

One Farm At A Time.....	P.1
UCD Spring Convergence.....	P.2
Earth Day Activities.....	P.2
Cool Davis Initiative - Who we are.....	P.3-P.5
Spring Gardening Tips.....	P.5
Free Energy Audits.....	P.6

MARCH 2011

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- Care for God's Creations
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- Davis Bicycles
- Davis Bike Collective
- Davis Energy Group
- Davis Farm-to-School
- Davis Farmers Market
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- Davis Joint Unified School District
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- 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.



One Farm at a Time

By John Mott-Smith

In order to reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals, the City of Davis Climate Action Plan includes measures that span a wide range of sectors of energy use, including the usual suspects (housing, transportation, etc.), but also including some we might not think about right off the bat. One of these is agriculture. The city is piloting a program to turn commercial food waste into compost and is examining the potential for establishing community-based farms (the subject of a future column in this newsletter).

There is also an independent proactive effort underway by members of the community to protect access to locally grown organic produce through the process of placing a "farming easement" on small farms; it's called "One Farm at a Time."

Local food is fresher and tastier, and is generally more energy efficient and sustainable because it also requires less transportation and processing than food produced far away. We are fortunate that we live in one of the most abundant regions in the world for fresh fruits and vegetables and that farmers and others with vision had the foresight to establish and nurture a fantastic farmers market. Much of the locally grown food that is available at the farmers market or local stores and restaurants is grown organically on small farms in Yolo County. Many of the farmers on these farms started farming in the 1970's or so when land prices were considerably lower than they are today, and are now asking who can afford to buy these farms and continue to grow food for local consumption when they retire. The Davis Food Coop has partnered with the Sacramento Natural Foods Coop and the Davis-based Twin Pines Cooperative Foundation to preserve and protect "One Farm at a Time." They are raising money to either purchase small farms or to buy easements that will ensure the farms are affordable to a new generation of farmers willing to grow organic fruits and vegetables for local consumption. They are about one-third the way to their goal to purchase the first farm/easement; after which they will begin working on a second farm. It reminds one

Continued on next page...

of the almond growers marketing campaign: "A can a week is all we ask " In this case, it would be "A Farm a Year" (or, "One Farm at a Time") and future generations of Davisites would be sure to have available the same abundance that we enjoy today.

UC Davis Spring Convergence - Sense of Place

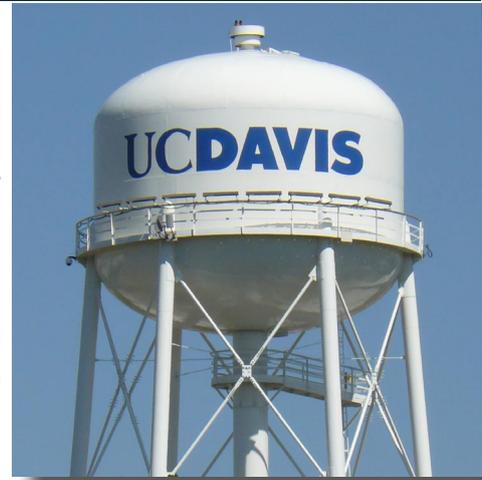
Beginning April 29, UC Davis will be hosting the biannual California Student Sustainability Coalition Spring Convergence with the theme "Sense of Place." The CSSC Convergence invites students from all over the state to come together and share sustainability successes, best practices and resources they can bring back to their campus.

Keynote speakers will present in the morning followed by an engaging student run panel inviting your questions. The day will be filled with invigorating workshops, local vegan meals, vibrant art and opportunities for discovery. Join us for an evening under the stars including dinner and live music by local bands at Putah Creek Lodge.

Come, meet people from all over California who share your goals — and learn new things about the UC Davis campus. The Spring Convergence is an experience in which you can learn, share and grow as a student and a person.

If you can't wait until April 29, then please sign up to be a volunteer for the planning process and/or working during the convergence at: <http://cce.ucdavis.edu/convergence/volunteer-form/>

We are in particular need of housing for the students attending. If you can provide simply a bathroom, a roof over our heads, or some grass space (for pitching a tent) to house a student for two nights, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark down on the volunteer form if you are interested or contact Manny Rin at jerin@ucdavis.edu



Stay tuned, there a lot of exciting earth-related activities coming up in April such as...

- *Canvas Day*
- *Convergence*
- *Whole Earth Festival*
- *Cool Davis - No Impact Experiment*

Cool Davis Initiative

You've got questions, we've got answers!

- Who we are
- How to get involved?
- What we are doing?
- How to start a Cool Davis project?

So you read our newsletter, or heard about us in the community, came to our festival last fall, joined a low carbon diet team, or just saw "Low Impact Man," and you still don't know who or what the Cool Davis Initiative really is...

