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Focus the Nation Week

Student efforts around the theme of sustainability are amplifying across colleges and universities. At Cornell, the Sustainability Hub brought various student organizations into a planning process for Focus the Nation, a national initiative to establish ongoing discussion at colleges and universities about how the world will stabilize the climate in the 21st century (www.focusthenation.org). As part of this national initiative, Cornell student organizations organized Focus the Nation Week, which consisted of 8 days of activities, demonstrations, and events to raise awareness about global warming.

The week was very successful, beginning with Campus Sustainability Day on October 25th and ending with the International Day of Climate Action on November 2nd. In between, there were movie nights, conferences on energy policy, speaker sessions, and more. The student effort was mentioned in the Ithaca Times, the Cornell Daily Sun, and the Focus the Nation initiative.

Apart from raising awareness about this urgent problem, this coordinated week provided a space for organizations to come together and interact. After this first trial, student organizations are planning to make such weeks a Cornell tradition, with another Global Warming Week to be organized around Earth Day next Spring Semester. For more information about Focus the Nation and student efforts, contact Carlos Rymer at cmr55@cornell.edu.

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International Day of Climate Action

As part of Focus the Nation Week, Kyoto Now! organized Cornell's contribution to the International Day of Climate Action, a collaborative effort to focus attention on global warming and the policies necessary to disseminate its solutions. We organized demonstrations in the Arts Quad and the Ag Quad, where solar ovens and solar-powered fuel cells were located.

The student organization tabled at Ho Plaza to raise awareness about global warming and convince students to sign the Kyoto and Beyond Petition, a key instrument for convincing policy-makers to take immediate action. As part of the Beyond Kyoto Initiative, the organization also had a Power of the Wind Contest, where model wind turbines were displayed and ranked based on creativity and impact. The day of activities added to the group's goal of working with the University to commit to carbon neutrality as soon as possible.

Contributing Writers

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Tamar Sharabi, President, Engineers for a Sustainable World

Update: New World Agriculture and Ecology Group

During October, NWAEG did a lot of tabling, which has been a great opportunity to meet people involved with other groups on campus. We tabled with Dilmun Hill at the Community Fair and Fare event at Barton Hall for CU staff. We also tabled at the Campus Sustainability Day event and the CALS student organizations fair.

We had a special book group meeting hosted by a local organic grain farmer, Tor, where we discussed selections from Wendell Berry and toured the farm. Our book group meets every other Wednesday evening and is a great informal forum for discussion about sustainable agriculture. Check out our website for upcoming book group meetings: www.rso.cornell.edu/nwaeg/bookgroup.html.

We're still planning the upcoming 2nd National Conference on Facilitating Sustainable Agriculture Education, to be held at Cornell July 11-14, 2007. NWAEG has been working with faculty and administrators at Cornell, Penn State, UC Davis, Mercyhurst College, Delaware Valley College, and the Rodale Institute. This conference will highlight Cornell's sustainability-focused programs and help strengthen a newly formed national group, the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association. Conference planning committees are forming now, including one on student participation. If you would like to join one of the committees or find out how you can get involved in this event, please contact our conference coordinator, Kathi Colen Peck kscp@turbonet.com.

Update: Green Purchasing Task Force

Universities, in general, have often been at the forefront of social change. Since students influence and are influenced by the values, culture and behavior of their university, it is important that the university provides the proper leadership, including in the area of environmental sustainability. One aspect of environmental stewardship is to help make sure that purchases made by Cornell faculty and staff are made with proper consideration given to "green purchasing" solutions. Green Purchasing can be defined as "products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose."

The Green Purchasing Task force was established in the Spring of 2004. It is comprised of volunteer students, faculty, and staff committed to working with senior administration to facilitate dialog and implement environmentally responsible solutions across the Cornell community. The GPTF hopes to establish Cornell University as a recognized leader in green purchasing among universities and within the community. Some areas that the GPTF has addressed over the past two years include IT Hardware, Utilities, Food Services, Office Furniture, Carpet and Office Supplies.

Over the past month the GPTF has achieved significant increase in the percentage of purchases of more environmentally friendly goods and services by identifying green products through our preferred vendor office supply and furniture websites. The task force has also reviewed and approved an Environmental & Ecological Profile that will be incorporated in all request for proposals issued through the Office for Purchasing Services. The GPTF continues to market and publicize green purchasing and participated in Campus Sustainability Day at Willard Straight.

