



SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

Tree Relocation Project



Sixteen live oaks were transplanted for the renovation of Texas Memorial Stadium, for which UT received the 2007 Gold Leaf Award for Landscape Beautification, and thirteen others were relocated when construction for the Blanton Museum began in 2003. Relocation of the trees from the UT stadium cost the university over \$700,000, demonstrating UT's commitment to preserving these campus treasures. During this past winter break, the project continues as more live oaks have been transplanted due to demolition of the ESB building. A recent appraisal has valued the total worth of the 4,817 trees on the UT campus at nearly \$26 million due in part to their aesthetic and historical significance, as well as the value they serve in holding soil in place during large rain storms. You can also get involved and leave a lasting impact on our campus with Longhorn Re-Leaf, a tree-planting program at UT. Visit: <http://www.utenvironment.org/releaf/>

DHFS Replaces 3,200 light bulbs!



The Division of Housing and Food Services (DHFS) has been working hard switching out all of the old inefficient incandescent light bulbs in the residence halls, cafeterias, markets and their offices. The incandescent bulbs are replaced with new compact florescent light bulbs (CFL) or low watt bulbs, which use significantly less energy. DHFS has replaced about 3,200 light bulbs--all the bulbs of this style! Not only are the CFL's more energy efficient, they also last up to 8 times longer than traditional bulbs, leading to further savings as they replace bulbs less frequently. DHFS estimates that this will lead to an annual electricity cost savings of \$47,287! In addition, through a new residence hall lighting policy, students who bring their own lamps to campus are only allowed to use CFL bulbs. As DHFS makes these changes, they are able to reinvest the cost savings into other sustainability related projects so they can continue to be a sustainability leader. To learn more about DHFS sustainability projects click 'Environmental Initiatives' on their site:

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/>

Sustainable Purchasing



Many of the purchases made everyday at UT are from Office Depot, and they offer a variety of sustainable products. When thinking of products made with recycled content, many people think of purchasing recycled paper; however, Office Depot offers a wide variety of products with recycled content. In addition to 100% recycled, chlorine free paper, Office Depot sells pens, markers and binders made with recycled plastic, and envelopes, folders, calendars, and packing materials with various amounts of recycled paper. For your electrical devices, Office Depot sells rechargeable batteries and battery charges, energy efficient light bulbs, Energy Star appliances and printers, green cleaning products, and a wide selection of remanufactured printer ink cartridges. There are two ways to make sustainable Office Depot purchases. Office Depot produces the Green Book, order number 792-839, which is their catalogue of sustainable or "green" products. Or you can shop online at their green storefront. For more information visit:

<http://www.officedepot.com/green>

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: Purchase products that are sustainable! Office Depot offers a range of products with recycled content from paper to plastic folders to Energy Star appliances. To learn more visit: <http://www.officedepot.com/green>

Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges!



There are two ways to recycle your ink and toner cartridges. Mail Services recycles ink cartridges: label them and drop in any campus mail box, or call 471-2519 to arrange a pick-up. The CEC collects ink and toner cartridges (and cell phones too) Call 232-7840 or email ink@UTenvironment.org to arrange a pick up.

Ink and toner cartridges will sit in the landfill for 1000 years leaching chemicals! Fortunately, you can recycle ink and toner cartridges so they can be properly cleaned, refilled and sold to consumers at a lower price than new cartridges. Purchase recycled cartridges when placing your next Office Depot Order! Most recycled cartridges come with a replacement guarantee.

Phantom Loads



When electronic chords are plugged into a socket, they draw energy--even if they are not connected to an appliance. This energy draw is called a phantom load. Cell phone chargers, digital camera chargers, laptop chargers and coffee makers are commonly left plugged into the wall all the time, even when they're not attached to charge the device or when they're attached to a device that is turned off. Phantom loads seem like a small amount of wasted energy, but when all the phantom loads on campus are combined it can add up to a big, wasted use of energy. Make sure to unplug these devices!

Solar Decathlon



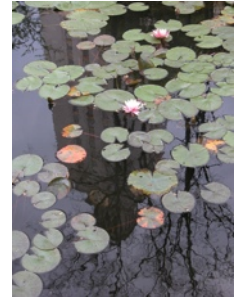
The Solar Decathlon brings together select university teams to design and build the most attractive, energy-efficient solar-powered house. The UT team of students, faculty and industry partners, has participated in all three competitions in the decathlon's history. In the most recent competition in fall 2007, the team erected their prototype "The BLOOMhouse," over a five day period on the National Mall in Washington D.C., winning 2nd place in the Engineering contest, and placing 10th overall. The BLOOMhouse relies entirely upon photovoltaic energy to generate all the electricity needed. Learn more about the features of the house at: <http://soa.utexas.edu/solard/>

DHFS Provides Biodegradable Bags



In addition to selling reusable canvas bags, soon DHFS will completely replace traditional plastic bags with biodegradable plastic bags. Amid the growing concern about the use of plastic bags and the waste they create, the Division of Housing and Food Services is working hard for new solutions in the effort to protect our environment. These new biodegradable bags will be used in all of the DHFS markets and stores across campus. To help spread the word about the new bags, each will be labeled with the slogan "Bleed Orange, Think Green" and "Made of 100% biodegradable plastic". Look for these bags in the markets soon!

Up Coming Events



April 4, 5:45-8:15
God, Darwin and Design: Lessons from the Dover Monkey Trial, by Dr. Kenneth Miller. Part of the ESI Lecture Series
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/ols/lectures/Miller/>

April 5, 9:00-11:00
Waller Creek Clean Up! Volunteer to help clean and protect the creek and its wildlife. You must sign up at www.wallercreek.org

April 11, 3:30-5:00
UT Sustainability Network. Meeting open to all. 4.224 Asian Culture Room in the Union.

April 15, 12:00-1:00
Green Horns Meeting is open to all UT employees. ACES 2.404B. Bring your lunch!