Over the last couple of years, City of Davis staff, council and climate action team members formulated what is now the City of Davis Climate Action Plan. They knew that the plan could not be implemented without the energy, creativity and know-how of community members. As this realization grew, City sustainability staff and a few key members of the community and climate action team began to meet and engage others in implementing this new vision of a low carbon future for Davis. This group grew into what is now the Cool Davis Initiative.

The mission of the Cool Davis Initiative - a network of residents, businesses, the City of Davis, and local groups - is to inspire our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and improve the quality of life for all.

We are an enthusiastic crew of youth, college students, leading senior citizens, soccer moms & dads, energy experts and environmental neophytes, all with other jobs and other work to do, who are giving time and expertise to the Davis Climate Action goals of:

- reducing carbon emissions to 15% below 1990 levels by 2015, and
- becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Our biggest effort so far was the Cool Davis Green Living Festival on 10-10-10 where an estimated 1700 community members gathered including 53 different organizations, programs, services and entertainers to celebrate and educate ourselves about reducing the carbon footprint of our community.

Since that time our group has blossomed into several distinct working groups focused on specific projects and activities to further our climate action plan. We are a bottom-up style organization looking to engage more and more community members and organizations in adopting and implementing the Davis climate action goals in homes, apartments, businesses and institutions throughout Davis. We are dedicated to connecting together all of our community efforts toward sustainability, avoiding redundancy and helping each other achieve our common goals.

There are many ways that you can get involved, starting with your own personal commitment to reducing carbon emissions. Our working groups are looking for dedicated people who like to have fun. So take a look at the groups listed below and see how you might get involved. The Cool Davis Initiative is also interested in hearing your ideas and supporting you in leading projects that fit within our mission.

Working groups

Low Carbon Diet Project Group – This project group is specifically focused on engaging households in reducing carbon emissions through a variety of programs. Their most recent action was the free showing of "No Impact Man" and the following week Low Impact Challenge. Check out the Low Impact Challenge blog <http://www.cooldavis.org/blog> to join in the fun. To examine your lifestyle habits and household systems, consider joining one of the four Low Carbon Diet neighborhood teams beginning in March. See www.cooldavis.org for details on the Low Carbon Diet teams and other programs to help you lower your greenhouse gas emissions. Contact: Lynne Nittler at Inittler@sbc-global.net. *Continued on next page...*



Lite House Project Group – This project group is in the midst of visiting homes throughout the community that might serve as “beacons” of low greenhouse gas emissions and sustainability in their respective neighborhoods. Imagine a physical database of success stories of home retrofits, zero waste and net zero households, creative solutions in carbon emissions reduction in homes just like yours! As more households get involved in reducing their carbon emissions, every household can strive to become a Lite House. The group also plans to hold tours and trainings in key homes as the program develops. This group is looking for help with identifying and supporting households in the program and developing the on-line database of examples, videos, testimonials, and experts to provide do-it-yourself instruction. Contact: Jenifer Segar at jdsegar@hotmail.com or Chris Granger at cgranger@dcn.org

Make Davis Cool Student Canvass Project Group – One of our great treasures in the Cool Davis Initiative is the fabulous group of UC Davis students who are involved and running their own parallel group “Make Davis Cool” on the UCD campus. This group of students is actively involved in several projects including: 1) the Energy Service Corps, a joint program of CalPIRG and Americorps interns who are trained to provide energy reviews in homes and apartments in Davis and surrounding areas, and 2) a Canvass Day project scheduled for the week of Earth Day April 14-20, where student teams will be delivering energy-saving information to Davis households. One focus for all their efforts is reaching students in apartment complexes with educational materials and instruction in energy-saving solutions for their households. In addition they are assisting with hosting the Spring Convergence of the California Student Sustainability Coalition on the weekend of April 29-31. Approximately 400 college students from around the state will be meeting to discuss sustainable practices. (See the previous article) Our UCD students are currently looking for local homes to host students that weekend. To help out or get involved in any of these projects contact Manny Rin at jerin@ucdavis.edu or Will Klein at wpklein@ucdavis.edu.

Commercial Green (Food) Waste Reduction Project Group - This started with one restaurant owner, Shar Katz (see CDI January Newsletter) of “Caffé Italia,” asking some questions. Now just a few months later we have a pilot program under way. Shar brought together the City, Davis Waste Removal and restaurant owners to design this pilot program to capture and compost the food waste from participating Davis restaurants and grocery stores. Get involved by helping Shar encourage other restaurants and grocery stores to participate in this program. Contact: Shar Katz at shar@dancingtomato.com

(Your Project Group Name Here) - So you don't see your interest group– you want to work on bike solutions, or carpooling, or water conservation or (you fill in the blank_____). **START UP** your own group! Propose a project to the Cool Davis Initiative. If it fits with our mission and you have the energy to get it going -- we will support you! Send your idea to dsayer@cityofdavis.org.

