Carbon Dioxide footprints were based on home energy usage, driving, and everyday consumption.

However, due to a misplaced decimal on the calculation sheet (Carmen shamefully takes



Above: The button given to students

producing. At least those students will work ten times harder to reduce their contribution to green house gases! Students who didn't own a vehicle or drive had footprints hundreds of times smaller than those who did.

A discussion circle took place between representatives from each group present at the event. The idea of forming a campus sustainability program that would incorporate and coordinate all related groups on campus was discussed. The most important step to creating this program would be finding and creating a physical space where people can meet, organize, and utilize resources.



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM AASHE CONFERENCE

Program Coordinator, Jocelyn Orr, was inspired, discouraged, and exhausted after spending two days in Tempe, Arizona attending the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference.

She had the privilege to travel with the Alliance to Save Energy and present with her fellow Green Campus Interns from across the state of California. In addition to presenting on the success of Humboldt State University's (HSU's) Green Campus Program, she attended sessions, dialogued and learned from others. Of the two key note speakers Ray Anderson and Hunter Lovins. Jocelyn said "I found them both inspirational; they each offered a unique perspective and discussed the future of Sustainability, our lives, and our responsibility as activists and educators,"

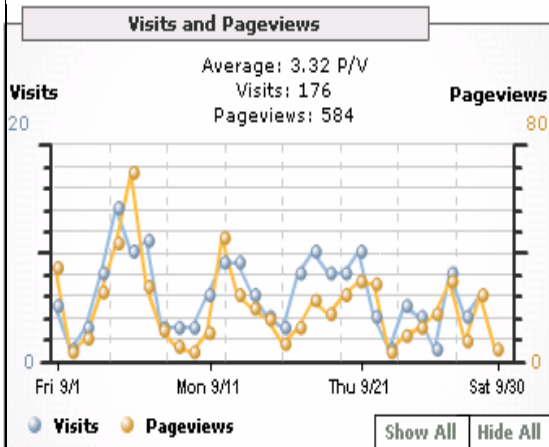
Because of Chico State University's representation at the AASHE conference (approximately 20 students in attendance) Jocelyn was able to collaborate with other CSU students about revamping Renew CSU as an active statewide organizing group for students.

Jocelyn left the conference with the realization that there is not much time left before the effects of global climate change become apparent to all of us. She was most inspired by the community that was present at the conference.

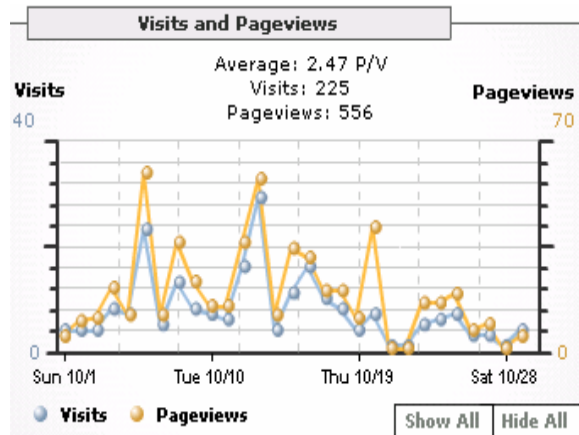
Jocelyn's presentation on Green Campus' efforts at Humboldt State focused on the creation of the Energy Management Intern and the Sustainability Coordinator. Her presentation addressed the importance for student and administration collaboration and the working relationships that can be formed.

On a side note, Jocelyn was able to meet her personal icon, Betsy Rosenberg, founder and host of Eco-Talk Radio (<http://www.airamerica.com/ecotalk/>). As a future environmental journalist, Jocelyn was pleased to be able to meet with her and

## SEPTEMBER



## OCTOBER



### GOOGLE-ANALYTICS GIVES US THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN LIES AND DAMN LIES... STATISTICS

This month in statistics there is good and bad news. The two graphs above show the number of people coming to our website and how many pages they looked at once they were there. Comparing September and October reveals two trends. First, there are 50 more people that visited our site in October, suggesting that news of our program has spread and more people are flocking to peruse our internet information center.

The bad news, however, is the average Pages per View (P/V) has dropped from 3.32 in Sept to 2.47 in Oct. While this could be attributed to our generation's lack of attention span, the more likely explanation is that there is less pertinent information available for the average web user. This is possible, because website updates occur only periodically throughout the semester, so returning visitors would have little new content to look at.

Theoretically, this problem could be solved by simply updating the website more frequently to keep visitors returning, but this is easier said than done. While Green Campus does host many events, we also do many less interesting behind-the-scenes activities that would not be interesting or important for web users.

In the future, upcoming events will be logged more frequently so web visitors can use the site to find out about our events.

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