



May 2009

# Green Campus Newsletter Chico State



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The Alliance to Save Energy's Green Campus Program is funded by the ratepayers of California under the auspices of SCE, PG&E, and Sempra Energy



## STAKEHOLDER MEETING BRINGS IN NEW IDEAS, COLLABORATIONS

By Jackie Mercure

A unique part of the Chico Green Campus program is that our interns understand the value of reaching out to campus stakeholders by building and maintaining good relationships with them. This is why every semester Chico Green Campus interns host a meeting to brainstorm ideas, communicate progress, and take criticism and suggestions from these valued members of our network. Our spring 2009 stakeholder meeting proved to be a huge success.

Together we planned a few new and exciting projects that will take us through the summer and into the fall semester. David Stephen, Director of University Housing and Food Service, is going to work with Green Campus interns to develop educational materials about energy efficiency to be displayed in Chico State's newest residence, Sutter Hall, opening for the fall 2010 semester. Mr. Stephen is also going to help Green Campus get more involved with the residence halls by allowing us to participate in the RA training over the summer and having interns create a flier about our program that will be included in the freshman orientation packet.

Green Campus also plans on working with university Energy Manager Neil Nunn in the fall semester to design and place new stickers on the light switch plates throughout campus. This will be paired with an educational campaign on the positive impacts that turning off the lights and opening the blinds in campus classrooms and offices has on the environment.

Thanks again to everyone who attended the stakeholder meeting; we appreciate all that you do to help make Chico Green Campus such a successful program and we look forward to working with you in the fall.

## INTERNS TO ATTEND UPCOMING CONFERENCE

By Haley Gilmore

Next month current Chico Green Campus interns, along with outgoing program coordinator Mahmoud Saad, will be attending *Working Our Way to Zero*, the 8<sup>th</sup> annual UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability conference. The conference will be held at UC Santa Barbara, June 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

Student interns from all different sustainability groups within the UC/CSU/CCC system will be able to attend workshops throughout the three day conference that are tailor-made to their specific interests. Program track topics include energy, food systems, green building, health care, procurement, research and curriculum, social equity, student affairs, sustainable transportation, waste reduction and recycling, and water.

The Green Campus program will also be hosting its End-of-Year meeting prior to the conference for all green campus interns attending *Working Our Way to Zero*. Chico interns are excited to meet other like-minded students to collaborate, share ideas, progress, and challenges, have fun and make new friends!



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### MONTHLY METRICS

#### Take the Stairs Day Savings (497 participants)

56,940 kWh saved annually

\$ 7,420 saved annually

#### Sustainability House presentations outreach 24

#### Whitney Hall Energy Competition savings

27,504 kWh saved annually

\$ 3,576 saved annually



### TAKE THE STAIRS DAY RESULTS

By Haley Gilmore

Last month we reported what a huge success our Take the Stairs Day project had been, with 497 participants pledging to take the stairs instead of the elevators on campus. Although the event only lasted for one day, the research and preparation for it took the entire spring semester.

Chico Green Campus interns worked closely with Mike Bates (Assistant Director of University Housing and Food Service) to calculate the energy usage of certain elevators on campus. According to the average rate that was calculated (.367 kWh per trip) we were able to assume that if each of the 497 participants took a minimum of two elevator trips per day, this would provide an average daily savings of 365 kWh. Quite an impressive number considering there are 156 academic days per year.

Chico Green Campus interns will be hosting another Take the Stairs Day during the fall semester in hopes of reaching more of the campus community and educating them on how such a small change can create HUGE savings!

Please email project coordinator Haley Gilmore at [haleygilmore@gmail.com](mailto:haleygilmore@gmail.com) for more information about how the kWh and monetary savings were calculated for this project.

### WHITNEY HALL RESIDENTS REACH THEIR GOAL

By Haley Gilmore

The first semi-annual energy reduction competition for Chico State's largest residence, Whitney Hall, was a success.

The goal set for the residents was a 3% to 5% reduction when comparing the kWh usage from April 2009 to that of April 2008. The residents reached their goal by reducing their usage by 2,292 kWh, equating to a little over a 3% reduction. Green Campus interns worked with the RAs of Whitney to communicate to the residents the ways in which they could reduce their energy usage through a poster board competition. The methods highlighted included turning off the lights and opening the blinds, setting their thermostats to low, air drying their clothes instead of using the dryer, and educating/urging their friends and roommates to do the same.

Although the project was a success, Green Campus will not be hosting the competition next semester due to the construction of neighboring Sutter Hall. The energy that is used to power the construction project will be pulled from the same meter that Whitney runs off of starting this summer. With this happening, there will be no way to distinguish how many of the kWhs are being used by the residents, making the results impossible to interpret.

Green Campus would like to give a special thank you to Assistant Director of University Housing and Food Service Mike Bates who assisted project coordinator Haley Gilmore throughout the semester by providing energy usage information, helpful tips for reaching both the RAs and the residents, and helping with realistic goal setting. The success of this project could not have been possible without his help.





## CONTACT US!

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## CHICO GREEN CAMPUS LOSES TWO, GAINS ONE

The Chico Green Campus team would like to say goodbye to two of its most valued members; outgoing director Shannon York and project coordinator Mahmoud Saad. Thank you for all of your dedication and hard work. The success of our program would not have been possible without you. Good luck on all of your future ventures; you will be missed!

After saying goodbye to Shannon and Mahmoud, Green Campus would like to say "Welcome!" to our newest project coordinator, Emily Ramsey. Here is what Emily had to say about her new position with the Green Campus program:

"As the newest member of the Chico State Green Campus program, I would like to introduce myself to my new colleagues. 'Hi! I'm Emily Ramsey.'

I was born and raised in the small but growing town of Grass Valley, CA where I spent most of my childhood exploring the 30 acres of secluded forest where my parents built our home. I moved for the first time in fifteen years when I packed my bags for college, leaving my home for a new life in Chico. I have lived in Chico for the past two years and will be returning to Chico State this fall as a junior, majoring in Nutrition and Food Science. My goal is to become a Registered Dietitian, helping people cure their diseases through a healthy diet. I plan to join the Peace Corps or a similar organization to travel to developing nations and help others by imparting the knowledge that I have about diet and nutrition. My dream is to work with people, helping to make the world a better place.

I have learned to appreciate and respect my surroundings and want to make as little negative impact on the environment as possible. I feel that I am very lucky to have grown up in a household that has an awareness of conservation and sustainability. When I moved away from home to attend college I was appalled by the careless nature of many of my peers. I found myself not only wanting to educate these people, but also to find a place where I could be with others who understood my motives, morals, and values. I was excited to find Green Campus, an organization on campus that both implements progressive projects and engages in educational outreach.

During my first semester with Green Campus, I explored the scope of the organization by helping out whenever and wherever help was needed. During my second semester, I was ready and eager to take on a project. I became the co-leader of the Sustainability House, located in one of the residential halls on campus. We worked with the residents, educated them on the importance of conservation, and helped them find ways to become energy efficient and live a more sustainable lifestyle.

I am looking forward to working on new and exciting projects that are developing for the next school year. I will continue working with the freshmen in the Sustainability House and educational outreach, bringing with me my new ideas and enthusiasm. I feel that education is a key component of moving towards positive change. I believe that, with education, most people will readily shift to making positive changes and sustainable choices in their lives. I look forward to an exciting, productive, and successful year ahead."

Thanks again to Shannon York and Mahmoud Saad for the time and energy you have dedicated to Green Campus, and welcome aboard to our newest staff member, Emily Ramsey!



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