



CRC's GREEN SCENE

A bimonthly newsletter of the Sustainability Committee at Cosumnes River College

Photo by Jim West

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District Sustainability Meeting Sheds Light on LRCCD Practices

Sarah Pollock reports...

On December 9, faculty and administrators from across the district convened on the Sacramento City College campus to discuss sustainability efforts at the Los Rios colleges. We had the opportunity to hear from Pablo Manzo, Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities, with input from Mike Goodrich, Director III of Energy and Utility Resources, about sustainability practices at the district level.

Manzo presented the difficulties involved in installing photovoltaic cells (to harness solar energy) on the CRC campus, on buildings such as the WINN Center and the parking structure. The major obstacle is that CRC would not generate solar savings because SMUD already provides cost-effective energy. Any systems installed would have to be replaced by the time they were paid in full. In addition, a “loading order” from the state mandates that we exhaust other conservation

options before adding new power-generating equipment.

Manzo also discussed other significant projects that the district is using to enhance sustainable practices, such as the upgrading of fluorescent light bulbs in all buildings across the district and the LUCID monitoring system, which allows a more accessible way to monitor energy usage. He mentioned the new Title 24 requirement that will require the district to meet LEED Silver certification and a zero-net energy requirement by 2030. In anticipation of this deadline, Los Rios is currently working to build itself into a “zero-net-energy capable” district.

Lastly, we learned that grounds maintenance, such as mulching, replacing lawns with native plants, and conserving water, is a district responsibility. Conversely, individual campuses are responsible for their own daily operations, such as recycling and composting. Manzo

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LRCCD Aims to Reduce Energy Use

(From page 1)

also highlighted the importance of conserving energy in our personal work spaces. He recommended reducing the use of refrigerators and hot plates in offices, using LED

lighting, and controlling lighting and air conditioning in unoccupied buildings. He suggested working with other colleges in the district to make a list of priorities for sustainable food-

service options. These practices, he noted, would likely help reduce energy usage across the district. ♦

CRC Solar Club Spring 2017 Update



Summer 2016's successful solar boat entry (left) returns to the workshop this semester (above).

Ryan Connally reports...

CRC's Solar Club has a number of adventures in store for this semester. Its main project is to rebuild and further develop its SMUD Solar Regatta race boat. Though the club had a lot of success with last year's entry, it still sees some room for improvement with respect to batteries and to live-time power-usage monitoring. Club members plan to experiment with different propellers for the motor as well.

The club will also be asking SMUD for some resources to build a new and

improved "Mobile Solar PV trainer" — with a solar-powered PlayStation 4! In addition, it will be developing a plan to buy some smaller but agile remote-controlled drones to power with solar. How cool would that be to see 3 or 4 drones racing around the CRC campus or doing aerial stunts?!

Another project afoot is the evaluation and improvement of the solar system on last semester's Tiny House. This will include a full study of the loads created by the house itself, the repositioning of existing solar panels, and the addition of a few more.

The Solar Club is always interested in recruiting new members. It works with an open door policy, so folks can come to meetings as often as they are able; attendance is 100% voluntary. It's never too late to come out and see what is going on. Come for the whole time, or whatever amount your schedule will allow. ♦

For more information, email faculty adviser Ryan Connally at connalr@crc.losrios.edu.



May is Bike Month: Are You Ready?

Drew Carlson reports...

Each spring, the May is Bike Month campaign challenges you to get out and ride a bike. Whether you bike to work or to school, ride to save money or time, turn those pedals to preserve your health, to help the environment, or simply to explore your community, National Bike Month is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons people ride.

One of the fun activities is the Bike Month Challenge, where you log the miles you ride in order to see how many miles you, and people like you, can ride, as well as to see what a difference riding a bike can make in your overall health and outlook. (To learn how to register your rides for

the month, type *May is Bike Month Challenge Sacramento* into your search engine.)

It's been a desire of mine to get more of the CRC community involved in the Bike Month Challenge. When this year's webpage goes live, I'll set up a Cosumnes River College 'team,' and then let's see how many miles our campus community can ride. Students,

staff, faculty, and their families are all encouraged to participate.

You can log any miles you ride, whether for pleasure, commuting, or even errands for which you might have otherwise used a car. I'll be out there doing my part and logging those miles—and I hope to see you in May riding your bike too! ♦



Sacramento Celebrates Vegetarians

Timaree Hagenberger reports...

On Saturday, January 28, over 1600 people gathered at Sacramento Charter High School for the second annual SacTown VegFest. This amazing event was designed, sponsored, and implemented by a hardworking, all-volunteer crew from the Sacramento Vegetarian Society, a nonprofit organization. In my role as CRC nutrition professor, I was among the line-up of speakers who donated their time and expertise, covering a wide range of subjects, including health, nutrition, sustainability, health equity, and compassion for animals. Attendees enjoyed several panel discussions, one featuring staff from YEA (Youth Empowered Action!) Camp and another representatives from three regional animal sanctuaries (Animal Place in Grass Valley,



Blackberry Creek in Colfax, Harvest Home in Stockton).

