



SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

Earth Day Celebrations



This year's Earth Day will be held on April 22nd, and UT Austin's Campus Environmental Center (CEC), in collaboration with the UT Sustainability Network (UTSN), will be hosting events and activities on campus from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM to celebrate! The CEC, also celebrating its 5th year anniversary, will be located in the West Mall with free cake and tea. Learn about their outstanding committees and how they have served the UT campus the last five years. They will also be handing out prizes for recyclables, as well as holding fun activities and a drawing for a refurbished laptop. The UTSN will be on the East Mall near Speedway, joined by over 30 different organizations from UT and the City of Austin to educate the UT community about making environmentally sustainable choices. A new, exciting exhibit on Speedway will also showcase Alternative Fueled Vehicles including UT's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus. Visit: <http://www.utenvironment.org/earthday>

Nano Night 2008



Photo By: John Mishanski

Nanotechnology at UT Austin and ATI's Clean Energy Incubator brings Nano Night '08 to students, faculty and staff on Earth Day! This event represents the first ever Nano Poster Session, and will feature the work of student and faculty researchers in fields related to nanotechnology such as: Nano and Molecular Electronics, Carbon Nanotubes, Nano-biosystems, and Nano-Manufacturing, and a special category for Renewable Energy. Many participants are involved with UT's Graduate Portfolio Program in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and affiliated with the Center for Nano- and Molecular Science and Technology (CNM). They will be presenting original research judged by a panel of faculty members and industry experts, including representatives from Nano Science Diagnostic, Azaya Therapeutics, Nano Proprietary Inc, HelioVolt and more. The event will be held on April 22nd, Earth Day, 4:30-8:00 PM, in the NST Building. It is free, and refreshments will be provided. Learn more at: <http://www.cnm.utexas.edu/nanonight08.html>

Alliance to Save Energy Workshops



The Environmental Science Institute, with funding from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), hosted an Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) workshop on Friday, April 18th for university staff, faculty, and students. The morning session focused on conducting successful energy audits and techniques to help reduce energy consumption. Audits that were conducted at the University of California San Bernardino resulted in recommendations that reduced energy consumption an average of 34%! The ESI plans to develop a system for office energy audits here at UT. Attendees of the second session learned how to build successful partnerships between students and campus stakeholders. ASE's Green Campus Program was established to address energy and environmental issues in the university setting by raising student awareness through student-run campaigns and energy-efficient actions, as well as reducing energy consumption and waste through changes in university operations and student behavior. For more information and to view the powerpoint presentations from the workshops visit: <http://www.esi.utexas.edu/greenlight/>

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: *A great way to support sustainability efforts is to share knowledge with others. Attend an Earth Day event and bring your coworkers, share this newsletter with friends, and keep the discussion growing all year!*

Trash to Treasure



It's time again for Trash to Treasure! The 4th annual donation drive presented by the Campus Environmental Center will take place from May 7-19. As you move out or spring clean, donate your unwanted furniture, electronics, clothing, bikes, housewares and anything else reusable. More than 150 volunteers will collect and sort donations that will be sold in a giant garage sale at the beginning of fall semester. The money goes to fund all of the projects of the CEC. Also needed are volunteers. For each shift you work, you will help raise \$50 for the environment and keep 75 pounds of stuff out of the landfill! To learn more, volunteer, or sign up for an email reminder about the sale in August, visit: <http://www.trashtotreasureut.com/>

CEC Celebrates 5th Anniversary



Earth Day marks the 5th anniversary of the Campus Environmental Center (CEC). In all of their work promoting environmental programs such as bottle and can recycling and ReEnergize Texas, a network of colleges and universities working toward sustainability, the CEC focuses on three central goals: to educate the campus, to collaborate with the UT community on issues of policy and practice in sustainability, and to develop strong student leaders. Using the goal of campus sustainability, the CEC helps students develop leadership skills they can use in future work with the CEC and beyond. Members of the CEC look forward to the next five years, confident their success will continue to grow!

UT's First Earth Day



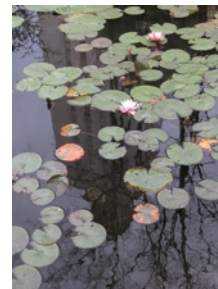
The first Earth Day was celebrated in April of 1970, and many students at UT took part. SCOPE, Student Committee On Pollution of the Environment was formed and the students set up kiosks on the West Mall. Several speeches were given there as well. A series of teach-in's were held with professors on environmental topics such as water pollution. The workshop on population growth, held in the union, had to turn away students because the room was overflowing. Many students also took walking tours of Waller Creek, which were conducted every 40 minutes to see the pollution. Earth Day 1970 was a success.

More Earth Day Events



Net Impact students at McCombs will be hosting a Green Business Fair on the McCombs Plaza. The event hopes to provide UT students with an opportunity to learn about ongoing efforts within the business community to go green and become more environmentally sustainable. To conclude Earth Day, the Texas Union Student Event Center's Distinguished Speakers Committee has invited Jack Hanna—naturalist, adventurer, and Director of the Columbus Zoo—to speak in the Texas Union Ballroom at 7:00 PM. Passes may be obtained at the SEC Events and Info Desk (UNB 4.300) with a UT ID. Celebrate Earth Day 2008!

Up Coming Events



April 22, 10-3:00

Earth Day! Join in events at the West and East Malls, and McCombs Plaza. Also look for the evening events outlined in this newsletter.

April 23, Dinner

Visit Jester 2nd Floor or Kin's Dining for a Spring Harvest Dinner. Most entrees and vegetables are from local farms.

April 27-29

TAPPA conference at UT will focus on sustainability this year. <http://www.utexas.edu/facilities/tappa2008/>

April 28-30

Climate Change Impacts on Texas Water, Conference at the Texas State Capital Extension. http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/CCTW/CC_TW08index.htm