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Coalition Partners

- Care for God's Creations
- Caffè Italia
- City of Davis
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Davis Bicycles
- Davis Bike Collective
- Davis Energy Group
- Davis Farm-to-School
- Davis Farmers Market
- Davis Food Coop
- Davis Joint Unified School District
- Davis Waste Removal
- Dos Coyotes
- Explorit
- Green Sanctuary
- Putah Creek Council
- Sierra Club Yolo Group
- Tree Davis
- Tuleyome
- UCD Arboretum
- Yolo Basin Foundation
- Yolo Clean Air
- Yolo Federal Credit Union
- Yolo Food Bank
- Yolo Land Trust
- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
- Valley Climate Action Center

If you are interested in becoming a partner, contact Dominique Sayer at (530) 747-5824.



Property Owners now Eligible for Energy Upgrade California Rebates and Incentives

By: Jenifer Segar

Energy Efficiency Program to Reach 100,000 Homes & Create Clean Energy Jobs for Californians

Efforts to increase energy efficiency and create green jobs are getting an important boost through California's new statewide energy efficiency program, Energy Upgrade California. The program is an unprecedented alliance among federal agencies, the California Energy Commission, the California Public Utilities Commission, local governments and regional utilities.

With homeowner rebates and incentives of approximately \$4,000, Energy Upgrade California expects to upgrade 100,000 homes, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create as many as 12,000 construction and related jobs statewide.

"Energy Upgrade California is exactly the kind of innovative program that will help Californians do more for less money by encouraging property owners and contractors to take advantage of energy efficiency information, incentives, rebates and financing options," said Robert Weisenmiller, Ph.D., Chair of the Energy Commission. "Consumers can put more money in their pockets by investing in the long-term benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy property improvements."

Energy Upgrade California is available in all 58 counties in the state. Using the program's web portal, www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org, property owners enter their zip code or county name to learn about available upgrade programs, rebates, financing options and participating contractors.

Initially, the program will be available for single-family detached homes. Later in 2011, the program will expand to include multi-family and commercial properties. *Continued on next page...*

Currently, homeowners can choose from one of two packages that qualify for rebates and incentives: the Basic Upgrade Package and the Advanced Upgrade Package. The Basic Package consists of seven required elements designed to improve energy efficiency by approximately 10 percent and includes a rebate of up to \$1,000. The Advanced Package is a customized solution, with incentives and rebates based on the energy savings achieved. Rebates range from \$1,500 to more than \$4,000 for energy savings from 15 to 40 percent (depending on the utility provider and energy savings achieved). *Continued on next page...*

Whole House Approach

Energy Upgrade California emphasizes a “whole house” approach, in which a home is viewed as a complete system. All of the elements and systems—heating, air conditioning, water and structural features like windows, ducts and insulation—should work together effectively to minimize energy use.

Sanchez Family “Story”

According to Energy Upgrade California representatives, the Sanchez family story represents many in California—they live in a 3-bedroom, 2-story house built in 1970. They upgraded their attic insulation when they bought the house in 2004, but upstairs still felt stuffy in the hot summers and some rooms are really cold in the winter.

The Sanchez’s decided they need an energy upgrade. A whole house assessment by an Energy Upgrade California participating contractor showed they could achieve a 35% energy savings by sealing and better insulating their house and replacing their old furnace and air conditioner with a new energy-efficient system.

The \$12,000 cost for the upgrade was offset by a \$3,500 Energy Upgrade Incentive, a \$500 Federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credit, a \$500 additional incentive from their city and \$7,980 utility savings over 10 years (based on \$190 monthly gas/electric bills).

For the Sanchez family, the same money that used to go out the window every month to pay the energy bill is now going to create a more comfortable home and a more valuable property.

(Learn more about about the Sanchez family’s upgrades: https://energyupgradeca.org/news/watch_the_video_vignette-145)

Financing Available

The web portal includes a list of financing options for funding energy efficiency and onsite energy generation projects. Program representatives say they are in the process of developing additional, innovative financing models that will be added to the web portal over time.

Pilot projects for “property assessed clean energy” (PACE) programs for residential and commercial properties are also being developed. Loans and grants to assist eligible homeowners with energy efficiency improvements to their home are also available through the CHF Residential Energy Retrofit Program. This program can be combined with the Energy Upgrade California incentives to finance energy upgrades with a three percent fixed interest 15-year loan and provides grants up to \$1,250 to put towards those upgrades. Homeowners can call CHF toll-free at (855) 740-8422 to see if they qualify.

