Greek Go Green:
Starts Winter Quarter!
By: Doug White

In an attempt to extend Green Campus’ reach within the Cal Poly community, interns have started a new program called “Greeks go Green”. Through conducting energy and sustainability audits in fraternities and sororities around campus we feel this will be a successful program to educate our peers while simultaneously saving energy.

After completing the initial meeting and assessment of our first sorority house, Sigma Kappa, it has been determined that the main focus will be energy conservation measures. Green Campus will work with other student groups on campus to aid Sigma Kappa in finding ways to institutionalize local organic foods, composting, public transportation and the purchasing of biodegradable soaps and detergents for the house.

The team, in cooperation with Sigma Kappa, is also working to institutionalize a position that is directly related to energy conservation and sustainable living within the sorority. We feel this type of leadership position filled by a member of the sorority will help promote energy conservation and sustainable living for years to come within the house.

Vending-Miser

By Jeremy Grodkeiwicz

The Vending-Miser project was created to install the VENDING MISER® product on remaining campus vending machines to save energy. This technology saves energy by turning off lights and refrigeration equipment through the use of a mounted occupancy sensor.

As the project stands today, Green Campus completed an inventory of vending machines on campus and discovered a grand total of 32 non-refrigerated snack machines, along with 13 cold beverage machines, are currently without a VENDING MISER®. Once installed on these machines, the device will result in an annual savings of about 12,000 kWh. Green Campus recently learned that there are used VENDING MISERs® in campus storage – re-installing these devices will reduce the overall number that need to be purchased. It was also brought to our attention that because the different vending machines are owned by different entities on campus it’s going to take a little more work and communication with more stakeholders to finish the project, but rest assured we will finish it. Stay tuned.

Total Green Campus Energy Savings

KWh: 1,132,081
Therms: 2,479
Tons of CO2: 338.35
Gallons of Water: 78,147
Cost Savings: $128,144

*Based on life time savings of CFLs and since the Fall of 07.
The Alliance to Save Energy’s Green Campus Program is funded by the California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission, Southern California Edison and the UC/CSU/IOU Energy Efficiency Partnership.

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Dorm Energy CompetitionPoster in Sequoia Hall.

Dorm Energy Competition: Starts Winter Quarter!

By: John Hauge

It’s almost time for the second annual Dorm Energy Competition. Last year’s competition was a huge success as Sequoia was able to edge out Trinity for the win. The three dorms had a combined savings of 8,271 kwh, 2,479 therms and 78,147 gallons of water. This winter, the competition will be expanded from the initial three red brick dorms to all six and we are hoping to more than double the energy savings.

This past month the interns met with the Campus Housing stakeholders who will be assisting with the competition. The high level of enthusiasm from the stakeholders was a sign that this year will be a great success. In addition to adding three more dorms to the list, this year the day-to-day results will be available on-line on the green campus website as well as posted in the dorms. As with the last dorm energy competition, Green Campus will conduct educational activities to prepare residents to save energy and water in their dorms. Keeping unused lights off, washing full loads of laundry in cold water, and enabling computer sleep modes are some simple steps residents can take to reduce energy and water consumption. Get ready for some fierce competition come Winter Quarter!

Green Campus at the Sustainability Mixer

By Jeremy Grodkiewicz

In an effort to outreach to the campus community the Green Campus Program participated in the Sustainability Mixer on November 19th. This event offered a forum for students, mainly freshman, to discuss and get involved with the sustainability movement at Cal Poly. Green Campus Interns tabled and talked to students alongside many other sustainability focused clubs, such as the Zero Waste Club, the Hydrogen Energy Club, the Fair Trade Club, and many more. The Green Campus Program identified several interested students for the internship opening and distributed 23 CFL’s.

Sustainability Mixer Savings from CFLs

KWh: 17,710
Tons of CO2: 4.43
Cost Savings: $1,948

*Based on life time savings of CFLs