Communications Support Group – This group is designing our website, creating and managing our social networking activities, developing PR content, publishing our newsletter and educational materials in support of our working groups. They need people to help with graphic design, website html/css programming, database management, writing, editing, social media outreach, marketing and PR. Contact: Nick Buxton at nicholasbuxton@gmail.com

Measurement and Learning – This group is identifying tools for measuring our individual, organizational and community progress in reducing our carbon emissions and leading more sustainable lives. They are also committed to spreading the word about the activities, tools and strategies that work, so that everyone can more easily engage in the Cool Davis Initiative goals. They need analytical minds, people who like to crunch numbers, design surveys and tell success stories. Contact: Chris Granger at cgranger@dcn.org

The Cool Davis Foundation is the fundraising and fiscal management arm of the Cool Davis Initiative. It is a non-profit 501c.3 with a separate board of directors *Continued on next page...*

dedicated to fundraising for the Cool Davis Initiative. People with fundraising, grant-writing, event planning and financial management expertise are needed as the work of the Cool Davis Initiative expands. Contact: Judy Moores at Jemoores@aol.com

Leadership and Fun – This group is responsible for convening the Cool Davis Initiative and ensuring that the work of all our project groups is supported and seamless. They are also dedicated to making sure that the activities and focus of the work is as fun as it is effective! Contact: –Dominique Sayer at dsayer@cityofdavis.org



First Day of Spring is March 20th: Start an organic garden, mulch, do window gardening – or check out these great tips here:

<http://www.globalstewards.org/garden-ecotips.htm>

Help Wanted

The Cool Davis Initiative is seeking talents, skills and interests in the following areas:

- Article writers
- Photographers
- Graphic artists
- Website designers
- Marketing professionals
- and more!

Want to get involved? Email Dominique Sayer at dsayer@cityofdavis.org.

UCD Energy Service Corps Offer Free Home Energy Audits



Rising Energy Demand & Inefficient Energy Use = High Costs & Global Warming! The way we use energy in America is unsustainable. But never fear. In Davis, the UCD CalPIRG Energy Service Corps will help bridge the gap between valuable resources to help us improve the efficiency of our homes and the homeowners and apartment dwellers who need the information. The volunteers and interns offer informational tips plus a free energy walk-through of homes or apartments.

The Energy Services Corps program, a joint project of Americorps and CalPIRG, operates at sixteen college campuses in California. Their educational mission to reduce energy use by educating communities about energy efficiency aims to both save money and curb carbon emissions. Kelly McBee, head of the Davis Energy Service Corp says, "As a student of the University I take a lot of pride in the city of Davis and I'm passionate about making it as "green" and energy efficient as I can! Working on this campaign has allowed me to meet some of the committed residents outside of campus already working to make Davis more green. I'm glad to be contributing to the community."

Buildings consume nearly 40% of the nation's total energy in heating, cooling and electricity use. The quickest and easiest way to cut down on the problems that come with burning fossil fuels for energy – from global warming pollution to air pollution that causes asthma and cancer to the environmental problems created in mining and drilling for coal and oil - is to use less energy. We lose a ton of energy through inefficient buildings and appliances, and the Energy Service Corps will target its efforts to reduce those inefficiencies.

The UCD Energy Service Corps interns have already been

trained by Nicole Farris of PG&E and next week, Davis Energy Group will give them more insights into the basics of conducting a home energy audit. After completing a checklist and visual examination of the exterior and interior of the building including windows, walls, doors, lighting, electronics/appliances, and heating/cooling systems, the interns will offer their analysis of your energy consumption, identify some energy wasters and savers, and make some practical suggestions to improve the efficiency of your dwelling. Some improvements, such as installing gaskets to insulate electrical outlets on exterior walls, are surprisingly inexpensive and easy to implement. Most audits take approximately thirty minutes, and only one resident needs to be present. It may be helpful to have your energy bills available.

Meanwhile, on campus, the Energy Service Corps are planning an educational outreach program consisting of educational events such as:

- a) running ongoing canvasses with information on simple conservation tips and resources to increase energy efficiency;
- b) holding an Energy Conservation Week from April 4-7, to encourage students in dorms and the Greek fraternities to adopt long-term, energy-conserving lifestyles;
- c) showing films like "The Story of Cosmetics" and "Kilowatt Ours" in dorms and leading discussions afterwards, and
- d) seeking media attention including publishing useful resources

Please email davisesc@gmail.com if you wish to sign up for a home audit.

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.