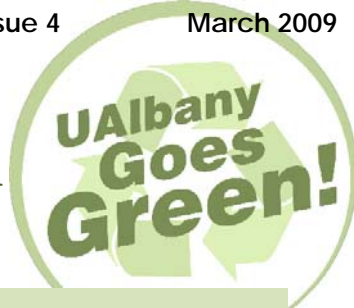


Sustainability Bulletin



Kathy Lowery, VP of Finance and Business, Denis Hayes, Mary Ellen Mallia, Director of Environmental Sustainability, Matt Ryan, Graduate Assistant, William Flaherty, Regional Executive Director for National Grid

National Grid donates to sustainability efforts

In support of our ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption, National Grid has provided a gift of \$5,000, which will be used to purchase compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) for distribution in the residence halls.

Last fall over 1,300 bulbs were distributed as part of the national "change a light campaign" which saved over 83,000 kilowatt hours. The program proved to be widely popular with demand far exceeding the supply. The generosity of National Grid is greatly appreciated to continue this program in the spring.

Recyclemania begins

Recyclemania began on February 2nd and goes through March 28th. Like last year, we will be tracking our waste and recycling figures. Our goal for this year is to recycle 250,000 pounds of material. We're halfway through the contest and so far we have generated 115,000 pounds of recycled material which puts us just about halfway to our target. To get the most current results and see how we rank versus other schools go to: <http://www.albany.edu/gogreen/recyclemania.shtml>

Look for the Recyclemania bin shoot in the campus center on March 12th and 18th from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

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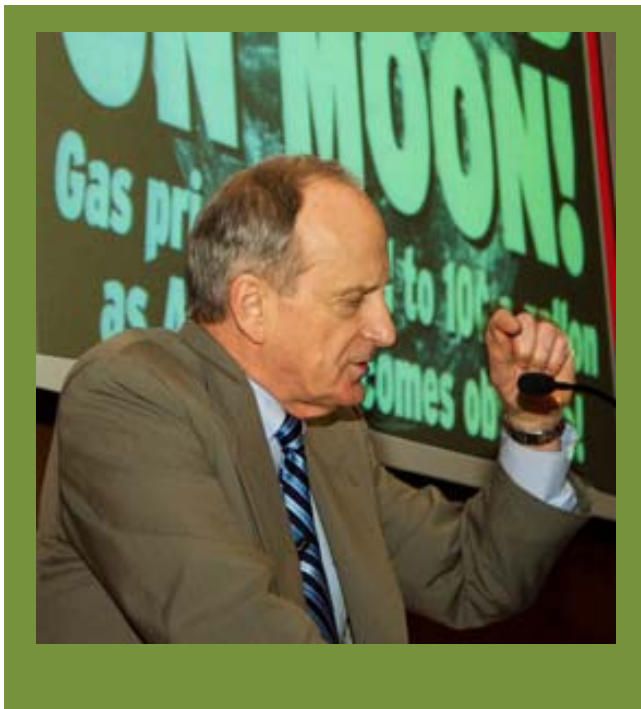
Dorm Contest Update:

Indian Quad is currently in the lead for the dorm competition.

Help your dorm win by recycling your bottles, cans and paper!

Battery week is March 9 through 15!!





Hero of the Planet

Denis Hayes was a Harvard graduate student when he became the national coordinator of the first Earth Day. On April 22nd, 1970 he was able to unite twenty million Americans with the purpose of bringing attention to the need for a more sustainable environment. Since that day, Hayes is recognized as the man who made Earth Day a world event. Thirty-nine years later, Denis Hayes is still at the core of the modern environmental movement. Hayes has many outstanding achievements on his resume including co-founding Green Seal, one of the most respected eco-labels, and being named one of TIME magazine's "Heroes of the Planet."

UAlbany was fortunate to have Denis speak on campus on February 9th, thanks to the sponsorship of National Grid.

