Recyclemania; An Update on the Competition
By Taylor Orr and Katie Maynard

In an effort to educate and excite the campus community, the Associated Students Recycling Program and UCSB Sustainability is hosting a slew of events to promote Recyclemania.

The 10-week long, nationwide event runs from January 18 to March 28. In total, there will be over 25 events allowing organizers to reach a wide variety of audiences, about half of which have already occurred. Some of the highlights from the first half of the competition include a concert in the Hub, featuring BoomBox Orchestra and Soul Majestic, a recycled notebook making day, and a flea market for surplus laboratory equipment.

UCSB currently divert 65% of our waste by recycling, composting or reusing it. “We’re a large campus and our community of students, faculty, and staff totals 26,233 people. We’re at an advantage because of our recycling procedures already in place and other procedures we’re in the process of putting into place, including more recycling bins, educational workshops, and Recyclemania events,” Ryan Kintz, AS Recycling Program Coordinator, said. Final results will be available in April.

Cody Simmons, a fourth-year film studies major and a Student Coordinator for AS Recycling, said UCSB’s recycling program is one of the few recycling programs of the UC system that is entirely run by students.

“We have a pretty advanced recycling system. Our berthas, what we call the recycling bins for different materials, are pretty hard to avoid,” he said.

For more information about Recyclemania, please visit http://www.as.ucsb.edu/asr/RecycleMania.html.

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♦ To learn more about events check out our Google calendar at: http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/events/
♦ To learn about student internship and volunteer opportunities email ecoalition.ucsb@gmail.com
♦ To get email updates on the Office of Sustainability email Jill.richardson@vcadmin.ucsb.edu
Green Campus Begins Work on Campus Sustainability Center
By Clay Carlson

It is widely accepted that UCSB is a leader in terms of green building and sustainability on college campuses. We have a large staff of university employees and students that works to make UCSB a more sustainable institution, although we have no formal physical location to house its efforts.

At the recent Green Campus Mid-Year Convergence, our UCSB team was introduced to a new project: A Campus Sustainability Resource Center.

The idea formed from a similar undertaking at UC San Diego, where students and staff are creating a space where sustainability efforts on campus can now be centralized. Funded primarily by one of the vice chancellors, the center is being constructed in the middle of their campus within their Student Center.

Our team is working to create a similar space where faculty, staff, administrators, and students can consolidate their efforts. We envision the space being a resource center for the campus and community to learn about what UCSB is doing in terms of sustainability.

Additionally, we hope to provide a meeting space for the many environmentally-oriented groups and committees on campus. Providing a physical space for these groups to store information and promote their cause would be a great way to get our campus more actively involved in the many sustainable efforts currently underway.

Preliminary work has already begun in regards to locating space on campus and obtaining funding to pay for its build-out.

If funding permits, we hope that this center will become a university-managed space, where the administration can more easily oversee its efforts.

Our team is dedicated to seeing this project come to fruition and is very interested in collaborating with other campus and community groups.

Please e-mail Clayton Carlson at claytonhcarlson@gmail.com if interested in becoming involved.

Lights Out!
By Stacy Katz

The Green Campus Team, in coordination with the Alliance to Save Energy, will be conducting a Lights Out! campaign during winter-spring quarter of 2009. The Lights Out campaign is a concerted effort to reduce energy consumption in high occupancy buildings on campus. Green Campus will be auditing the energy consumption of selected buildings and identifying areas where energy consumption can be reduced. By working with faculty and staff to ensure lights are not on when classrooms are not in use, Green Campus will be able to markedly reduce the amount of energy used in target buildings.

Green Campus will not only be measuring the energy savings, but will also be translating the results into dollars saved.

The results will then be reported back to faculty, administration and students for further recommendations.

The Lights Out campaign is a great opportunity to evaluate energy consumption and through behavioral changes work to reduce our energy and greenhouse gas emissions on campus.

If you would like to participate in this campaign, please contact Stacy Katz at skatz@bren.ucsb.edu.

We would like to thank our Sponsors:
Power Management Integration Project
By: Michael Hewitt

Following in the footsteps of the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Green Campus Program and in collaboration with the Information Technology departments here at UCSB, Green Campus UCSB is taking on a project that addresses the problem of energy waste at end-user computer terminals.

BigFix, the power management software which we are currently looking at, monitors and manages the power cycles of individual desktop computers from one single location. This system, if implemented to a 5,000-computer network, could save a potential of $204,000 per year and prevent more than 2 million pounds of CO2 emissions per year. This represents important savings: the equivalent to planting 207 acres of trees!

