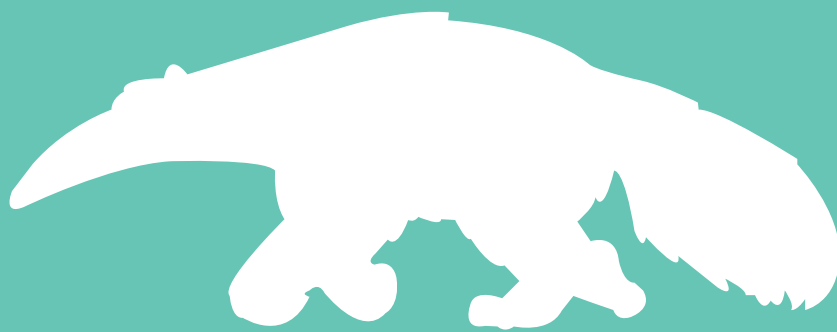


AUGUST 2014
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 6



THE GREEN VINE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

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SPOP STUDENT SURVEYS

BY JANET ORTEGA

Summer has been nothing but productive for the UC Irvine PowerSavers! The PowerSave team has been participating in SPOP (Student Parent Orientation Program) Peer Education Fair events. This program is an opportunity for incoming UCI students to learn more about different student groups on campus. The team, along with for-credit interns, has been using orientation as an opportunity to increase awareness towards energy and water efficiency. The team introduced themselves and told the students a quick summary of past, present, and future projects. It was great to see students interested in learning more about sustainability on campus through our projects! Once students learned about the organization, they were asked to take a quick ten-question multiple-choice survey. The survey was made to analyze water and energy use behavior. When SPOP is over at the end of summer break, the team will look over the survey results. The team has been receiving around 100 responses per orientation, which is great since there is a total of 9 SPOP events. This will help the PowerSave team brainstorm more project ideas for the upcoming academic year. Getting to know future students has been really fun, and the team can't wait to meet more!



HOUSING COMMUNITY AUDITS

BY BILL LIANG, GRACE JUNG, BRYANT PHUNG

MESA COURT PLUMBING AUDITS

Bill and Grace are our PowerSave Campus for-credit interns who were assigned to conduct plumbing surveys in Mesa Court Housing. They will be identifying all the faucets, toilets, and shower heads that are used in all 29 residential halls designed for first year students. All the data they collected will be used by Mesa Court Housing to save money by making the necessary equipment changes to reduce the amount of water used. It was surprising to see how some residential halls were vastly different due to the different floor plans.



CAMPUS VILLAGE PLUMBING AUDITS

This month, Janet and I collaborated on a project in Campus Village with Daniel Metivier. Our job was to check out plumbing fixture in the apartment complex. It was a fun audit to do as I learned specific rates to see which is considered good for the environment. For example, at Campus Village, the toilets had a 0.6 gallons per flush which is very minimal which is good for conserving water. Janet and I looked at toilets, showerheads, and sink faucets. In Campus Village, the standard brand was Niagara, which was very conservative in its toilets and showerheads. From this project, I know what I should look for when I want to buy showerheads or toilets to help conserve water.

HOUSING COMMUNITY AUDITS

BY MEGAN CRAWFORD

PALO VERDE TURF REPLACEMENT

On January 17, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency because of severe drought conditions in the state of California and called for everyone to reduce their water usage by 20%. With the California drought conditions still not improving over the last six months, Palo Verde Housing in the UCI community has planned to do a turf conversion project in order to cut down on their water usage. Over the last few weeks, the PowerSave team has conducted field surveys to measure the total area of grass to be removed and replaced with drought-resistant plants. At this time, we have completed in-situ measurements for over a quarter of the community. In addition to physically measuring the area, we have also surveyed the entire community's landscape to see which areas contain the grass planned to be removed. We have almost finished estimating this area using satellite images and plan to compare our measurements to these estimates. By completing this turf conversion project, the Palo Verde community as a whole will use significantly less water by switching to more sustainable landscaping in a time of severe drought.



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