

Winter 2010

Go! Green Outreach, Winter 2010

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Division of University Advancement

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GO! Green Outreach

SHARING SUSTAINABILITY NEWS, EFFORTS AND IDEAS WITH THE PEOPLE OF CAMPUS

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Sustainability Starts with YOU

If you don't know by now, the University of Arkansas — the U of A — is the YOU of A. This phrase refers to the university's commitment to the individuals on campus and to our responsibility to make a positive impact.

Part of your positive impact on campus and beyond is in your daily choices to recycle, to be mindful of your energy usage and to cut back whenever and wherever possible.

Learn more about emphasizing the YOU in the U of A by watching a video from our chancellor: <http://newswire.uark.edu/article.aspx?id=15113>.



ASG Bottle Give-Away



On Nov. 10, the Associated Student Government sustainability commission distributed 2,000 reusable Nal-

gene water bottles to students during a demonstration designed to raise awareness about the effects of not recycling. As part of the awareness, students built a structure out of 5,700 empty bottles.

Director of sustainability Zoe Teague, a senior environmental, soil and water science major, wrote a grant proposal to Walmart and secured donations from the Beaver Water District, which allowed ASG to supply the reusable bottles to students who signed a pledge to bring their own bottle.

“Our goal is to attack student habit, take a positive stance and bring awareness to show students there are alternatives to purchasing bottled water,” Teague said.

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Solar Panels Installed on HPER Building

System designed to heat pool, save energy and money

An array of 48 solar panels are now installed on the roof of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation building at the University of Arkansas. The solar panel heating system will be used to help heat the building's Olympic-sized swimming pool, reducing the energy used by the natural gas-fired steam system that is also used to heat pool.

This solar installation is part of the campuswide RazorsEDGE energy savings program designed and developed by Energy Systems Group, one of the nation's top energy services providers. The RazorsEDGE program is designed to reduce annual energy consumption throughout the Fayetteville campus, with a guarantee that energy savings will cover the cost of the building upgrades and improvements over a 13-year period. Energy Systems Group partnered with Sun City Solar Commercial Energy, LLC to design and implement the innovative solar panel heating system. Energy Systems Group construction manager Paul Gandy praised the university and the contractor on the project.



The array of 48 solar panels is set on the roof and is connected to a heat exchanger that provides supplemental heat to the pool. It is designed to preheat the pool water so that less campus steam will be used on a daily basis.

The solar system at the HPER building is projected to save the university \$35,000 annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 metric tons annually.

University sustainability director, Nick Brown notes that the solar panel collector system will contribute 45-70 percent of the BTUs needed to heat the pool water to a temperature of around 80 degrees year round. The time of year and hours of sunshine during a day directly affect the amount of energy produced by the solar pool heating system.

“To our knowledge, this is the largest thermal water heating solar collector array in the state of Arkansas, and probably in the region. This will help tremendously with our goal of being a carbon neutral campus by the year 2015,” said Brown.

What's the Footprint?

Since consumer awareness toward the environment has been increasing, retailers are beginning to think about providing more information to their customers.

Tesco is the largest grocery chain in the United Kingdom. In 2009, it was the first retailer to display a carbon footprint on one of its products – in this case, a carton of milk – and now says to use the display on more than 100 products.

On the milk carton, for example, the carbon footprint is calculated from farm origin to store and captures greenhouse gas emissions in their carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent form.

Tesco additionally has reached its corporate goal of diverting all waste from its 2,000+ retail locations from landfills.



Bishop's U. Bans Bottled Water

Bishop's University has become the first university in Quebec to follow a growing national trend in Canada, by banning the sale of single use bottled water on campus. Last year, a group of students started an initiative called "Think Global, Drink Local" to draw attention to the environmental impact of bottled water. Three quarters of students who participated in a March referendum voted for the ban.

The university cites discarded bottles, the carbon footprint left by transporting bottled water, and the fact that each plastic

bottle requires twice its volume in water to make, as reasons for the move. Bishop's will also be phasing out the use of 18-liter water coolers, and water fountains will be upgraded to include a spout designed to fill reusable water containers.

Bishop's ban makes it the ninth university in Canada to ban the sale of bottled water.



No strings attached – As winter's chill sets in, a nice hot cup of tea may warm your bones. Tea brand Celestial Seasonings claims that using tea bags with no strings, tags, staples or individual wrappers saves 3.5 million pounds of waste from entering landfills annually.

Campus Spotlight: A Green Home for the Chancellor



The beautiful home on the corner of Maple and Razorback isn't just a nice addition to the university because of its aesthetic appeal; it is also an illustration of the university's commitment to sustainability.

The Wallace W. and Jama M. Fowler House, which serves as the University of Arkansas Chancellor's Residence, is an award-winning house that is green in many ways. The following list of sustainability items, provided by the institution's Facilities Management team, illustrates the amount of planning that went into creating an environmentally friendly home, which also serves as a special location for campus events.

