

The Green Pages



The Alliance to Save Energy Green Campus Network



WKU's Green Campus Network team. From left: Cody Wooten, Sophia Sterlin, Ashley McCloughan, Christian Ryan-Downing, and Eli Heintzman.

The Green Campus Network (GCN) is a classroom-to-workplace program that involves students, faculty, administrators and campus support staff in cutting energy use on college campuses, incorporating energy efficiency into curricula, encouraging students to pursue careers in sustainability after graduation and generally increasing awareness of energy efficiency. As interns, we are looking to improve sustainability of our campus. Through the campus wide "Reduce Your Use" campaign, the resi-

dence halls are showing improvements in their energy consumption. This is exactly what we want to see! With recycling usually being the first thought that comes to your mind when you think of being green, we are trying to educate and make students aware that being energy efficient is equally important, and can also build valuable money saving habits you can carry over when you are living on your own. Using power strips, turning off lights when not in use, and using com-

pact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) instead of incandescent bulbs are just a few ways you can dramatically cut your energy usage. The Green Campus Interns would love to come and talk to you, your dorm, your class, even your family! Feel free to contact at The Office of Sustainability, visit the Office of Sustainability website, or follow us on twitter or Facebook at WKU Green Campus to learn more.

by Cody Wooten

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Metrics from Reduce Your Use

4,867 kWh saved
9,983 lb CO2 saved
\$462 saved



Check out WKU's
Building Dashboard @
Buildingdashboard.net/wku/



Reduce Your Use

This October, Housing and Residence Life and the WKU Office of Sustainability hosted the 5th annual 'Reduce Your Use' competition. It was an intense contest between the campus residence halls to reduce as much of their energy usage as they could. Real time results can be seen online on WKU's Building Dashboard! It was a close competition and most of the halls showed great reductions, but this year's big winner is Bates Runner Hall with a 14.3% reduction from last year. They celebrated their success with an ice cream party with President Ransdell.

Harnessing the Power of the Tides

In today's world, energy is becoming an increasingly hot topic among scientists, governments, and the general public alike. And for centuries, non-renewable energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal have been the number one contenders for obtaining energy. It is beginning to be recognized though that these historically reliable energy sources are in fact dwindling very quickly. Other options are being explored and South Korea demonstrates a very innovative step toward a brighter and cleaner future!

For years, South Korea has been one of the world's top energy importers, ranking 2nd in liquefied natural gas importers and 5th in oil importers. But with the introduction of its new Shihwa Station,

which is projected to be fully operational in December of this year, South Korea is exploring ways to decrease its reliance on imported energy. Shihwa Station harnesses the power of the tides, which spin turbines to produce energy. Upon its completion, Shihwa Station will generate about 254,000 kilowatts of energy a day, which is enough energy for a city with a population of 500,000. The plant will also reduce South Korea's CO2 emissions by 3,200,000 tons a year!

As more countries see the success of such an operation, maybe tidal power will be seen as a potential energy source to turn to when our coveted oil and coal run out, which scientists say is just upon the horizon.

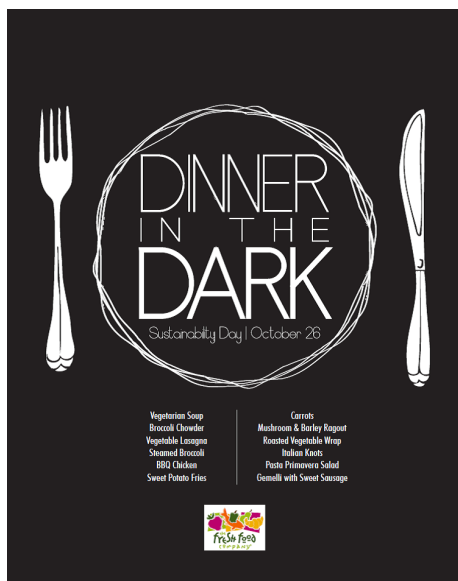
by Ashley McCloughan

Tips for Reducing Your Use:

- Set your computer to power save mode
- Use a power strip to kill phantom energy
- Use natural light in place of artificial
- Bike to your destination
- Take shorter showers
- REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

Dinner in the Dark

Fresh Foods Company pitches in to Reduce their Use with 'Dinner in the Dark' on Campus Sustainability Day, October 26, 2011.



On Wednesday, October 26th, WKU Dining Services hosted "Dinner in the Dark" at Fresh Foods Company in DUC. This event was in support of Campus Sustainability Day and the HRL "Reduce Your Use" program and its purpose was to promote energy conservation on campus. Students dined in the semi-dark with tea lights adorning the tables. A special menu was also provided for the evening, with delicious options such as vegetable lasagna, roasted vegetable wraps, BBQ chicken, vegetarian soup, and many more! Many students came out for the event and dined in the dark together. Many students commented that there was plenty of light for them to see to eat and that they would not mind eating in that light every night. So maybe in the future WKU students could be dining in the dark more often—reducing their carbon footprint and saving money too!

