

the green scene

Issue No. 7

printed on 100% recycled paper
please recycle or pass it on!

May 2002

Michelle Mondazzi, Editor
mmev@andrew.cmu.edu

Earth Day 2002

April 22nd marked the 32nd annual Earth Day, and Carnegie Mellon celebrated with several events planned by Green Practices and the student club EARTH. EARTH sponsored a lecture by the well-known environmental and human rights activist, Oronto, from Nigeria. They held a fundraiser in the UC, and raised enough money to purchase at least two acres of rainforest, and possibly a third. These acres will be joined with others to extend a protected park in Ecuador. "In our own small way, we have made a difference," says Kim Smaczniak, one of this year's EARTH organizers. They also donated an American yellowwood tree that was planted near the Staff Council patio by Doherty Hall on Earth Day.

New Recycling Center

Earth Day marked the grand opening of the new Carnegie Mellon Recycling Information Center in the University Center! The recycling center contains collection bins for many of the items that we recycle on campus, and two computer kiosks with extensive recycling information. The space is located in the entryway between Entropy and the Info Desk, next to the Chapel. The Recycling Center was designed by Roger Wei and Ayaka Uchida, 2001 Design alumni, and the idea was proposed by Alexys Hanczar, a student in the Design Department. The next time you are in the University Center, please visit the new Recycling Center and take some time to look at the information on the iMac kiosks and learn about CMU recycling!



Wind Energy Contract Renewed

Just in time for Earth Day, Carnegie Mellon announced its intention to extend its commitment to wind energy for five years. The extended commitment will reduce the cost of wind power per kilowatt hour, and allow us to increase our purchase amount from 5% to 6% of total electricity use. Carnegie Mellon was the first Pennsylvania university to purchase wind power in 2001, and its leadership set the 5% precedent that many schools are following. Eight more Pennsylvania colleges and universities have announced their ongoing commitment to the environment by purchasing wind-generated electricity from new Pennsylvania wind farms. This brings the total number of PA colleges & universities buying wind power to 25, the most of any state in the country.

Allegheny College, Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Franklin & Marshall College, Gannon University, Gettysburg College, Juniata College, and Swarthmore College have joined Carnegie Mellon University, Penn State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the State System of Higher Education in the ranks of PA colleges and universities that have led the way on wind power purchases.

Community Energy, Inc. (CEI), the wind power marketer, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy (PCIEP), an organization comprised of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, along with the Pennsylvania colleges and universities, announced the new wind energy purchases.

Carnival Booth Award

The Excellence in Environmental Building Practices Award was given to the Pioneers organization for their booth at Carnival this year. They were awarded the most points of any booth based on the following criteria; reuse of materials, minimizing impact on the landfill, structural design; ease of tear down and salvageability, effective design with minimal material use, use of environmental materials, avoidance of hazardous materials, creative use of found materials, use of efficient lighting, and overall environmental stewardship. A possible total of twenty points is then added to the overall booth scores. In some cases, these extra points make the difference in the ranking for Carnival Booth awards. Congratulations Pioneers!

Promote Green Practices

In an effort to promote Carnegie Mellon Green Practices on campus, travel coffee mugs and nalgene water bottles are now available with our logo! The insulated coffee mugs are on sale in the University Shoppe. The water bottles, in two different sizes, can be purchased directly through Green Practices by contacting Barb Kviz at bk11@andrew.cmu.edu. Profits from the sale of these items will provide funding for future environmental projects on campus.



Pittsburgh Women ACT! Chatham College Monthly Women's Environmental Action Forum

Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Welker Room, Laughlin Music Hall on Chatham College's campus and will be followed by refreshments and discussion.

Energy Efficiency

Wednesday, May 22

Mary Whitney of Conservation Consultants Inc. will discuss the employment of energy efficiency and conservation strategies for the reduction of household energy consumption.

Economic Well-Being

Tuesday, June 18

Mary Pat Brennan of Pennsylvania Women Work will discuss the economic status of women in the Pittsburgh region based on the compilation of economic indicators that evaluates women's economic well being through poverty rates, pay scales, and women in upper management and other leadership positions.

