

Dec 2, 2008

Society for Conservation Biology, Davis chapter
3rd meeting

Pizza for dinner!

Guest Speaker:

Sid England, Associate Vice Chancellor of the Office of Resource Management and Planning

Sustainability Round Table Discussion:

Was graduate student in Ecology, became campus environmental planner while a student California Sustainability Coalition- group of students who appealed for greener practices and policy on their campuses some years ago, came up with an official campus policy guidelines By 2007, UC Davis had a formal accepted sustainability policy. In May 2007, England's office was created to have permanent positions working on sustainability.

Main message: need student involvement!

Handed out a sheet of to-be-formed committee.task groups which report to different people such as the provost, vice chancellor for administration, vary according to committee.

- Chancellor's...Committee

- Climate Action Plan Ad Hoc committee

- Clean Energy Task Group- one issue: UCD buys power wholesale which is actually much less than photovoltaic cells. Also addresses energy efficiency, lighting, plan with a consortium of energy providers to cut back energy costs

- Emissions Inventory Committee- project back to 1990 and 2000, might recruit two interns

- Green Building Task group- LEED program!, most new buildings will be LEED silver, some LEED gold

- Material Management Task group- will examine buying practices (such as paper, refrigerator/freezers)

- Rebalancing the Landscape- take advantage of storm-water flows, reduce chemical leakage, etc.

- Food Systems- organic, pesticide-free, etc.

- Sustainability Culture Committee (working title)- ways to get bottom-up support for this change by altering lifestyles

- And others!

Pressed the point home that UC Davis is a very, very large campus that goes into Sacramento (Med facility), Bodega, Health Clinic system. A lot to deal with and accomplish!

Talked about how UC Davis is calculating its carbon footprint (which includes livestock!). Puts it in the neighborhood of 230-240 thousand metric tons CO₂ equivalents.

Labs: incredible energy-hogs. One fume hood is equivalent to three homes. (Ack! Don't leave them open!) Need to start saving on energy from the ground-up. Right now, bills are paid by the University, no feed-back mechanism to department. Allen Doyle set up a program called Lab Rats at UC Santa Barbara to make labs more energy efficient. He'll be here on Dec 10th to evaluate our campus.

Opening up the table:

Publishing an analysis on how different policies and management protocols actually work

For the Rebalancing the Landscape group: have different grad students with different specialties to survey and assess the main campus

Necessary to work with Grounds (and reduce their inefficiencies at the same time)

ECL 290 on the horizon?

Dr. England open to meeting with groups, one-on-one with interested people.

Updates on committees:

Bjorn and Erin-EVE seminar series: still missing three speakers!

Marit- volunteer: will set up a doodle-site to assess enthusiasm and get names/dates!

Patrick- WIDSI: had a meeting last week to introduce the program and gauge interest

Reminder on BACBS- abstract due on Jan 9th! Don't forget to attend at Stanford January 31st.

Early registration ends on Jan 23rd.