

Green Practices Program: Environmental Practices Committee

Welcome to the first issue of 'the green scene,' Carnegie Mellon's environmental newsletter! Our campus has made some great achievements in environmental stewardship and continues to implement new ways to green the campus and the Carnegie Mellon community. This newsletter will provide students, faculty, and staff with updates on our environmental efforts and also with ways to get involved!

In 1998, the Environmental Practices Committee (EPC) was established to develop a more comprehensive waste reduction and energy conservation program. The committee, which is comprised of staff, faculty and students, establishes priorities, goals, and mechanisms for implementing environmental practices.

Mission Statement: "The Environmental Practices Committee will strive to develop university practices that improve environmental quality, decrease waste, and conserve natural resources and energy, thereby establishing Carnegie Mellon as a practical model for other universities and companies."

In Fall 2000, Barb Kviz was appointed to the newly created position of Environmental Coordinator. The EPC meets monthly to discuss new environmental initiatives and ideas. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact:

Barb Kviz, Co-Chair; Environmental Coordinator
bk11@andrew.cmu.edu

Dave Dzombak, Co-Chair; Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
dzombak@andrew.cmu.edu

To learn more about the campus Green Practices Program, see www.cmu.edu/epc

Success Stories

The Environmental Practices Committee is comprised of members representing various aspects of the campus community, many of whom have already achieved great successes.

Recycling: The Carnegie Mellon recycling program was started during the fiscal year 90/91, and since then, we have increased our total non-hazardous waste recycling from 139 tons or 5% to 497 tons or 13% in fiscal year 99/2000. This included 210 tons of office paper, 111 tons of cardboard, 54 tons of glass, plastic, and aluminum, 38 tons of wood pallets, 50 tons of plant material, 12 tons of scrap metal, and 2670 pounds of tires. We also recycle computers and monitors, batteries, oil, phone books, and fluorescent tubes, and in the near future, will recycle transparencies and cd's. If you need information about campus recycling locations, please contact Barb Kviz at bk11@andrew.cmu.edu.

Energy Management: Carnegie Mellon is in the process of selecting an Energy Services Company (ESCO) who will perform an assessment of our current campus-wide energy use, and make recommendations to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption in several buildings. We have also joined the EPA Labs 21 program which focuses on reducing energy use in laboratory buildings.

Purchasing: In the past year, the percentage of the campus that uses recycled content paper (30% post-consumer content) has increased from 5% to 91%! Our campus-wide goal is to eliminate the use of virgin paper and to reduce total paper consumption.

Housing Services: The 'Give As You Go' Program will be implemented for student move-out this May. Students can bag the things that they wish to donate to organizations like the Goodwill and Salvation Army, instead of sending them to a landfill.

More Success Stories

Dining Services: Many steps have been taken to implement a more sustainable approach to food services. The Schatz Dining Room now uses only washable china and silverware. All Dining Services areas have switched to recycled content napkins, and the East Street Deli now sells reusable thermal mugs that can be refilled at a discount. Dining Services donates leftover food to the Pittsburgh Food Bank each week. Future considerations include the use of biodegradable cutlery, cups, lids, straws and garbage bags, compostable plates, and washable reusable serving trays. A composting program for Dining Services food waste is also being considered.

Transportation: In conjunction with the Pittsburgh Clean Cities program, Facilities Management has purchased a natural gas van, and has already ordered another natural gas pick-up truck. To the extent that appropriate models are available, all future purchases of university vehicles will use natural gas or other alternative fuels.

Building and Construction: The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Program is a tool for sustainable design and construction which includes a national rating system that ranks green buildings according to their site use, water efficiency, impact on energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. Carnegie Mellon staff will partner with the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics in the School of Architecture to evaluate the feasibility of LEED certification for all new buildings. For more info, please see www.usgbc.org

More Success Stories and Future Plans

Green Campus Committee: This committee investigates opportunities for improving the outdoor environment on campus and implementing environmentally sensitive maintenance practices. The Campus Planning Principles are currently being reviewed for opportunities to incorporate more sustainable practices. A biotic survey of the campus, which documents all existing flora and fauna, is being conducted by students working with the Hunt Botanical Institute, in order to develop future landscaping plans that incorporate native species.