Insight from Whitney Sanford

On a very rainy and cold October 19th Whitney Sanford was the guest speaker on the Hill, presenting us her work on the role of gender and religion in the fate of agriculture not only in India, where she had done her study (*Growing Stories from India*), but what would be the fate for agriculture in the next decades. This talk was followed by a dinner which introduced an interesting concept of communication for an event: "World Café". This integrative and enlightening means of encompassing discussion about sustainability allowed for a very informative discussion with the diverse crowd that attended the dinner. We rotated tables to be able to get everyone's perspective on the questions being asked about the best ways to implement sustainability in agriculture on a global scale as well as the impact religion might make paired with a sustainable and or efficient approach. This event was a celebration of the new MA in Social Responsibility and Sustainable Communities offered by the Gender & Woman's Studies Program with support from the Center for Environmental Education & Sustainability and Office of Sustainability.

by Sophia Sterlin

Blender Bike

The Green Campus Interns, Cody, Sophia, Ashley, and Eli

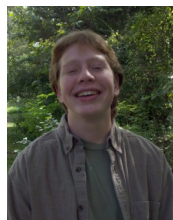
got the idea to build a "Blender Bike" while attending the 2011 Green Campus Network convergence at University of Alabama in Huntsville when they were brainstorming for ideas on how to illustrate how much energy it takes to run appliances and electronics. Eli volunteered for the task, and started work immediately. He procured a well-used Schwinn Jaguar for the body of the bike, working with Big Red Bikes mechanic Seth Short to make minor repairs. Then he dug out an old blender, a small table to use as a rack, 4 feet of conduit piping for a stand, 2 trick pegs, 2 skateboard wheels, 27 washers, assorted bolts, and about 7 feet of angle iron. All of which, when put together correctly, produces the "Blender Bike"! After some test experimentation and refinement, the Blender Bike will be ready for action! Look for it at a Green Campus Intern event near you. *By Eli Heintzman*



Ashley McCloughan is a junior from Bowling Green, Kentucky. Her majors are Biology and Geography with a concentration in Environmental Planning and Resource Management. She became involved with the Green Campus Network to get more engaged with campus energy efficiency and to help promote sustainable practices. As Team Manager, Ashley hopes to leave a lasting legacy of energy efficient and sustainable habits to current and future generations of Hilltoppers.



Eli Heintzman is a freshman at WKU who plans to be an applied physics major. He has previous green energy experience in the form of helping build an "off the grid" house which was originally designed by his father and sister, now referred to as "The Lodge." He was introduced to the Office of Sustainability while he was volunteering with the WKU Recycling program. He is currently an intern with the WKU Green Campus Network, serving as the Treasurer (and creator of the "Blender Bike").



The Interns

Cody Wooten is a junior from Barren County, Kentucky. He is a Marketing major with a minor in Sustainability. He hopes to carry all that he learns and uses from The GCN to his professional life. And he is also very happy with the progress the GCN team is already making on campus, and even more excited to see the vast impact he and his team will have by the time he graduates.



Sophia Sterlin grew up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and then moved to the U.S 3 years ago. As a junior in Communication Studies, she can be seen roaming campus muttering in different languages. Sophia has an interest in energy conservation and sustainability not only on campus but also in hopes of improving the energy system in her own country.



Meet Christian Ryan-Downing

Christian Ryan-Downing is WKU's Sustainability Coordinator. She received her B.S. in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Missouri State University and upon graduation, worked for the National Park Service as an Interpretive Park Ranger for several years before earning a M.S. in Biology at Western Kentucky University. Her research interests were sustainability and environmental education, and her Master's Thesis, *"Sustainability of Western Kentucky University: An Examination of Campus Environmental Policies, Performance, and Potential for*

Change", has helped guide the university sustainability program and priorities. As a graduate student, she co-founded the student organization *GreenToppers Students for Campus Sustainability* and served as GreenToppers' President. As a student she also worked as the campus Recycling Coordinator and interned in the WKU Center for Environmental Education and Sustainability, focusing on energy awareness and education.



Ms. Ryan-Downing is certified by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a Non-formal Environmental Educator. She is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional. As the WKU Sustainability Coordinator, Ms. Ryan-Downing chairs the university Sustainability Committee and works with students, faculty and staff across the campus community to help advance sustainability in university culture, operations, and academics.

A very special thanks to our sponsors:

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