



the GREEN U

[@ UC Irvine]

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Bird Cage Lighting Audit by Kelly Li

During winter break, Facilities Management asked Green Campus interns to work on the birdcage lighting audit around campus. The audit requires interns to walk around the UC Irvine campus to collect data on where and how many birdcage lighting fixtures there are around UCI.



The Bird Cage Lighting fixtures are one of the original lighting fixtures installed at UCI. Each fixture uses about 200 watts, and there are about 350 of them spread around campus. The purpose of this lighting audit is to identify the location and quantities of fixtures, that way the Facilities Management crew can retrofit the energy wasting fixtures to more energy efficient ones. The retrofitting process will not require removing the entire fixture. This process only requires replacing the current lighting bulb in the cage to an energy efficient one. After the retrofit from a 200 watt to a 70- 100 watt fixture UC Irvine will be able to save money and at the same time save the environment, allowing UCI to become a greener school.

New TGIF Proposal Progress by Bogdan Rusu and Jambu Jambulingam

Green Campus interns Bogdan Rusu and Jambu Jambulingam are working together on a new TGIF (The Green Initiative Fund) grant proposal. This time around, the interns are trying to install low-flow shower heads in all of Mesa Court, building on last year's efforts to incorporate more water-efficient



fixtures in campus residence halls by retrofitting Vista Hall with automatic water faucets. The showerhead model they are considering is called UZLOW and it costs \$20.00 (tax included). What the UZLOW does is empower users to control the flow of water from their showerheads, without affecting the temperature of the water, by requiring no more than pushing a simple lever. The lever is easy to find, even with shampoo in your eyes. There are 417 residence hall showers in Mesa Court, making this project particularly valuable as it would save many gallons of water a month.

"Working on the low-flow showerhead project is really exciting simply because it is relatively a quick fix that can result in huge water savings. Also, having used these showers first-hand in Vista, Mesa Court's Sustainability hall, I know that these low-flow showers are extremely simple to use and save a lot of water. Expanding this idea to the rest of the halls in Mesa Court will exponentially increase the potential water savings by the residents and contribute to the idea of changing behaviors and making choices that are more conducive to a sustainable lifestyle."

- Jambu Jambulingam

Reaching Out to Mesa Court by Henna Pithia and Calum Kenny

After brainstorming many potential outreach projects for the quarter, Green Campus interns Henna Pithia and Calum Kenny have decided to take on a project that will leave UC Irvine's first year residence halls in Mesa court thinking about energy and water savings in a new and more intriguing way. This project will focus on what the interns like to call, "Earth Hour". During this hour, all residents in Mesa Court will be encouraged to turn off their lights in their rooms, bathrooms, and common rooms in order to save energy. Interns will also encourage the participating students to accompany them to the MPR in Mesa Court to watch a movie screening of the film, *Babies*, a production supported by the NGO March of Dimes. During the movie screening interns will be handing out free Veggie Grill burgers to emphasize the reductions in water and energy usage when adopting vegetarian options into one's meal plan, and will also be talking with participants about energy and water saving tips in first year residence halls.

The point of this project is obviously to spread awareness about energy and water savings in Mesa court, but the message interns are trying to send goes deeper than that and can be related to the movie screening, *Babies*. In essence, the ability to save energy and water has as much to do with lifestyle choices and behaviors as it does with retrofitting and finding alternative sources of energy. Thus, interns hope to not only spread the knowledge about how easy it is to save energy and water, but hope to also help students realize their potential in contributing to the green movement at UCI by simply changing a few habits and behaviors here and there.

Keep an eye out in next month's issue for more updates and responses to the outreach project.

California STEM Event by Cynthia Leung

On January 26th, Southern California Edison hosted the Southern California STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Service-Learning Institute conference at their Customer Technology Application Center (CTAC) facility in Irwindale, CA. The conference promoted instilling sustainability into the academic curriculum and schools and was geared towards teachers of 6th-12th graders in Science, Mathematics, Environmental education. Topics covered were energy, water, gender equity, green careers, conservation, and alternative energy sources and how they could be converted into STEM service-learning projects.



As defined by the national and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, Service-Learning is "an innovative instructional strategy that actively involves youth in the curriculum through service to their community." Elements of service-learning included meeting a real community need, integrating into and enhancing the curriculum, coordinating with a community agency, another school, or community at large, helping foster civic responsibility, and providing structured time for reflection. Many of these elements are exercised in Green Campus projects daily, making Green Campus and Green Schools project highly applicable in achieving greater service-learning goals.

Green Campus interns from California State University, Long Beach and University of California, Irvine volunteered to

work for the event. In addition, UC Irvine Green Campus intern, Cynthia Leung, spoke at the event on the topic of the Alliance to Save Energy's Green Campus and Green Schools Programs. The presentation gave an introduction to the two programs along with project ideas that could be adapted to the schools and curriculum.

Many of the projects offered ways to make learning about sustainability fun and interactive with students, and how to introduce green careers to students in the K-12 system. One fun idea for students was showing movies, such as Wall-e, The Lorax, Story of Stuff, or even Captain Planet shows, as a special treat. It just went to show that even forty years after it was first published, *The Lorax* could still teach the next generation about helping the environment and creating their own change. The concluding message was that the teachers now are the educators and builders of the tomorrow, and that through their role in the education system, they can play a unique part in a sustainable future by "be[ing] the change that [they] wish to see in the world."

The event had a successful turnout of 111 attendees due to the outstanding organization of Green Campus alumnus, Rebecca Rivera, and Green Campus's Southern California Edison program manager, Carlos Hernandez. Cheers to a greener future, beginning with the efforts of our present educators and continuing with the youngest of this next generation!



January Metrics

- **Attendees at STEM Event - 111 people**
- **Club Meeting 34 people**
- **Reached by Tabling 20 people**

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