



SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

ITS Announces Green IT



Green IT@UT is an initiative that commits ITS, and invites the adherence of the larger campus IT community, to new standards of organizational and personal stewardship. This effort goes beyond mere compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Green IT@UT provides a framework for sustainable decision-making; promotes green IT products, services and best practices; and focuses

on campus partnerships that maximize the efficiency of operations and services while minimizing the university's wastes and environmental footprint. Visit the new Green IT@UT Web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/services/greenit/> and read about the launch of the initiative at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/news/092008/greenitlaunch.php> to find out how ITS can help you and your organization be more green! Faculty and staff should particularly check out improved options for hard drive destruction. ITS's pursuit of a "zero waste" vendor to handle the problem of safe, secure destruction of this media is truly commendable. Students should inquire at the Campus Computer Store about trading in old electronics when they purchase new ones; information about this process is also available at the Computer Store's main webpage.

ESI Receives 2nd SECO Grant



Congratulations are due to Dr. Jay Banner and the Environmental Science Institute for receiving its second annual grant from the Texas State Energy Conservation Office, which will support its Campus GreenLight initiative. ESI works with the Campus Environmental Center, DHFS, and other faculty, staff, and students, as well as K-12 educators to manage project related to energy and the environment. See <http://www.esi.utexas.edu/greenlight/>

Campus GreenLight is currently supporting the UT Energy Challenge November 1-30, which focuses on the 13 on-campus residence halls and several of the off-campus co-ops. A working group has recently launched to explore a similar competition for Greek houses either in the spring or concurrent with the 2009 competition next fall. A critical component of this year's event is a holiday power-down over Thanksgiving break, so please consider making a special effort to unplug and shut off all personal power-draining devices (except for refrigerators) in your offices and workspaces when you leave for the break. Go cold turkey!



DHFS Update

DHFS's sustainability efforts continue at a rapid pace. If you stopped by the Kinsolving or Jester II dining halls during the week of September 15-19, you might have seen students and staff handing out Sweet Leaf Tea certificates as incentives for not

using trays! The Division of Housing and Food Service has begun some user-friendly initiatives to address the 112 tons of edible food wasted each year in those two dining facilities (number based on the plate waste survey conducted in spring 2008). DHFS also offers a vegetarian/vegan working group and a sustainable foods group. Email Meagan Jones, mjones@austin.utexas.edu, for more information.

Trash to Treasure an Ongoing Success



The Campus Environmental Center, an agency of Student Government, raised \$13,519 with their annual Trash to Treasure event, which included a garage and clothing sale. Downscaled from last year to improve safety and reduce stress on the organizers, the event still saved approximately 40 tons of furniture and household goods from the landfill. The event continues to attract positive attention and is popular in the community. Congratulations to the handful of student organizers that stuck it out and really made it happen! Major supporters this year included The University Co-op, Freescale Semiconductor, Michener Self Storage, UT Recreation Sports, AVIS and Enterprise rental cars, and Door to Door Storage.

Rail 4 Real Coalition Launched



UT Student Government and the Urban Development Society have launched a new coalition to "[do] rail right for the UT campus." UT Student Government and the Campus Environmental Center are listed as distinct on-campus allies, as well as BEA (Business-Engineering-Architecture), the Geography Society, and the Re-Energize Texas Coalition UT. There are a number of coalition partners in the city of Austin; the mission, news, upcoming events, and partners are all viewable on rail4real.org.

Synergies is a semi-monthly publication. For questions or suggestions, email Karen Blaney, karen.blaney@mail.utexas.edu

Announcements

Facilities Services welcomes Bridget Dededke and Jeff Basile... Sustainability at UT recently received a significant boost from these two hires, Bridget into the Associate Director position that Mike Miller vacated last year, and Jeff into a new Recycling and Sustainability Manager position... **CEC Stakeholder Luncheon December 8...** The student-run Campus Environmental Center will be inviting a variety of staff and faculty from across the university to hear news of their accomplishments and ongoing projects this semester. Email director@utenvironment.org if you are interested in attending... **UTSN Meetings November 21 and December 12...** The final two UT Sustainability Network Meetings for the year will be held at noon on the two above dates. Topics should include recycling updates, greenhouse gas inventory updates, and other news from across campus. Join the UTSN email list for minutes and meeting notifications: <http://utlists.utexas.edu/sympa/utsustainability>.