Environmental Racism

Wednesday, July 17

Angela Ford of the Center for Minority Health, University of Pittsburgh will educate participants about her campaign against environmental racism. "Environmental racism occurs when people of color disproportionately bear the burdens and risks of environmental protection policies while the associated benefits are dispersed throughout society."

Composting

Tuesday, August 20

Marcia Brissett of Applied Information Strategies and Barbara Kviz of Carnegie Mellon University will discuss ways to improve our ability to recycle organic waste. Their campaign for waste management programs takes action to develop a coalition of regional stakeholder groups, including the DEP, Professional Recyclers of PA (PROP), County Recycling coordinators, University Department representatives, commercial Recyclers and others to look at effective ways SW PA communities can recycle food and other organic waste.

Emissions

Wednesday, September 18

Sue Seppi and Rachel Filippini of Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP) will discuss the harmful effects of diesel engine emissions on human and environmental health. GASP will explain the changing diesel laws in Pennsylvania and available incentive programs.

Household Hazardous Waste

Carnegie Mellon is involved with local stakeholders in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force to determine how to provide for a regional household hazardous waste collection program. The mission is to facilitate the proper collection and disposal of household hazardous waste and minimize its generation through education in Southwestern Pennsylvania. By doing so, we hope to establish our region as a progressive and proactive leader in household hazardous waste management and public outreach.

The following are some potentially hazardous products you might find around your home which need to be disposed of properly:

In the garage, basement or utility room; antifreeze, gasoline, kerosene, pool chemicals, varnish, oil-based paint (latex paint is non-hazardous), glue, paint thinner, weed killers, fungicides, and pesticides.

In the home;

drain cleaner, hair color, tub and tile cleaner, rug cleaner, oven cleaner, nail polish remover, nail polish, floor cleaner, bleach, ammonia, and mercury thermometers.

The consortium includes, among others: PPG Industries, the Bayer Corporation, Allegheny Energy, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, ALCOSAN, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania Resources Council, PA CleanWays, the North Hills Council of Governments, the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and presently representatives from Armstrong and Beaver counties.

Look for information about how to properly dispose of your household hazardous waste coming soon.



(Mr. Yuk was created in 1971 by the Pittsburgh Poison Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh)

Construction Junction is Moving

Construction Junction is in the process of moving to a larger location at 214 S. Lexington Ave in Homewood, near the East End Food Co-op.

Construction Junction became Western Pennsylvania's first non-profit retail warehouse for surplus and used building materials when it opened in September 1999. With 20 percent of landfill space consisting of construction materials, a grassroots effort led by the Pennsylvania Resource Council opened the building materials reuse center.

The mission of Construction Junction is two-fold:

To create a demand for used building materials that will divert usable materials from the landfill; and

To establish formal partnerships with individuals, organizations, and contractors who are working to improve housing conditions for low-income residents in the Pittsburgh area.

The center will accept any material, in good condition, that can be used to renovate, build, or remodel a home or apartment building.

Construction Junction is currently located in Lawrenceville.

For more information, call the center at 412-799-0805.

Shade Grown Coffee Saves Habitat for Migrating Songbirds

"Studies in Columbia and Mexico found 97% fewer bird species in sun grown coffee than in shade grown coffee." (The Rainforest Alliance)

Shade grown coffee benefits birds:

It preserves migratory bird habits, maintains native tree canopy, supports rainforest preservation, cultivates necessary biodiversity, and protects endangered bird species.

Shade grown coffee benefits people:

It preserves the ecology of our planet for future generations, creates healthier farms for growers and their families, promotes organic farming methods and reduces need for pesticides and herbicides, produces long term economic benefits for coffee farmers, and nurtures migratory birds for the enjoyment of all.

Look for shade grown coffee available from local suppliers such as Phipps Conservatory and Birds Unlimited.

Learn more about shade grown coffee at:
<http://www.songbirdcoffee.com/>