

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO

www.western.edu/sustainability

The "Sustainability Update," is a newsletter from the Outreach and Education subcommittee of the Sustainability Action Committee (SAC). Here you will find information on upcoming events, activities, tips and updates on campus sustainability initiatives. We welcome your feedback and ideas. Also, if you're doing something to help promote sustainability at Western, we want to hear about it. E-mail us at sustainability@western.edu.

FREECYCLE

To close out the school year, Western's student sustainability coordinators Emily Virzi, Emily Lenney, Maddie Rehn and Cayla Vidmar organized a FREECYCLE event to reduce the amount of useable goods in the waste stream. On move out day, coordinators and "Green Team" volunteers were stationed around campus at the dumpsters to redirect students from throwing their reusable goods into the garbage. The event was a huge success and was a kick off for the full-time FREECYCLE program that will be stationed out of Ute Hall's basement in the fall. Students will be able to come and take/leave useable items during designated hours of the day at no cost to them. If you're looking for more information about FREECYCLE or want to become a volunteer, please email recycling@western.edu for details.



Around Campus.... Security Services

Security Services has switched their practice from patrolling campus by vehicle to foot. This accomplishes several goals, including achieving greater sustainability. First, Security Services is able to interact with people; the face of security is the face of the guards—not the face of the truck. This is an important because Western has great guards who really should get to showcase their cool personalities, customer service and easy-going nature. Second, it is much easier to catch people in the act of mischievous/criminal activity by quietly walking around listening and seeing rather than being in a giant, white vehicle with headlights. Lastly, and one of the most important, is Security Services is GREATLY reducing their department's carbon emissions. It used to be standard practice to allow the car to idle for long periods of time, sometimes for as long as three hours. No longer. In 2008, the gas bill for the department was approximately \$3600, and \$3070 in 2009. With the new practice implemented in 2010, it dropped to \$2153. Here we are at the end of the month of May 2011 and their gas bill so far is -----drum roll-----\$203! For more information or kudos, please contact Nathan Kubes, director of WSC Security Services at nkubes@western.edu.

2010-2011 Sustainability Fund Awards

The purpose of the Sustainability Fund is to provide Western students access to the financial resources to initiate projects that (1) support Western's use of more sustainable and renewable energy, (2) reduce unnecessary consumption of goods, (3) increase reuse of usable goods and recycling of materials, or (4) promote the ethical stewardship of all resources and land on the Western State College of Colorado campus.

1. **Recycling Compliance—\$1,287**
Funding research on recycling habits on campus. The intent is to make Western's recycling program more effective and efficient.
2. **Bike racks—\$3,509**
Placing several bike racks in high need areas across campus.
3. **Power strips—\$6,060**
Giving power strips to students living in residence halls and provide education on how to properly use them.

If you have any further questions or need further information, please contact Dr. Jonathan Coop, jcoop@western.edu.

(Application deadlines have not yet been announced for the 2011/12 academic year.)

20x20 PROGRESS

According to Paul Morgan and Julie Feier, WSC Facilities is in the middle of a \$1.2 million energy reduction strategy. This focuses on lighting retrofits (changing lights and ballasts while adding motion sensors) in Borick, Chipeta, Crawford, Escalante Complex, Mears Complex, the library, the gymnasium and other buildings not immediately up for a full remodel. Additionally, with the exception of the Escalante Complex and the library, numerous old buildings not in the queue for remodel are having single-pane and low-insulation windows replaced. The centerpiece of this effort is Mears Complex. Within a year, Escalante will receive enhanced insulation in its roof, as will Paul Wright Gymnasium within three years. In Hurst, Facilities will complete a \$50,000 system upgrade to the existing HVAC system—a list of deficiencies were identified during the Ameresco audit that need to be addressed. The Phoenix hood/ventilation system (science lab safety system) is linked into the HVAC system and needs an additional \$50,000 of work. Both will be completed this summer to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of both systems. All of these energy improvements and renovations (some, like the lights, estimated at enjoying a 2-3 years return on investment [ROI]) are *in addition to* LEED Gold renovated Kelley Hall, College Center and Taylor Hall. Future LEED renovations and replacements of very inefficient buildings, such as Quigley Hall, Keating Hall, Beckwith/Coronado, Teocali, Hermosa, Alpine, Shavano and Ophir Apartments, will occur in the next three years. The only item remaining on WSC Facilities' immediate wish-list is a campus-wide conversion to a more standard, yet still efficient, boiler system. 20x20 committee members have yet to project the extent to which these recent, current and emerging changes will lead Western toward its goal of 20 percent reductions (over 2006) by 2020. One open question concerns how much new LEED buildings will be offset negatively by increased square footage. *Many appreciations to Julie & Paul for their efforts.*