



SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

McComb's School Sustainable Business Summit 2008



The McComb's School of Business held the Sustainable Business Summit on January 25th – 26th in an effort to give students, faculty, staff, and professionals a rare opportunity to interact with leading members of the business world. Representatives from companies such as Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, Citi Group, HEB and General Electric attended and spoke about how they practice sustainability. Featuring speaker panels, a sustainable product fair, a tour of Austin City Hall a LEED Gold building, and other hands-on activities, the summit was designed to examine sustainable business practices from multiple perspectives. The educational emphasis of the summit focused on analyzing business practices and technologies that would effectively address emerging environmental issues, while also adding value to businesses. Most importantly, it provided attendees with the tools and knowledge to implement, or improve upon, their own sustainability efforts. Learn more at www.utsummit.com

The Environmental Science Institute Hot Science--Cool Talks



The Environmental Science Institute (ESI) works to foster interdisciplinary research, education and outreach on environmental issues. The Hot Science—Cool Talks Lecture Series, founded in 1999, is an excellent venue for leading scientists to share their work with the general public. Anyone is welcome to attend these free events, and there are activities that will appeal to people of all ages. Unlike traditional lectures, Hot Science—Cool Talks are interactive events. At 5:45 pre-lecture activities start, and individuals can browse exhibits, enjoy refreshments, and participate in hands-on activities. During the lecture participants are encouraged to ask questions. For K-12 teachers, special materials are prepared to help educators teach age appropriate lessons on the lecture topic. All these materials are provided on a free CD-ROM. If you cannot attend one of the lectures, they are available via live webcast, and are later archived on the website. The next lecture is February 22 in Welch 2.224 where Dr. Michael Webber will speak on “Our Energy Future”. Learn more at:

<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/lectures.html>

Science and the Sea at the Marine Science Institute



Science and the Sea is a production of the Marine Science Institute at UT that publishes magazine articles, a radio program, and other activities on their website. Their goal is to help people comprehend our oceans and all of their fascinating life, and to understand the value of this changing resource. As we expand our knowledge of global climate change, we learn that the oceans and their plant life play just as important a role as trees do on land; and however vast and inexhaustible though they may seem, the oceans are actually maintained through delicate balances that can be upset by human influence. The Science and the Sea radio program—regularly updated in a two-minute story format and also distributed across the country—and their magazine articles provide concerned citizens with current and engaging information about the marine world, often in connection to sustainability issues. Recently featured stories have explored climate change, temperature regulation by the oceans, the use of waves as an alternative energy source, and green-aquaculture. Visit their website at

<http://scienceandthesea.org/>

Sustainability: 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: *Bring a bottle or mug with you to UT and refill it. In 2006, Americans used 50 Billion plastic water bottles, and 38 Billion went to the landfill. If you're done with a bottle, recycle it! This semester all recycling efforts are tallied for UT's participation in RecycleMania. www.utenvironment.org/recycling*

UT Printing Services Bleeds Green and Orange



UT Printing Services will recycle your outdated paper. We can turn your old letterhead or other items into notepads or drawing pads for the UT Child Development Center. Paper that is printed on one side is a resource for the kid's craft projects! If you prefer, we can turn your paper into notepads and return them to your office for a small binding fee. To participate in this program, please make sure there are NO STAPLES, PAPER-CLIPS or other METAL OBJECTS in the paper. Send your paper with instructions to UT Printing, E3500 or call 471-5464 to arrange for us to pick up your paper.

Join the Campus Environmental Center



The CEC is UT's largest student environmental group, and an agency of Student Government. The CEC runs numerous projects, including aluminum and plastic recycling, a leadership training program, speakers, energy conservation, and the student garage sale Trash to Treasure. They have also successfully advocated for UT's first LEED-certified green building and a staff position to work on campus sustainability.

Students who get involved make a concrete difference, learn, and connect with others excited about environmental issues. The best way to get involved is to join a committee (or two). Just sign up online at: www.UTenvironment.org

Reusable Shopping Bags at UT



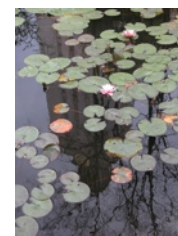
The Division of Housing and Food Services (DHFS) is encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags at their market stores on campus. For \$3.99, you can purchase a bag. Each bag comes with a re-use punch card--bring it back 5 times and get a free water bottle, or ten times and get a free t-shirt. DHFS celebrates "Keep Tuesday Green", and if you bring your bag in after 5 p.m. you'll receive 10% off your entire purchase, or if you spend \$15 you get a free bag! You can visit the stores at Cypress Bend, Kin's Market and Jester City Market, and each is set up like a mini supermarket.

Sustainability News



This is the second 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 To subscribe to this newsletter: one email a month visit: www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/sustainability

Up Coming Events



February 13, 6:30

Act Local think Global Conference, TX Union Ballroom
<http://www.altg.org>

February 22, 5:45-8:15

ESI Outreach Lecture Series Presents Dr. Michael E. Webber who will speak on "Our Energy Future" Welch Hall 2.224 5:45-7 Pre-lecture activities, 7-8:15 Lecture

March 11, 3:30-5:00

UT Sustainability Network. Meeting open to all. Room 3.208 Lone Star Room in the Union.

March 14, 12-1:00

Green Horns Meeting open to all UT employees. ACES 2.404B

RecycleMania

Continues through April!
www.utenvironment.org/recycling