Considering the significant infrastructure development planned for UCSB’s campus, this power management system could help reduce costs and transfer funds to other programs that have been affected by recent budget constraints.

If approved by the individual departments, this program will bring UCSB up to speed with other campuses in terms of sustainability and conservation in the Information Technology sector.

Such a large scale implementation would contribute to Green Campus Program and UCSB’s environmental reputation, as well as bring much support from environmentally conscious students and faculty.

Green Campus Program presents this year’s Residence Hall Energy Competition!
By Irene Schwieger

UCSB’s Green Campus Program is currently hosting its annual Residence Hall Energy Competition, which began January 12th and will end March 6th. This year’s competition was kicked-off with the screening of The Power of the Sun, a documentary on the development of photovoltaic energy featuring Nobel Prize Laureates and UCSB Professors Walter Kohn and Alan Heeger, and followed by a talk from Environmental Studies Professor Mel Manalis.

During the course of the event, Green Campus is joining efforts with Housing and Residential Services to quantify hard energy metrics and savings of the campus Residence Halls.

In addition to the movie screening, our team made publicity posters for the competition and set up a website through which students can register themselves to be eligible for the final prizes. An energy-efficient “Do It In The Dark” party is planned as the culminating event of the competition, and will be hosted at the winning dorm in March, one week before dead week.

Prizes will depend on the savings, however we expect to raffle out an Energy Star laptop, Ipods, and surfboards to the registered students of the winning Residence Hall. We will publish the results in the Residence Halls to inform them of their standing in the energy competition.

The goals of the 2009 Residence Hall Energy Competition are to collaborate with other campus organizations to educate residents on energy conservation and sustainable practices, and help students develop energy-efficient lifestyles.

Last year’s energy competition led by Green Campus intern Clay Carlson was a great success, and we are hoping to pursue Green Campus’ positive impact at UCSB.
Staff, Students, and Faculty at UCSB invest in Local Farmer

By: Katie Maynard

Staff, faculty, and students at the University of California, Santa Barbara can now receive a box of fresh produce from John Givens’ Organic Farm, once a week through the Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA) located at UCSB. Pick-ups are every Thursday, from 12:00-1:00pm at the UCSB Mosher Alumni House.

All are welcome to come to our weekly drop-offs to learn more about the CSA; however shares for the CSA must be purchased ahead of time by mailing your check into John Givens’ Farm.

“Community Supported Agriculture Programs, or CSAs, are an important part of the effort to re-connect UCSB with our local farmers, to re-localize our food, and to provide a healthy option for our staff, faculty, and students,” said Katie Maynard, Campus Sustainability Coordinator and co-founded of the CSA at UCSB Program.

Maynard and Daniel Laub, a staff member from Housing and Residential Services, have spent their lunch breaks and evenings over the past few months planning the logistics of the CSA and recruiting their colleagues to sign up for a share. Currently there are CSA members from eight different departments across campus including such diverse departments as Admissions, Facilities, Engineering, Housing, and Geography.

Through this program, staff are able to pick up a box of fresh organic produce once a week, delivered directly from the farm to the campus that morning. By purchasing a share, or subscription, to the CSA, members are investing in John Givens’ Farm and committing to purchase the farm’s produce at a fair price. This commitment allows the farm to plan their crop in advance and to have less risk in the coming season. This also creates a direct and long-term relationship between the CSA member and the farmer and encourages CSA members to eat seasonally. Currently there are 27 members of the CSA at UCSB.

“John Givens' produce is the benchmark of what fresh, vibrant, healthy food should be. Having worked with several organic farms, and consulting with clients about how to grow their own food in their landscape is rewarding, but cannot compare with the quality of produce that Givens puts out. He has been building his soil for more than 30 years and the tilth of the soil is so rich that plants are able to reach their full nutrient potential,” said Daniel Laub who has worked with Givens for nearly 10 years. "I love working with John because his produce sells itself."

Several other campuses including UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, UC Davis, and UC Office of the President have established delivery points for CSA Programs on their campuses.

“There is a statewide movement to bring local, organic, and sustainably harvested produce to UC campuses and we are expecting to complete a policy on Sustainable Food Systems that will affect all UC campuses within this academic year.” Maynard said. “UCSB has already made strong steps in this direction, implemented several successful programs, and has set ambitious goals for our campus dining commons and University Center as we move forward. The CSA located at UCSB will help to continue us on this path.”

The Sustainability NewsBeat would like to thank The Green Initiative Fund and the A.S. Coastal Fund for their support of our interns.