An eclectic group of exhibitors and vendors offered the crowd a vast array of options for delicious, plant-based foods, ranging from satisfying Ethiopian cuisine to sweet treats. A highlight was the collaboration with the "Edible Sac High" Cooking Club, which served vegan chili, vegan pizza—fresh from the wood-fired pizza oven (designed and built by students in the school's engineering program) and topped with veggies from the school's organic garden—and vegan cupcakes. Food waste was collected for composting, and participants also learned about the impact of their food choices on water usage in our state.

The Sacramento Charter High School venue provided plenty of space to expand, so expect next year's VegFest to be even better! ♦



Sacramento Marches for Women, Science, and Climate Change

A number of CRC faculty were amongst the 20,000 participants in the Women's March in Sacramento on January 21. We encourage CRC staff, faculty, and students to join two additional upcoming marches.



The March for Science is scheduled for April 22, Earth Day, in 100 cities around the

world. Organizers say, "It is time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand and be counted." Sacramentans will also march on Earth Day, between



Many of those present at January's Women's March in Sacramento carried signs alluding to climate change and other environmental concerns.

10 am and 1 pm along the Capitol Mall.

The People's March for Climate Change will take place in Washington,

D.C. on Saturday, April 29. Cities around the globe will march in solidarity. Check in with the local chapter of 350.org for details of a Sacramento companion march. ♦



SCC Sustainability Update

Craig Davis reports...

The Sacramento City College Sustainability Planning Committee (<http://www.scc.losrios.edu/sustainability-planning-committee/>) has been an officially recognized part of the SCC shared governance process for several years now. During this time, we have concentrated on identifying areas on our campus where sustainability initiatives are needed while also educating our constituencies about what a move toward greater campus-wide sustainability would entail.

To this end, we have concentrated the bulk of our time and effort in the last year on using the Association for the Advancement of



Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS <https://stars.aashe.org/>) to identify and complete a modified STARS assessment for Sacramento City College. This work was spearheaded by our past committee chair David Hagerty, aided by a modicum of Type B sabbatical release time.

The results of the SCC STARS report can be perused here—<http://www.scc.losrios.edu/craigdavis/files/2013/08/STARS-narrative-report.pdf>—and will serve as our guide as we attempt to move sustainability initiatives forward. One example of action informed by completing this process is a current initiative that aims to better identify courses in the SCC course catalog that

have sustainability content.

To my mind, one of the most exciting recent developments within Los Rios sustainability circles has been the connections made among the various campus groups working on sustainability issues. The hope is that this connectivity will result in better coordination of effort and has already resulted in a number of district-wide meetings, a meeting with the Los Rios Chancellor Brian King, and a fact-finding discussion with Associate Vice Chancellor Pablo Manzo.

The SCC Sustainability Planning Committee looks forward to continuing the effort to increase sustainability both at Sacramento City and within the Los Rios District. ♦

Earth Week

CRC will be celebrating Earth Week
April 17 - 20, 2017.

Cosumnes River College Sustainability Committee

Members:

Michelle Barkley
Drew Carlson
Augustine Chavez
Steven Coughran
Cindy Erickson
Timaree Hagenburger
Cath Hooper
Christina Ocrant
Sarah Pollock (Chair)
Andrea Salmi
Debra Sharkey
Amanda Walker

Student Members:

Rosalia Adams
Natalie Guerra

Newsletter:

Cindy Erickson
Cath Hooper
Christina Ocrant



We're on the web!

Look for archived issues
of the

GREEN SCENE
on the CRC Homepage

Earth Day - April 19

NEW! Don't miss the SMUD Solar Car Races! Live races from 10 am - 1 pm.

CRC Tiny House
CPR Demo
Storytellers
TOP Club, Solar Club
Fusion EatZ food truck
Electric cars

Keynote Speaker: Mary Ellen Hannibal, author of *Citizen Science*, will speak about how anyone and everyone can contribute to science.

Films

Before the Flood

Leonardo DiCaprio documents the changes occurring around the world due to climate change.

Tuesday, April 18
3:00 pm, SCI 106

The Anthropologist

An environmental anthropologist visits indigenous communities threatened by climate change.

Thursday, April 20
12:00 pm - 1:20 pm, LRC 105

Sustainable

A vital investigation of the economic and environmental instability of America's food system.

Thursday, April 20
3:00 pm, SCI 106



News In Brief

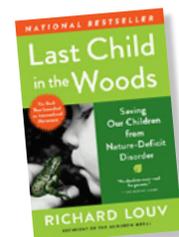
OneBook Author to Present at CRC

Richard Louv, author of this year's CRC OneBook, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*, will be on campus on April 4 to discuss his thought-provoking book.

Faculty can meet Louv in person during a reception in the CRC Art Gallery (11:15-11:45 am) prior to his

presentation in the Recital Hall from 12:00-1:20 pm. The presentation will be

followed by a book signing for students, after which Louv will participate in some afternoon classes. ♦



Green Scene Awards

Kudos to everyone who has saved a plastic water bottle by refilling one at a CRC water-bottle filling station instead. Since the first filling stations were available when the Winn Center opened in Fall 2013, six more stations have been installed across the CRC campus: in the Library building, the science area, the

cafeteria, the SOC, and two in the CAC. (The next station will be installed at the Elk Grove Center.)

Collectively, as of March 1, these stations have dispensed almost a quarter million servings of filtered water—saving as many plastic bottles from the land fill. ♦