

**ELLISON HALL SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER**  
**June 8, 2007**

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**Look inside for...**

- 1) Information about buying a stylish notebook made entirely from reused materials!
  - 2) Update on what exactly we have been up to
  - 3) The chance to get your hands dirty working in Ellison Hall's new all-organic garden plot.
  - 4) More then you want to know about worm castings.
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**Get a cool recycled notebook!**

We all know that recycled materials go to be reused, but wouldn't it be great if YOU could reuse some of the materials that you throw out? Now you can!

The Ellison Hall Sustainability Committee is selling notebooks made from recycled content, using old cereal boxes as covers and discarded paper with only one side used. All materials were collected in the building, so that cereal box you tossed in the recycling just might show up in a notebook a few days later. The notebooks are \$2 or \$4 depending on size, and all profits go towards making Ellison Hall more sustainable. Just one notebook buys signs reminded people to turn off their lights and save CO<sub>2</sub>, five notebooks puts composting in another department, 15 notebooks lets another department try out recycled paper, and 25 notebooks buys another composting bin so we can recycle more of our food waste in the building. Email [krispi@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:krispi@umail.ucsb.edu) for your very own.

p.s. we are also happy to take donations of one-sided paper, cereal boxes, or old readers!

**So what have we been up to? Accomplishments of the past year**

\*\*\*Established an entirely new recycling program that includes recycling of plastic bags, glossy paper and textbooks, electronic waste, and more! (which we received the departmental green award from AS Recycling for!!)

\*\*\*Set up vermicomposting (composting with worms), and established multiple successful volunteer days.

\*\*\*Ellison Hall received a grant from The Green Initiative Fund

(<http://www.geog.ucsb.edu/sustainability/tgif/>) to put 9 recycling clusters in the building with seven recycling cans in each one. No longer will you have to go to a different floor to recycle something: it'll all be right down the hall!

\*\*\*We also got money (from TGIF) to buy a third vermicomposting bin, reusable coffee mug, and even have enough to keep an Ellison Hall sustainability intern around for another year.

\*\*\*Created over 100 turn off the light signs for the building

*Next year...*

\*\*\*Ellison Hall is scheduled to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) EB (Existing Building) certification within in the next two years

([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)).

\*\*\*We have pledged to divert 75% of our waste from trash cans by 2008 and to go entirely zero-waste by 2012, one step ahead of the university's statewide goal to be zero-waste by 2020!

**Garden Plot**

Ellison Hall has gotten involved with the UCSB Greenhouse and Garden Project. For \$20 a year we will be renting a garden plot near Harder Stadium, and using worm castings from our very own vermicomposting bins to help the plants out. Even better, the garden is entirely organic. This is going to be a big volunteer event, so if you want to help out with the garden, or have any ideas on what we should plant, email Robyn Clark at [robynclark@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:robynclark@umail.ucsb.edu).

**Tip of the Week**

Besides being highly rich in nutrients for plants, did you know that worm castings (the end product of composting with worms) stimulate the production of beneficial plant hormones, attracts earthworms already present in the soil, and has even been said to improve the immune system of poultry? What's more, a pound of worm casting that sell for \$7 or more can be produced for free with one pound of worms in only two days.

If you want to get on the weekly Ecofacts mailing list, email Barbara Hirsch at [hirsch@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:hirsch@library.ucsb.edu).