- More than 130 LED lights are throughout the house. LED lights have a life of 75,000 hours and are very energy efficient.
- Grass pavers in front of the house provides parallel parking for visitors while allowing rain water to penetrate the surface and enter the ground; 92 percent of the site is permeable not including areas under the roof.
- High efficiency fixtures (toilets, showers and faucets) minimize water usage.
- 75 percent of the appliances installed meet the performance requirements of Energy Star for homes.
- Orientation of the house takes advantage of the sun's position in cold months.
- More than 45 percent of the plants are drought-tolerant.
- The overall irrigation demand was reduced by approximately 50 percent.
- The HVAC system was meets ENERGY STAR for homes.
- Programmable thermostats allow scheduling and setbacks.
- The hot water heater meets the LEED guideline.
- Framing material waste was less than 10 percent for the project.
- The home has high efficiency windows.
- Locally sourced materials were used (i.e. Arkansas lumber)
- Strict compliance with storm water protection was adhered to during construction.

The Wind Beneath My Water

Windpower Monthly recently reported eight American research projects won \$5 million in grants from the U.S. government. The money went to projects aiming to support the responsible siting and permitting of offshore renewables projects, including wind. The Department of Energy, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) jointly awarded the funds.

Among the awards includes a \$497,000 grant to the University of Arkansas Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies. CAST's proposed system is to design the spatial layout of an offshore facility, run visual analyses and generate realistic visualizations from multiple viewpoints.



Cornell Lands Its Largest Gift



The largest gift ever by an individual to Cornell University will go to support programs in sustainability research. Cornell alumnus David R. Atkinson and his wife, Patricia Atkinson, have given \$80 million to Cornell's three-year-old Center for a Sustainable Future, which is

being renamed for Atkinson. The center, which was established with initial support from the Atkinsons, had operated on a year-by-year basis, and will now be a permanent entity at Cornell. The funds will allow the center to advance sustainability research, cultivate innovative collaborations within and beyond Cornell.

"The center provides the means and programs to build new, multidisciplinary collaborations and the external partnerships needed to tackle important and complex problems," said Frank DiSalvo, the center's director and the J.A. Newman Professor of Physical Science. "Chemists are meeting economists, biologists are meeting historians, and so on, and the faculty and staff are transforming Cornell into a living and learning laboratory for sustainability."

Walmart Aims to Stock More Local Produce and Reduce Food Waste

Earlier this fall, Walmart launched its new global commitment to sustainable agriculture that will help small and medium sized farmers expand their businesses, get more income for their products, and reduce the environmental impact of farming, while strengthening local economies and providing customers around the world with long-term access to affordable, high-quality, fresh food.

“More than 1 billion people around the world rely on farming and hundreds of millions of them live on less than \$2 a day,” said Mike Duke, Walmart president and CEO.

“Globally, with a booming population, food production must increase roughly 70 percent to feed 9 billion people in 2050.”

Duke continued, “Through sustainable agriculture, Walmart is uniquely positioned to make a positive difference in food production — for farmers, communities and customers. Our efforts will help increase farmer incomes, lead to more efficient use of pesticides, fertilizer and water, and provide fresher produce for our customers.”

Supporting farmers

More than a billion people rely on agriculture for subsistence. By the end of 2015 in emerging markets, Walmart will help many small and mid-sized farmers gain access to markets by:

- * selling \$1 billion in food sourced from 1 million small and



medium farmers;

- * providing training to 1 million farmers and farm workers in such areas as crop selection and sustainable farming practices (the company expects half of those trained to be women); and

- * increasing the income of the small and medium farmers it sources from by 10 to 15 percent.

- * In the U.S., Walmart will double its sale of locally sourced produce and increase its purchase of select U.S. crops.

More food, less waste

Walmart has one of the world’s largest food supply chains and is committed to reducing and optimizing the resources required to produce that food and driving more transparency into its supply chain. For the first time Walmart will ask suppliers about the water, energy, fertilizer and pesticide they use per unit of food produced. The goals include:

- * accelerating the agricultural focus of the Sustainability Index, beginning with a Sustainable Produce Assessment for top producers in its Global Food Sourcing network in 2011;

- * investing more than \$1 billion in its global fresh supply chain in the next five years; and,

- * reducing food waste in its emerging market stores and clubs by 15 percent and by 10 percent in stores and clubs in its other markets by the end of 2015.

AASHE Offers Quick Info Through Sustainability Blog

If you're interested in learning more about sustainability from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, check out their blog: <http://www.aashe.org/blog>. One of the cool features of this blog is the related blogs link on the right-hand side. You will never be at a loss for campus sustainability blogs or general green-related blogs again. You can also find additional resources in the association's resource center, linked on the left.

AASHE is an association of colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future. The organization's mission is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. They do this by providing resources, professional development and a network of support to enable institu-

tions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research.

AASHE defines sustainability in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods and a better world for all generations.



Pinch Those Holiday Pennies

The American Public University System offers an easy list of ideas to save energy in your home this winter. Learn simple ways to spend less: <http://apus-sustainability.com/2010/10/25/energy-savers-for-winter/>



Story ideas? Contact Danielle Strickland at strick@uark.edu or Laura Jacobs at laura@uark.edu.



We want to hear from you!