



SYNERGIES

The Sustainability Newsletter of The University of Texas at Austin

Participate in UT's Bicycle Program



UT Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) supports an excellent biking program. Bicycling is a significant component to the University's plan to reduce local traffic congestion and air pollution. All bicycles are *required* to be registered through PTS to prevent theft, and it is easy and FREE to register your bike. PTS provides numerous amenities and services for bicycle commuters on campus. Bike lockers are available for rent at each of the seven university parking garages, and are ideal for overnight parking. Bike pumps are available for use at any of the garages. For commuters, there are facilities at Anna Hiss Gym and Belmont Hall for individuals to shower or change. RecSports members are permitted to use Gregory Gym and the RecSports Center for showers as well. PTS is working with students at the Campus Environmental Center on their Orange Bike Project that will launch this fall. For tips on riding and maintaining your bike, to register your bike, or for more information visit:

<http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/biking/index.html>

UT Honored with Water Award for Excellence

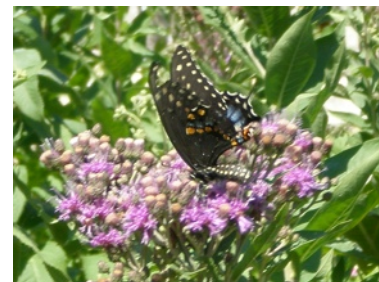


Austin Water Utility presented awards to the University of Texas at their 16th Annual Awards for Excellence program. Thirty-nine Austin Water Utility customers were honored at City Hall in the Council Chambers on July 22. Awards were given in three categories: pretreatment of wastewater, drinking water protection and water conservation. Winning in two categories, the UT Main Campus and the J.J. Pickle Research Campus both received awards. The J.J. Pickle Research Campus has received honors for wastewater pretreatment for thirteen consecutive years! The Division of Housing and Food Service (DHFS) received an award for water conservation. DHFS replaced all of their washing machines with energy and water efficient models. For their efforts they received a rebate check of \$45,450, all of which was used to promote other sustainability initiatives within DHFS. More specifically, the money went to purchase new recycling containers for student rooms and apartments, and recycling containers at trash collection areas in the residence halls and apartments.

To learn more visit:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wpretreatmentawardsjuly18.htm>

Sustainability Newsletter Options



Want to learn about the important progress that UT is making toward sustainability, discover green living tips, and keep up with sustainability events on campus? As of September 2008, there are three main sustainability related newsletters on campus. Each is focused on a different set of topics. You can sign up for as many as you like; all are geared towards the general campus population, including staff, faculty, and students.

- 1) **Synergies**--monthly coverage of sustainability at UT.
<https://utlists.utexas.edu/sympa/infosustainability.news>
- 2) **Green Acres**--monthly tips and links to articles on green living you can use on campus and at home.
<https://utlists.utexas.edu/sympa/infogreenacres>
- 3) **Sustainability Events**--weekly information on lectures, talks, and events across campus.
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/newsletters.php> (2nd item listed)

For Austin-area events, sign up for the Austin Eco Network:

<http://www.austineconetwork.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 commuting or getting around campus on your bike. This cuts down on traffic and parking problems and promotes a healthy lifestyle. <http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/biking/index.html>

DHFS Sustainability Projects



Later this fall the Division of Housing and Food Service (DHFS) will launch several new programs including switching to biodegradable to-go products in their retail locations. These products are compostable, and will replace plastic containers that were not recyclable. DHFS is working to start a composting program for food waste. With this program they will be able to compost the new to-go containers too. In response to a plate waste study last spring looking at edible, post-consumer food waste, they will be taking several measures to reduce food waste. Portion sizes may be smaller, and they will offer taste testing so people can sample the food to see if they like it before taking a full serving. Individuals will still be able to eat as much as they like at the all you can eat locations. The goal is just to see less waste. A follow up study will be conducted this fall.

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/housing/index.php?site=16&scode=0>

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Trash To Treasure Sale



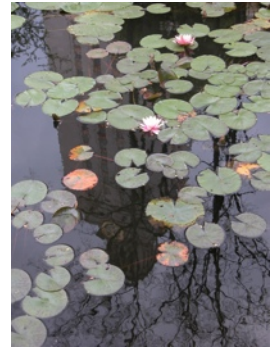
The Campus Environmental Center (CEC) will hold its annual Trash to Treasure sale on August 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. After 10:00 am admission is free of charge, otherwise it is \$2 for students and \$4 for general admission. The sale is held at the Recreation Sports Center (RSC). Free parking is available in "C" lots 70 and 80, which are located near the RSC. Trash to Treasure provides three-fold benefits: tens of thousands of pounds of stuff is diverted from the landfills; students can purchase cool, inexpensive goods for their residences; and the profits support the Campus Environmental Center programs, like recycling, litter reduction, and energy conservation. CEC is an agency of Student Government. Over 100 volunteers are needed for this event. If you would like to sign up to volunteer, or receive an email reminder about the sale, visit the Trash to Treasure website. <http://www.trashtotreasureut.com/>

Synergies has a New Editor



Beginning in September, Karen Blaney, Staff Advisor for the Campus Environmental Center (CEC) will become the new editor of Synergies: The Sustainability Newsletter of the University of Texas at Austin. Karen will be replacing Chelsea McMellen as she has left UT to enter a PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. Synergies will still be distributed monthly through the same listserv, and provide information UT's progress toward sustainability. If you are working on a sustainability project that you would like to have featured in the newsletter, or if you have questions or comments, please email Karen Blaney at karen.blaney@mail.utexas.edu To view back issues, or to sign up to receive the newsletter through UTLists, please visit: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/sustainability/newletter/>

Up Coming Events



August 24, 8 am-4 pm

The CEC will hold the Trash to Treasure sale in the Recreation Sports Center

September 10, 12:00-1:30 pm

The UT Sustainability Network will meet in the Lone Star Room of the Union. This meeting will feature a special presentation from Jim Walker, Executive Director of the Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project. He will talk about his projects, his work with UT, and methods for Green Team members to track their progress toward sustainability.

September 12, 12:00-1:00 pm

The Green Horns will meet in ACES 2.404B.

To Subscribe to this newsletter go to www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/sustainability/
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