Engineers for a Sustainable World: Cornell Chapter News

Engineers for a Sustainable World is looking at an exciting finish to a great semester! During the last week of October, we participated in Focus the Nation Week, where we showcased our work and outreached to the Cornell community.

On Tuesday 11/14 ESW members will be going to Dryden High School to showcase the 'Top Ten Technologies for the Sustainable World.' We will be driving in our Veggie Van! If you would like to be involved in the presentation email ev42@cornell.edu. Also, sometime next week expect the Engineering Quad to be full of facts on how Engineer's help contribute to a more sustainable world!

Upcoming Activities: On 11/19 we will be volunteering with Cayuga Nature Center. Email Katie at kba5@cornell.edu to help make our planet more sustainable, starting right here in Ithaca! On 11/29 we will be showcasing the

Did You Know?

Three Cornell Teams are proposing ideas for the EcoCollege Challenge, a competition sponsored by General Electric and mtvU. The winner will receive \$25,000 to implement the best idea on campus. An Earth Day Concert for the Spring of 2007 is also part of the winning prize.

work of our Ecomagination projects at our general meeting.

*Stay tuned for the final presentations of the ESW class. It is a potluck dinner in McManus Lounge in Hollister Hall. It is a great way to learn about the engineering projects and meet ESW students and faculty. That will occur during study week. *We also have a trip planned to the recycling plant to learn more about how Ithaca manages its waste. Email John at jje24@cornell.edu to reserve a spot!

Sustainable Enterprise Association Updates

SEA recently held its first 2006-2007 “power hour” and is currently looking forward to some of its biggest projects of the year. The power hour, entitled “Sustainability at the Local Level: Building Enterprise from the Ground Up,” took place on November 1st as part of Focus the Nation week. Our guest, Arthur Weaver, answered questions from SEA and the audience about his experiences as the founder of a fledgling renewable energy company in Ithaca. Look for more events in this series throughout the year.

Meanwhile, our primary project this semester is the **oikos Convergence**, to be hosted at Cornell in January 2007. Organized by SEA and oikos International, the Convergence will bring together “an academy of highly motivated US and international student leaders interested in applying the tools of entrepreneurship towards social and environmental change at their universities and beyond.” We’ll be accepting applications from now until December 15. This four-day conference aims to provide tools that can help student leaders turn visions into reality, jump-starting their quest to make a difference. To learn more, please visit www.oikosinternational.org/usconvergence or search for “oikos Convergence 2007” on Facebook Groups. We call upon the Cornell community to help make potential applicants everywhere aware of this opportunity and to emphasize it to universities across the nation.

**SEA meets in Sage 134 on Wednesdays at 8:30 pm. Please feel free to drop in any time. :-)*

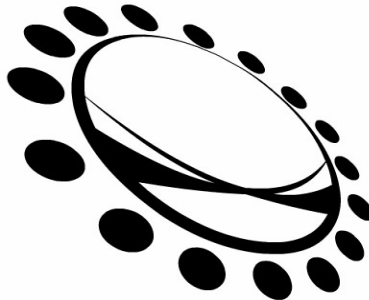
Teva is the Hebrew Word for Nature

We are pushing onward with our campaign to initiate campus-wide battery recycling! On Sunday, November 19th at 1:00 PM in Ecology House, Teva and Roots and Shoots will be handing out battery boxes for every residence hall on campus. Be there! We are looking for one person in each dorm to be responsible for that dorm's battery box. If you want to be that person, let us know. Furthermore, we are considering expanding the recycling program to include ink cartridges. Ink cartridges can be reused and by recycling the batteries, they will not end up leaching their toxic heavy metals into ground water and poisoning our delicate ecosystem. For more information on Teva, contact mlw63@cornell.edu.

Sustainability Hub
Meeting Times: Wednesdays at 5:00PM
Location: Uris Hall G28

Newsletter Suggestions or Reports:
cmr55@cornell.edu

WWW.SUSTAINABLECAMPUS.CORNELL.EDU



Websites for Student Organizations Featured in this Edition

Engineers for a Sustainable World: www.rso.cornell.edu/esw

Kyoto Now: <http://www.rso.cornell.edu/kyotonow/>

New World Agriculture and Ecology Group: <http://www.rso.cornell.edu/nwaeg/>

Sustainable Enterprise Association: <http://www.rso.cornell.edu/sea-cornell/>

Sustainability Hub: <http://sustainabilityhub.hopto.org> and <http://sustainablecornell.blogspot.com>

Teva: <http://cornellhillel.org/>