Energy Upgrade California on the web: www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org.

Contact Jenifer Segar, Project Manager, Energy Upgrade California in Solano, Yolo, Placer, Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties at jenifer.segar@valleyvision.org



UCD Seminar Lecture and Discussion Series on Sustainable Living Open to the Community

UC Davis students take charge of their own education in the 6th seminar series of the Education for Sustainable Living Program, a student-led course for all disciplines coordinated by the California Student Sustainability Coalition. Lectures by renowned educators, authors, environmentalists and progressive thinkers provoke reflection upon and analysis of the principles of sustainability. Student leaders encourage thoughtful dialogue between students, faculty and the local community. The collaborative, interdisciplinary effort aims to develop a sustainable community throughout the entire University of California system, where the course is taught at each campus and beyond.

This spring, the course began with a dynamite speaker: Nikki Henderson, Executive Director of People's Grocery in West Oakland and recipient of the Elle Gold Award for 2010, who addressed Food, Justice, and You. A charismatic speaker, she spoke of her quick rise in community development work, her experience working with Van Jones, her dedication to health through access to good food, her assessment of the food movement potential to revitalize the environmental movement and her political insights. Students asked a barrage of penetrating questions. This was no dull lecture that lulled them to sleep, though twice she had the class leap to their feet for an energizing exercise break.

This year's speakers include UC Davis Professor of Geology Geerat J. Vermij speaking on the Intersections of Ecology and Economy on April 14; Marcela Oliva, a professor of Architecture and Environmental Design on April 20; Micah Posner, the founder of People Power, a community bike organization on April 27; Chris Jones, author of www.coolcalifornia.org carbon footprint calculator on May 4; Josiah Cain, Educator and Partner at Design Ecology, De-

signing and Implementing Living Walls and Roofs on May 11, Greywater Action Educators, Designers, Engineers and Artists on May 18, and Davis author Kim Stanley Robinson, speaking on post-capitalism on May 25. Go to DavisWiki.org/California Students Sustainability Coalition/ Education for Sustainable Living Program for a detailed syllabus of speakers.

"I loved the idea of bringing multiple ideas, perspectives and disciplines together for one course," said Lauren Jabusch, a senior and co-chair of the California Student Sustainability Coalition. "I began to see that sustainability takes research and action from many different fields of study to tackle our biggest ecological, economical, and social challenges." Taking the class altered Lauren's career. "I was originally a Bio-Chem major, but I decided to change my major to Biological Systems Engineering to be able to pursue a career in bio-renewable energy and plastics."

Will Klein, a senior nature and culture major and one of the course organizers, explained that "not only did ESLP make me aware of all the challenges we face, but it provided inspiration and a belief that we can each do something about it." He says the class made him more conscious of the hidden impacts of his actions. Like Lauren, Will continues to organize the class to provide freshmen the learning opportunities that meant so much to him.

Michelle Yeung will be grading the reflective papers for the course this spring. With her major in environmental science, she is most interested in how to communicate the idea of sustainability to the public which she believes is one of the most important steps to change at the individual level. She loved the Sustainable Living Class Seminar because it is geared to a general audience and it is discussion-based so you can hear what other students are thinking.

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The class meets from 4:10-6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays at Giedt Hall 1002. The students are eager for community members to join in the lectures and discussion. For complete information go to: Davis Wiki.org/California Students Sustainability Coalition/ Education for Sustainable Living Program.

Spring Convergence at UCD April 29 - May 1 Open to the Community Overnight Homes Needed

The California Student Sustainability Coalition also invites the public to attend the Spring Convergence April 29 – May 1 at UCD. Manny Rin, one of the organizers, expects as many as 200 out of town college students from campuses all over California to attend the lectures and workshops as well as approximately 200 students from UCD. The convergence provides an opportunity for students and community members to hear speakers and panels and to gather together for networking and discussion of timely sustainability issues. The students will be learning about sustainable practices to bring back to their own campuses throughout California.

