

UCSU Update for the Blueprint for a Green Campus

Creating a Climate-Friendly Campus

-According to the UCSU consumption reports, over 30% of the cost centers on campus use Liquid Crystal (LCD) monitors as opposed to Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitors. Each of these LCD monitors uses up to 70% less energy than CRT monitors.

Growing Without Increasing Traffic

-Ridership by students on the RTD transit system increased 13.6% over the 2001-2002 school year. With two new services, the Stampede and the Dash, and expanded Sunday/evening hours for the HOP, students have been provided with even more opportunities to support alternative transportation and a cleaner environment.

-For those students who drive cars but remain environmentally conscious, the Environmental Center is currently working with CU Biodiesel on projects to incorporate this revolutionary new fuel into the operations of campus vehicles. Made from processed cooking oil and grease, this fuel is clean-burning and provides a more efficient fuel than conventional diesel.

-Student bicycle programs are also in the works for the near future. The Environmental Center is not only working on creating a free bike rental program on the CU campus but is also getting started on an interest-free bike loan program. Renting bikes will provide students, faculty, and staff with the means of traveling short distances with health for the environment and the individual in mind. The bike loan program is intended to provide students with the funds necessary to purchase an all-round commuter bicycle for transportation on the university and elsewhere.

Creating a Safe and Healthy Campus, Part II: Minimizing Exposure to Toxic Chemicals and Pesticides

-Green Cleaners: A group of students and administrators including members from SEAC (Student Environmental Action Coalition), Facilities Management, and Housing have been working to encourage the use of "green" cleaners, those that have a reduced toxicity level, are biodegradable, come in concentrated form and with less packaging, decrease potential human injuries, etc. In addition to developing standards by which to rank the toxicity of cleaners, these environmentally conscious organizations are hoping to work with CU's Risk Management in order to assess the human and economic impacts of using low-toxicity cleaners.

Greening Campus Consumption and Disposal Habits

-Tree-Free Disposal Paper Consumption: Wilderness Study Group concentrated their efforts on increasing the use of recycled disposal paper consumption on the CU campus. After concentrating their efforts on toilet paper and paper towels, Facilities Management and Wilderness Study Group not switched to recycled papers but also saved money in the process.

-Pay-For-Print: The pay-for-print program, which is meant to encourage conservation by using market-based incentives, has been pushed back. However, the tests of recycled paper in printers have been positive, showing that 100% post-consumer recycled paper is performing well in the machines. Policy issues are currently being discussed and will hopefully be resolved as quickly as possible.

-Policy/Contract Reform: Meetings with the staff of CU's Procurement Division have addressed key issues necessary to implementing environmentally preferable purchasing policies. Overall, the procurement staff is very accepting of environmentally preferable purchasing and will be working with the Environmental Center to implement change in their contracts/RFPs.

-Green Purchasing Expo: The Green Purchasing Expo, held in conjunction with the Campus Sustainability Summit, is being organized to bring higher education purchasing departments together with environmentally friendly product and service vendors. Oftentimes, despite a desire to green their campuses, higher education procurement staff are simply unaware of the environmentally preferable alternatives available in the marketplace. Hopefully, this Expo will provide a much-needed link between procurement personnel and environmentally friendly businesses.