Energy Saving in the Spring Time
The Month of May Concludes Chico State’s Earth Week!

Last newsletter we told you about our Earth day plans, now you can see how they came to fruition! Early Monday morning, the PowerSave Chico team set up a massive display to highlight two key aspects of sustainability, water conservation and energy efficiency. The water display was made of 25-1 gallon milk cartons generously donated by team members, roommates and friends. The 25 gallons

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This month Chico State's PowerSave Campus team performed an academic outreach project at the Inspire High School in Chico.

This school is a technology and mathematics focused school, and we worked closely in collaboration with instructor Alan Kauffman to develop a curriculum centered around energy conservation, calculation, and quantification using more relatable means.

We originally held a meeting with Mr. Kauffman to discuss what exactly we would be doing at the school and to display some of the items that we had available for use. The students had recently learned about how energy was measured, but we aimed to give students a better understanding of how it is that different technologies consume energy differently.

By breaking up the class into four different stations (watt metering, lighting display, foot candle metering, and PG&E bills) we were able to effectively teach students about how to save energy and money in not only their classroom, but at home as well.

We used the items at our disposal in our toolbox to help display this. For example, we had students use the watt meters to test different things in their classroom such as the computers, music equipment, etc. Our team also worked to create a number of hypothetical questions based upon quantifying kilowatt hours as well as converting those measurements into monetary values.

The students learned about retrofit to L.E.D. lighting and calculated the projected savings, and they also learned about how to read a PG&E bill and how it is that users are charged at different rates for using more than a specific allotment of energy.

Overall the class proved to be very receptive and with an implementation cost of nearly nothing, it is something we hope to expand in the future.

The ubiquitous orange square has made its mark on the Chico State campus, followed by the word, divestment. Like sustainability, divestment has become a buzzword for the nation almost overnight.

Students on the Chico campus are asking the University Foundation to divest from the fossil-fuel industry through the Associated Students ballot. To help bring arise to the current issues surrounding fossil fuels, students have been performing on campus demonstrations. One demonstration was the “Kendall Hall Oil Spill” in which students cloaked the front doors of the administration building with a black plastic tarp, representing the money from oil, fueling our campus. More recently, students promoting the campaign have draped the word “DIVEST” from university buildings around campus.

The divestment movement has taken hold on the Chico State campus and students are eager to see how the University foundation responds.
So, we know you’re probably getting tired of hearing about the Campus Conservation Nationals Competition that we participated in this semester, but unfortunately you will likely be hearing more about the excellent job our school did around campus. On May 2nd, 2014, CSU Chico was named to the top 10 in the nationwide competition, and had the highest percentage reduction of any participating school in CCN nationwide this year!

With over 100 schools participating in the CCN 2014 competition (The biggest energy and water reduction competition in history), we helped contribute to total savings of 2.2 million kWh and 476,000 gallons, equivalent to removing 201 houses from the grid for one year and saving enough water to fill 1.8 million 1L water bottles. Focusing on electricity savings specifically, our campus’ Lassen and Shasta Halls saved an average of 23.8% electricity consumption, drastically reducing the amount measured from their previous consumption rate.

The CCN competition is a one of a kind opportunity for our nation’s students to showcase the importance of saving energy, and just how easily it can be done. Although this competition is the result of 3 weeks’ worth of effort, it’s important to note just how much can be done in this short time frame, and how small everyday changes such as taking shorter showers and using lights only when necessary, can make a huge difference in the big picture.

It’s another proud day to be a Chico State student and PowerSave member, as our school adds a noteworthy honor to our growing presence in the sustainability community. We want to take the time to thank the students, staff, and faculty who made all of this possible; whether you realize it or not, you are making a huge difference in educating others on the importance of saving energy, and are effectively changing people’s wasteful habits for generations to come. Thank you Wildcats- let’s keep up the amazing work.
represented the amount of water consumed when taking a 10 minute shower. The second display used balloons to represent the amount of carbon dioxide created from the combustion of 1 gallon of gasoline. To illustrate this fact, the team blew up over 300 balloons and suspended them from a large stand. In front of the displays were chalkboards filled with information and resources to learn about these concerning topics.

The next evening, PowerSave showcased the display at the Thursday night farmers market. Additionally, we held a fundraiser for the World Wildlife Foundation and provided face painting and a bike-blender smoothie for those who donated to the cause. The donation also allowed people to be entered into a raffle for energy efficient prizes such as LED light bulbs and iPAN powerstrips. Overall, the display was a huge success and we accomplished a tremendous amount of outreach. To read more about what Chico State was doing on Earth Day, please visit the following link to Chico’s local newspaper, the ChicoER:


You can also visit Action News Now’s website and search the archives for Monday, April 22: 5pm headlines where you can see a video of the display and an interview with our current team manager Chris Kaiakapu.

Earth Day Display

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