

Issue No. 3

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Back to School Conservation

The University Electricity Challenge

During this academic year, the Environmental Practices Committee is sponsoring the University Challenge to change our pattern of electricity supply and use. During the last academic year, Carnegie Mellon spent \$5.2 million for electricity purchases from First Energy of Ohio and Duquesne Light Company of Pennsylvania. In May, Carnegie Mellon decided to purchase 5% of its electricity from Community Energy, which supplies renewable power from wind turbines. With this purchase, Carnegie Mellon became the largest retail purchaser of wind power in the U.S. This purchase will cost an extra \$81,000 over the coming year relative to conventional sources. The University Challenge is intended to identify opportunities for energy savings that could offset this extra cost.

Over the coming year, the Environmental Practices Committee is challenging the entire university community to help save energy without diminishing the quality of life and the effectiveness of education, research and services. The goal is to reduce university electric consumption by 3% (3.2 million kWh) in the coming year. Some possible voluntary actions to save energy include the tips to 'use less energy' in the next column.

The committee asks that all members of the campus community participate in the University Challenge by suggesting and carrying out such actions.

Energy Fest

The University Challenge will officially begin with a kick-off Energy Fest scheduled for October 26th with speakers, educational materials, music, food and fun! Students and others who are interested in organizing and getting involved with Energy Fest should contact Behn Farahpour at behnam@andrew.cmu.edu. Stay tuned for coming announcements!

use less **energy**

- Turn off the lights when you leave the room
- Don't turn lights on unless you really need them- use daylight!
- Turn off your computer, monitor, and personal printer when you leave your room or office for more than two hours
- Program your computer to go into a low-power or sleep mode after a period of inactivity- don't use a 'screen saver' that prevents sleep mode
- Use fans instead of air conditioners when possible
- Turn off fans when you leave the room
- Don't leave air conditioners running all day if you aren't in your room or office
- Draw blinds and shades during the day to keep out the sun's heat during the summer
- Before you buy, see the Energy Star web site for listings of energy efficient appliances, electronics, and office equipment (www.energystar.gov)

use less **water**

- Don't leave the water running when brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- Don't take long showers! (5 extra minutes uses 50 extra gallons!)
- Report leaky faucets immediately to Facilities Management or Housing Services

reduce **waste** products

- when purchasing items, don't take a bag unless you **really** need one- ask NOT to have a bag!
- use reusable containers and mugs when purchasing drinks and food on campus- paper or styrofoam cups end up in a landfill!
- make double-sided copies *whenever possible!*
- print on scrap paper whenever possible
- buy recycled content products- paper, etc.

always **recycle**

these items can be recycled in containers located all over campus:

- *paper- mixed office paper*
- *glass and plastic bottles*
- *aluminum and steel cans*

these items can also be recycled on campus; see below for instructions, or see the website www.cmu.edu/epc/whatrecycle.htm

- *cardboard, corrugated boxes*
- *phone books*

place these items next to paper recycling bins with a note to 'please recycle'

- *scrap metals*
contact bk11@andrew.cmu.edu for pick-up

- *computers and monitors*
for instructions and request for pick-up see www.cmu.edu/ehs/comprecycle.html

- *cd's *new item**
- *transparencies *new item**

send these items through campus mail in envelopes or boxes less than 50 pounds to: Recycling, Facilities Management Services Second Floor

- *alkaline batteries *new item**
these can also be sent through campus mail as above, or dropped off at various locations (see article on reverse)

- *batteries- nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, lead acid rechargeable *drop off only**

collection points are at the Environmental Health & Safety Office on the 3rd floor of the Facilities Management Building and at the Radiation Safety Office at 313 Mellon Inst.

questions? contact bk11@andrew.cmu.edu

mailing label here

Alkaline Battery Recycling

Alkaline batteries can now be recycled on campus. This recycling effort is a new initiative to reduce waste going into the landfill. Alkaline batteries used for campus life and work can be taken to four locations on campus. The four locations are:

The Facilities Management Building (located next to the Newell Simon Hall)

- 2nd floor Facilities Service Response Center
- 3rd floor Environmental Health and Safety Department

Mellon Institute

- Mellon Institute Store Room (located on the 3rd floor)

University Center Information Desk

All areas are open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and the University Center until 1:00 am during the semester. Alkaline batteries, (the kind most commonly used in flashlights and radios), will be accepted in any size; AAA, AA, D, C and 9volt square batteries. Questions can be directed to bk11@andrew.cmu.edu.