The coalition for California Student Sustainability Coalition is seeking overnight homes April 29- May 1 for college students attending the Spring Convergence at UC Davis. If you have a bed, couch or backyard to spare, and also a bicycle to loan, you'll have the opportunity to get to know a young activist and share ideas and insights. To find out more about the program for housing the attendees, please contact Hannah Oakes at hmoakes@ucdavis.edu. Thank you for opening your home and your community for the benefit of education, activism and sustainability.

To sign up for the Convergence, visit www.sustainabilitycoalition.org/spring-convergence-2

Upcoming Activities for April:

April 16th : The University of California, Davis proudly presents the 97th annual Picnic Day on Saturday, April 16. All events and parking are free!

April 17th – 23rd: Canvas Day: A citywide event that will provide handouts that give simple tips and resources (web links, contacts, etc) that show residents how to make their households more sustainable. Contact: Manny Rin at jerin@ucdavis.edu

April 23rd: Recycled Art Faire: Turning “junk” into art! A recycled art exhibit in Central Park Gardens. 10:00 am – 1:00 p.m. at the Davis Farmers Market. More Information contact info@davisfarmtoschool.org

April 29th - May 1st: The California Student Sustainability Coalition. This will be a day of workshops, local vegan meals, art and live music. Contact: Manny Rin at jerin@ucdavis.edu

Stay Tuned:

May 6th - 8th : Whole Earth Festival: A huge, FREE, eco-friendly, three-day, music, dance, arts, crafts and education festival located on the UC Davis campus. The UC Davis Quad area is lined with art & craft tents, music acts, massage tables, food and a child care area. Various workshops occur throughout the weekend as well.



EARTH WEEK - APRIL 17th – APRIL 23rd

Fun Facts & Trivia

- Earth Day, April 22nd, is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year by over 500 million people.
- The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. Over 20 million people participated.
- April 22 corresponds to spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.
- In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 International Mother Earth Day.
- The first Proclamation of Earth Day was by San Francisco, the City of Saint Francis, patron saint of ecology.
- The first major international conference on environmental issues was held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972 and was sponsored by the United Nations.
- The Peace Bell, a gift from Japan, was made from coins given by school children to further peace on our planet. A highlight of the annual Earth Day ceremony at the United Nations is the ringing of the Peace Bell.

With the 41st anniversary of Earth Day approaching, learn how you can get involved, what others are doing around the nation and take your 'Act of Green' pledge.

See articles, take a quiz to learn more about your impact on the environment, read blogs by various authors or check out the various campaigns going on right now. It's called a billion acts of green and you can take part. Visit www.earthday.org to learn more.

To subscribe to future editions of the Cool Davis Initiative Newsletter visit www.cityofdavis.org/ email

If you are not currently enrolled to receive email communication from the city, you may create an account at this time. Once complete or if you are a current user, log in and simply check the box for 'Cool Davis' to subscribe.

Domes Ecological Community Develops Innovative Plan to Safeguard its Future

By Nick Buxton

One of Davis' most unusual landmarks, fourteen fiberglass domes on UC Davis campus, looked to be under threat of imminent closure earlier this year when the University announced it could not afford to repair them. Its closure threatened not just a unique student housing set-up, but also one of Davis' hubs of ecological and social innovation for many decades. In response, Domes' student residents have submitted a proposal with local community groups to save and strengthen the Domes. They are looking for the support of the wider Davis community as they wait for a response from University authorities.

The forty-year old Domes community has been for the launching pad for many of Davis' creative initiatives including the Davis Farmers Market, Davis Food Coop and the Davis Bike collective. However the future of the complex has been in question since UC Davis Student Housing announced in January 2011 that it would not renew leases for the Domes after July this year. The University stated that it would be too costly to repair the Domes housing structures and meet Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance requirements.

In keeping with their hands-on, self-organizing ethic, the Domes community has developed a joint plan with the Solar Community Housing Association (developers of the new sustainable housing coop at 3rd and J street in Old East Davis) to repair existing structures and meet ADA compliance for approximately \$50,000 by using local resources and volunteer labor. The aim is to provide interim repairs that will enable the community to remain on-site while long-term plans for the community are developed.

The response of the University to the latest plans is not yet known. However there does seem to be consensus amongst Domes residents and the University about the need over the long-term to create a sustainable living community that builds on the experience of the Domes up to now and meets today's ecological and educational needs.

