



# SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

## DSEMC Program is Launched



In Fall 2007, UT launched the Demand Side Energy Management and Conservation (DSEMC) program, which is designed to help create a culture of sustainable energy management and conservation at UT. DSEMC seeks to help meet the needs of the campus community, while reducing consumption and rising energy and water costs for the University.

To achieve these goals, DSEMC employs a twofold approach. Employees in Facilities Services are working on several renovation projects to reduce demand. Currently, they are conducting energy and water audits in buildings across campus, which will inform decisions on the installation of low-flow fixtures, and energy efficient lighting. Simultaneously, teams are working to change student, faculty, and staff behavior, encouraging less waste of resources. For example, about 10% of our energy use comes from computers, so remembering to turn your computer, monitor and speakers off when they are not in use can make a big impact! Learn more at: <http://www.utexas.edu/utakecharge/index.html>

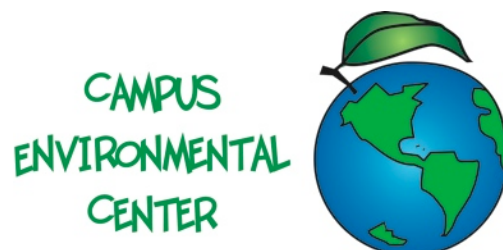
## Local Food Served in Cafeterias



The Division of Housing and Food Services (DHFS) is working to support the local economy and serve fresh, healthy, local food. Since the fall of 2006, DHFS has been purchasing food from the Sustainable Food Center's Farm Direct program. Every Wednesday the cafeterias feature Farm Direct food, and DHFS works to include other local foods as available.

Associate Director, Scott Meyer initiated the program as one way for DHFS to be more sustainable and reduce the carbon footprint of the food that travels to campus. The average American meal travels 1500 miles from where it was grown or produced to your plate. Through their Farm Direct purchases, UT has cut some of that distance by 95%! Because of the decreased travel time, this food is healthier and tastes fantastic! During events like Campus Sustainability Day, DHFS chefs cook free samples of this delicious food to help spread the word. So far, they have served over 12,500 pounds of local food!

## Campus Environmental Center (CEC) ReEnergize Texas Summit



The CEC, the largest student environmental group on campus, is hosting the ReEnergize Texas Summit at UT Feb. 8-10. They will provide a forum through which students from high schools and universities in Texas can come together to build a strong green movement within the state. CEC organizers expect the summit to draw between 300 and 500 attendees. Through training and workshops CEC members will offer students the opportunity to learn new skills, develop into energetic and active leaders, and take these assets back to their own campuses and communities. By utilizing this new network of student leaders fighting for the same cause, we can launch our state, our country, and our world into a safe, clean, and healthy future with the use of renewable energy resources and a green economy. If you are interested in joining the ReEnergize Texas Summit Planning Team, serving as a volunteer at the Summit, or in attending the conference, contact Tabitha Spence: [tspence@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:tspence@mail.utexas.edu). Visit the website at: [www.climatechallengetexas.org](http://www.climatechallengetexas.org)

**Sustainable Development: To meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.** (Defined in the Brundtland Report)

**Sustainability Tip of the Month:** Consider using the Park and Ride service to commute to UT. Ride free with your UT ID, and many busses have wireless access. Check out routes at [http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/park\\_n\\_ride/](http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/park_n_ride/)

## Recycle Mania



RecycleMania is a 10-week contest between university recycling programs in the United States. From January 27 to April 5, UT will be measuring trash, bottles and cans, paper, and corrugated cardboard collected from all faculty, staff and students. Last year, UT won first place in the waste minimization effort without a lot of extra work. This year, we will be judged in the per capita, waste minimization, grand champion, and gorilla (highest tonnage) competitions, and we hope to win big! This is a great opportunity to work together to show the rest of the country our enthusiasm for recycling at UT. Encourage people around you to recycle, and join the competition!

[www.UTenvironment.org/recycling/](http://www.UTenvironment.org/recycling/)

## Residence Hall MicroFridge



The Division of Housing and Food Services (DHFS) welcomed students to campus with new MicroFridge units in every residence hall room. These units include a refrigerator, freezer and microwave in one, and replace the older refrigerators and microwaves.

All together there are 3,834 new Energy Star units, which will save a projected 494.6 megawatts of electricity in a year. With new Smart Plug technology, only one appliance is powered at a time. When the microwave is in use, the fridge temporarily shuts off to help save energy.

## President's Task Force

In 2007, President Powers created the Task Force on Sustainability with approximately 20 members representing colleges, academic units, administration, services and the students across the campus. Dr. Pat Clubb, Vice President of Employee and Campus Services, and Sherburne Abbott, Director of the Center for Science and Practice of Sustainability, are the Co-Chairs.

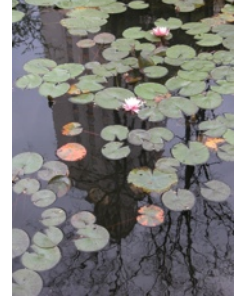
The Task Force aims to develop policies and programs to reinforce UT's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Members will look at long-term goals in addition to changes that can be made relatively quickly. The Task Force is organizing several working groups to look at specific issues. They also will include members from across campus.

## Sustainability News



This is the first issue of a monthly newsletter on sustainability at UT. Many individuals and departments across campus are engaged in sustainability initiatives, and our goal is to share this information, creating a broader understanding of sustainability at UT. The Sustainability Nexus at UTexas, a forthcoming website, will also serve to connect individuals working on sustainability. If you would like your work to appear in the newsletter, or to submit comments, contact Chelsea McMellen, Sustainability Coordinator, at [chelsea.mcmellen@ustin.utexas.edu](mailto:chelsea.mcmellen@ustin.utexas.edu) To subscribe to this newsletter: one email a month visit: [www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/sustainability](http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/sustainability)

## Up Coming Events



### January 25-26

The McCombs School of Business hosts the 2008 Sustainable Business Summit <http://www.utsummit.com/>

### January 30, 7-8:00 pm The 2% Solution!

View the webcast in conjunction with Focus the Nation on solutions to Global Warming. GEO 4.102.

### February 8, 12-1:30

UT Sustainability Network. Open to faculty, staff and students. 3.116 TX Governors Room, Union.

### February 8-10

CEC hosts the ReEnergize Texas Summit [www.climatechallengeexas.org](http://www.climatechallengeexas.org)

### February 11, 12-1:00

Green Horns Faculty and Staff meeting ACES 2.404B