Distinguished Lecture Series in Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy

www.ce.cmu.edu/EnvInst/

Series for 2001-2002: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY—THE ROAD AHEAD

“Engineers, Environment, and Sustainability: Where Do We Stand?”

Roger Duffell

Professor Emeritus in Civil Engineering
University of Hertfordshire, England
Thursday September 6, 2001 — 4:30
Baker Hall 136A (Adamson Wing)

“Science and Sustainability: Coping with the Limits of Science in Global Environmental Policy”

Joe Thornton

Research Scientist, Earth Institute and Dept of Biological Sciences
Columbia University
Monday February 18, 2002 — 4:30
Baker Hall 136A (Adamson Wing)

“How Low is Low Enough?
Regulating Hazardous Materials”

Roger McClellan

President Emeritus, Chemical Industries
Institute of Toxicology
and Consultant in Toxic and Human Health
Risk Analysis
Monday April 8, 2002 — 4:30
Baker Hall 136A (Adamson Wing)

Student Internships and Opportunities

Pittsburgh Supersite Air Quality Program:

Part-time lab work is available for students either for pay or for credit as an independent study. Students must be majoring in Science or Engineering, and must have at least a 3.0 QPA. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible. At least 9 hours per week (or a 9-unit independent study) is required. If students apply to work for pay, preference will be given to those with work study funding. If interested, send a list of courses taken and grades along with a resume by email to Prof. Cliff Davidson at cliff@cmu.edu within the first three weeks of classes.

Environmental Assessment Internships:

The FMS Environmental Coordinator is looking to hire student interns for the Fall semester to participate in the campus Environmental Assessment. Students should have writing skills and an interest in green building, land use and air quality issues. If interested, please contact Barb Kviz at bk11@andrew.cmu.edu or at 268-7858.

Recycling Program Work Study:

The FMS Environmental Coordinator is looking to hire a work study student for the Fall semester to do work related to the recycling program on campus. The work will include the audit and placement of recycling/trash containers, new labeling for containers, tracking recycling data, communications and web site revisions.

Green Visions, Grey Infrastructure Course

This Fall semester Interdisciplinary Seminar/Project Course will focus on restoration ecology, an emerging philosophy and community of disciplines that examines the form and function of land disturbed by industrial culture for potential recovery, reclamation, rehabilitation and healing. The course is being taught by Tim Collins and Reiko Goto, the Directors of 3 Rivers- 2nd Nature at the Studio for Creative Inquiry. Anyone interested in more information about the class should contact Tim Collins at tcollins@andrew.cmu.edu.

Newsletter

If you have comments or items to be included in the next issue, please email them to Michelle Mondazzi, Editor at mmev@andrew.cmu.edu. The ‘green scene’ is currently available online at the EPC website (www.cmu.edu/epc).

EARTH Student Organization

Earth is Carnegie Mellon's Student Environmental Club. Earth is working towards a better education of ourselves and others on environmental issues. They are working to improve the environmental impact we have as individuals, as a university, and as a country.

This year's projects include: raising student awareness of environmental issues, coordination of student activist groups in Pittsburgh, planning for Earth Day 2002 events, and educating area high school students about environmentalism.

You can find more information about the club, contact info, and a calendar of events at www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/earth/
To get involved with Earth, contact Matt Martin at mmartin@andrew.cmu.edu.

National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowships

Request for Proposals
next deadline- November 15th

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Fellowship Program offers a nationally recognized opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue their vision of an ecologically sustainable future. Through tangible projects to green their campuses and communities, Fellows gain practical experience in the conservation field and first-hand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities inherent in conservation efforts. Fellows also receive project support, a modest grant and recognition of their accomplishments.

Visit www.nwf.org/campusecology/ fellowships to access the grant guidelines and an application form.

If you are interested in pursuing an NWF Campus Ecology Fellowship, you are encouraged to contact Barb Kviz, Environmental Coordinator (x8,7858; bk11@andrew.cmu.edu) or Liz Munsch, Energy Manager (x8-xxxx; lizm@andrew.cmu.edu) who can suggest possible student projects that will help support the CMU Green Practices Program.