In the meantime, the Domes continues to work on imaginative ecological initiatives. On Earth Day, April 22, Brennan Bird, an active CDI member and recent graduate from UC Davis, will build a bench at the Domes made out of plastic film trash (plastic bags, chip and candy wrappers)



that is compressed into bricks and combined with cob, an earthen-based concrete. He will be joined by students of Da Vinci High School. He has asked anyone who wants to support the project to save their plastic film trash and stuff it into a 20 oz. bottle, and to come along and join in on April 22nd.

"My hope is to use this event to bring together school children, community members, faculty, and students to do something productive with their "waste" material," says Brennan Bird. "Collectively, by building this structure, we will show our determination to keep the Domes and sustainable research on the UC Davis campus."

Domes resident and Math major Tom Denton also invited all CDI supporters to come and visit the Domes." If the Domes are demolished before a new plan is developed, we risk losing the community altogether. Please come see what a treasure this place is to Davis. Members of the public are invited to join us for dinner any weekday evening to get a taste of our special living experience."

For more information and to find out how you can support the Domes community, please check out their Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_135727449826471 or call Kurt Vaughn on 530 574 8630

For more information on the Earth Day Bottle Bench, please contact Brennan Bird at bbbird@ucdavis.edu

CALL FOR ACTION!

STUFF A BOTTLE BUILDING BRICK AND COMMIT TO THE SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH AREA!



PORTABLE LANDFILL DEVICES (PLDs)

BOTTLES THAT ARE FILLED WITH PLASTIC FILM MATERIAL (PLASTIC BAGS / WRAPPERS) TILL THEY ARE COMPRESSED LIKE BRICKS. THESE BRICKS ARE USED TO BUILD BENCHES, BUSSTOPS, HOUSES, & SCHOOL BUILDINGS - LANDFILLING INTO USEFUL SPACE RATHER THAN WASTEFUL SPACE!

HOW TO MAKE A BOTTLE BRICK

STEP 1

DON'T THROW IT AWAY!
WASH & CLEAN PLASTIC FILM (NO FOOD SCRAPS), HANG TO DRY.



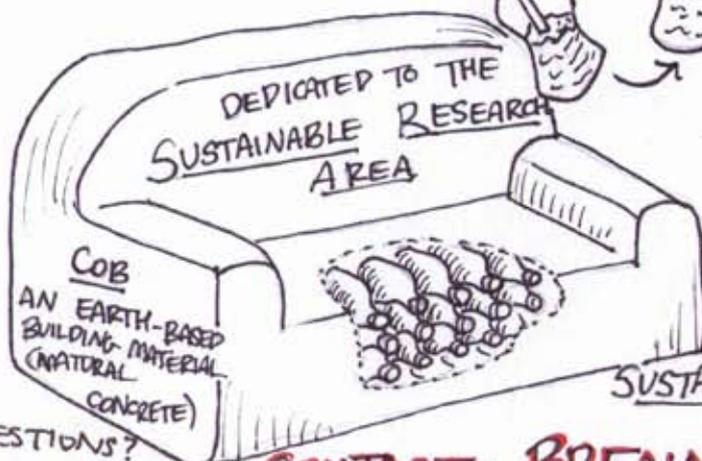
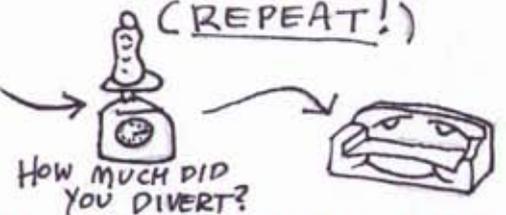
STEP 2

COMPRESS PLASTIC FILM INTO CLEAN 20 oz. BOTTLE USING STICK TO ENSURE NO AIR SPACES AS YOU GO (VERY IMPORTANT!)



STEP 3

BRING COMPRESSED BOTTLE BRICK TO HOME TO BE WEIGHED & LANDFILLED INTO A BENCH COME APRIL. (REPEAT!)



THE SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH AREA

A RESEARCH AREA DEDICATED TO HANDS-ON EXPERIENTIAL LIVING AND LEARNING TO DEVELOP ECOLOGICALLY & SOCIALLY JUST COMMUNITIES.

SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH STARTS WITH YOU!

QUESTIONS?
NEED BOTTLES?

CONTACT: BRENNAN BIRD (bbird@ucdavis.edu)