Environmental Management System (EMS): An EMS is a set of policies and procedures that define the full breadth of an organization's environmental commitments and goals, and specifies how they will be achieved. The goals of a successful EMS are to ensure compliance with all environmental regulations, to reduce and prevent pollution, and to demonstrate continuing improvement of environmental performance. A draft version of a Carnegie Mellon EMS is underway.

Environmental Assessment: One way to document the future successes of a university-wide EMS is to first complete an all encompassing campus audit. The Environmental Assessment will document the current state of Carnegie Mellon's environmental practices and policies, so that they may be improved upon, and successes can be accurately documented. Internship opportunities are available.

CMU Environmental Institute (EI): The mission statement of the EI is to develop innovations in environmental education, to promote interdisciplinary environmental research, and to foster a sense of community and develop outreach activities. This year, the EI sponsored a lecture series and conducted a student survey regarding Dining Services. For more information, please see the web site at www.envinst.cmu.edu

Newsletter:

The Carnegie Mellon 'green scene' will be the newsletter for environmental issues concerning the entire campus. This issue is only an introduction to some of the campus environmental issues! If you have updates, announcements, events, or any other related topics for the next newsletter, please email Michelle Mondazzi at the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics at mmev@andrew.cmu.edu.

The 'green scene' is also available online at the EPC website (www.cmu.edu/epc).

Student Involvement

EARTH: Earth is a student environmental organization with the purpose of promoting environmental awareness and responsibility in the Carnegie Mellon University community, and providing the community with opportunities to work towards these ends. This year, long term efforts have focused on the reduction of the amount of garbage and food waste generated on campus, and on improving the recycling program. Earth also took field trips to a land fill and a coal mine. The Earth web site is at www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/earth. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact earth@andrew.cmu.edu.

Spring Carnival 2001:

Environmental Booth Building Practices encourages groups to consider issues like material reuse and environmentally benign materials in booth design and construction. This year Pioneers won the Excellence in Environmental Building Practices Award by using all reused wood, building the booth in modular sections and using screws so that it could be easily disassembled and reused next year, and using latex paints and other environmentally friendly materials.

The Spring Carnival kick-off for recycling in the fraternities began with the delivery of a 600-pound capacity cage for aluminum can collection and recycling. Half of the money generated from recycling will be donated to charities selected by the fraternities. The quad recycling program will now continue throughout the year.

Solar Decathlon:

The U.S. Department of Energy is sponsoring a national competition to design and build a 100% solar powered village on the Mall in Washington D.C. A design by students from Carnegie Mellon's School of Architecture is among entries from the 11 colleges and universities chosen to compete. The houses will be built in September 2002, and if you are interested in being part of the design and construction team, please contact Steve Lee in the School of Architecture at stevelee@cmu.edu.

Classes:

The Three Rivers University Consortium for the Environment (3RUCE) was founded in 1997 as an academic partnership between Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham College, Duquesne University and the University of Pittsburgh. Through 3RUCE, students can cross-register for environmental classes at all partnering institutions.

For more info, see the web site at www.chatham.edu/centers/threerivers/index.html

Outreach

Carnegie Mellon joined the **National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Program** in the Fall of 2000. The NWF believes that "Campus Ecology has become a cornerstone conservation initiative in higher education, working to transform the nation's college campuses into living models of an ecologically sustainable society, to train a new generation of environmental leaders, and to ensure a strong future for America's environmental movement." Some of Carnegie Mellon's initiatives are mentioned in the Spring 2001 online newsletter at www.nwf.org/campusecology

The **PCIEP (Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy)** is comprised of several environmental organizations and 40 Pennsylvania universities and colleges, including Carnegie Mellon.

The Greening the Campus Program aims to improve campus environmental curriculum, green operations, design and architecture. The Sustainable Pennsylvania Program's objectives are to identify research priorities and opportunities by determining what the major gaps are in the scientific knowledge and what the major barriers are to implementation of sustainable development.

For more info, see the web site at www.pciep.org

Internships and Opportunities

Environmental Assessment Internships:

The FMS Environmental Coordinator is looking to hire one or two student interns for the summer and fall semester to participate in the campus Environmental Assessment. If interested, please contact Barb Kviz at bk11@andrew.cmu.edu or at 268-7858.

Energy Internships:

The FMS Energy Manager is looking for students interested in internships and projects concerning campus energy use and strategies. Opportunities are available for this summer and next fall. Please submit ideas and proposals to Liz Munsch at lizm@andrew.cmu.edu.

