



University of California Irvine

PowerSave @ UCI

December Newsletter

Sustainability Night

With the MEGA Energy competition coming to a close, it feels like Mesa Court, a freshman residential community at UC Irvine, has become a second home for the PowerSave team. The team was invited to the community's annual Sustainability Night, where several sustainability-focused orgs and departments on campus come together to showcase projects and opportunities available to students. Groups present included the Global Sustainability Resource Center, the Costa Rica Program, and UCI Dining. The PowerSave team has collaborated on several occasions with some of these groups, so it was great to reunite with them all on this special night! The PowerSave team held an education energy&water efficiency activity for visiting students. Students were to match energy/water usage to appliances used on a daily basis, such as sinks, showers, light bulbs, laptops, etc. It was great to see how much students already knew about water&energy efficiency. Most of the students who stopped by succeeded in our activity and got to take home power strips and PowerSave t-shirts! The outcome of this activity will definitely help the team brainstorm on fresh and creative ways to further teach students about sustainable living on and off campus.

More inside!

Jaenna's Summary of the Year

This year I believe our team has achieved so much! Almost a year ago I would have never imagined that I would have done all that I have with PowerSave when I was applying to be an intern. I have learned so much from PowerSave and all the people that I have been able to make relationships with through this internship. I would say that my favorite part of the past year is just getting to know my fellow interns through all of the projects that we've collaborated on and implemented. We've spent many hours during the school year and summer working hard together and it was great to see our work pay off when students would enjoy our presentations, activities, surveys, and so much more. I've enjoyed seeing our growth as individuals and as a team, and I look forward to what the new year will bring our way!

MEGA Energy Competition

Mega Energy Competition is a competition this university has been participating for multiple years. The competition is across the UC and Cal State campuses to save energy their residential halls by outreaching to the community. This year, UCI saved the most energy it has ever saved through this competition at 8000 KWH, gaining a net percent saving of 12% over the course of 4 weeks. This project was made successful by all the support we got from the faculties at UCI and MESA court housing. Although we did not get first place, we had the highest Kilowatt-hour savings out of all the universities and because it was such a success, we plan on doing another energy competition during the winter quarter in Middle Earth. Thanks again to all the facilities and housing members that helped out to make this competition such a success.



Experience Powersave

Over the time of being part of the Powersave Campus team, I have learned a bountiful amount of skills and knowledge. Being apart of the team is a great experience. My favorite part of being on this team is the awesome people on the team. Everyone is so nice, cooperative, and hard working. Without the team, I would not have learned as much as I have as they are all willing to help take us under their wings and show us how to do everything. The projects are fun to do as it helps the environment as well as teach us techniques to save energy. Powersave has been an awesome experience with amazing co-workers.



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PowerSave Campus 2014 Year Wrap Up

This year, the PowerSave team at UC Irvine has created and experienced many projects that we are proud of. We began our new year with three new interns, and had four for-credit interns join our team along the way. We were also able to create a new Facebook page and launch a new website. With such a great team we were able to effectively collaborate and creatively meet many of our program goals through a variety of projects.

Our projects focused on PowerSave Campus' four main pillars of education and outreach, academic infusion, green workforce development, and measurable savings. For our outreach program goals we were able to present at Arroyo Vista's Energy Kick Off event, booth at large school events such as Wayzegeose and Anteatater Involvement Fair, reach out to residents of University Hills housing for a sustainable living program, create a video about energy efficiency in the dorms, receive over 800 surveys from students at freshman orientation, booth with Southern California Edison and their sprinter van, as well as encourage students to save energy by tabling for the duration of our Mega Energy Competition in Mesa Court. Our academic infusion objectives were met through our for-credit internship this summer and fall, as well as a presentation to Global Environmental Brigades about energy efficiency. Students were able to take pre and post-surveys of their experiences and showed growth in their knowledge of various energy topics. In addition, we helped to promote green careers to students on campus through a "Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Water Savings" project in which associates of the Irvine Ranch Water District and UCI Housing and Facilities spoke about ways in which students could help save energy and form strong habits that could help them sustainability to others in the future through everyday interactions or future career paths. In addition, several professors and teaching assistants spoke of their experiences in the sustainability field to help encourage students to pave their own similar pathways at Theta Psi and PowerSave Campus' "My Sustainable Pathway" green career panel. Lastly, our team participated in several plumbing audits of housing communities around campus. In addition, interns calculated areas of turf within Palo Verde housing in which they determined the area of turf that could be replaced with California native plants to promote water conservation and savings. The UCI PowerSave team was able to reach a 12% decrease in energy usage in Mesa Court Housing through the Mega Energy Competition this fall.

We hope our projects this year have helped to make our school more sustainable. We also hope that we encouraged many students to follow in our footsteps and establish sustainable habits that they will keep for the rest of their lives. Although we're sad to see the year coming to an end, the UCI PowerSave Campus team looks forward to making more memories, welcoming new friends, and creating many great projects next year!