Legislative Director of Natural Resources Defense Council to speak March 3rd

Richard Schrader, the Legislative Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for New York State, will be speaking on March 3rd at 7pm in the Terrace Lounge in the Campus Center. The NRDC is one of the nation's most effective environmental action groups which combines the grassroots power of 1.2 million members and online activists with the courtroom clout and expertise of more than 350 lawyers, scientists and other professionals.

While NRDC is known for its national legal, policy and scientific work, the organization is also at the forefront of many New York State environmental issues. Rich's presentation will touch on pressing environmental issues such as an electronics recycling bill for New York State, natural gas drilling, renewable energy legislation, and New York State's Environmental Protection Fund.



Wikipedia's New Twist

In the past few years, the popularity of the website Wikipedia has soared. Jimmy Wales, the co-founder of Wikipedia, had more environmental friendly resources in mind when he created Wikia Green. This new website uses the Wikipedia concept, only all articles are environmentally focused. On Wikipedia, if you were to type in a company's name, articles would come up regarding all aspects of that company. On Wikia Green, type in that same company's name and only environment-related information comes up. Wikia Green contains an abundance of green information, and just like Wikipedia it is full of interesting facts. The website is still young, but every day it grows with more information. Visit the site at <http://www.green.wikia.com>



Empire Commons Electricity Bills

In 2007, the energy campaigns on campus began. These have helped to bring awareness about responsible energy by directly engaging the student population living in the Residence Halls and University Apartments in the energy saving process. In the fall of 2008 students saved over 100,000 kilowatts hours of energy, which equates to taking 20 cars off the road, and achieved \$12,500 in savings by using energy conservation techniques. The recent campaigns have been so successful, in fact that a new program has arisen as a result: the Empire Commons Electricity "Bills".

Empire Commons buildings allow for individual apartment electricity metering and therefore the idea was brought forth to generate fake electricity bills for each apartment. The first set of bills was distributed towards the end of the fall semester. The goal of this new program is to provide awareness about energy conservation as well as preparation for responsible energy use. There will be three more billing cycles this semester: March, April, and May. At the end of each month the student apartments with the lowest electricity will win prizes. (see box below) These faux bills will also contain tips on how student's can lower their electricity use and provide a history of the past month's usage. So Empire Common residents; look for these coming soon.

Prizes to be awarded to the apartments with the lowest electricity consumption:

Gift certificates to:

The Melting Pot

Best Buy

Wings Over Albany

DC Pizza

Goodie baskets from:

Bountiful Bread

University Bookstore

Green Gaming

More than forty percent of Americans have at least one video game console in their homes, and nationally these consoles consume the same amount of energy as the city of San Diego.



Why is there so much electricity consumed? Because most people do not turn off their consoles, leaving them to remain idle which uses almost as much power as if they were on. Nintendo's Wii uses the least amount of energy, approximately one-ninth the energy of Microsoft's Xbox and one-seventh as much power as Sony's PlayStation during play.

A majority of the increase in energy usage comes from PlayStation and Xbox 360's graphics, which are high end compared to the Wii's. Microsoft and Sony continue to optimize their systems, which results in less energy usage. The easiest way for players to use less energy with their video game consoles is to simply turn off the console when not in use. Some consoles already have a power-off feature that can be activated to turn off after a preset time. If that's the case for your console, use the feature. It will end up saving energy, and money!

Information taken from www.nrdc.org November 2008

Faculty No Paper Pledge

As part of our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, we asked faculty to make course material available solely online. So far only one professor, Dr. Gary Kleppel, has answered our call.

Come faculty, go make the pledge! Students, have your professors sign up! Simply go to www.albany.edu/gogreen and click on the Faculty No Paper link towards the bottom of the page.

ABC's of Green

When it comes to sustainability, a lot of words and phrases are thrown around that make it hard to keep up. Here are four common abbreviations defined to make green easier for you!

GHGs: Greenhouse gases. They are a threat because they trap the sun's heat within the atmosphere thus raising the temperature.

CO₂: Carbon Dioxide, which is the most highly emitted greenhouse gas.

CFCs: Chlorofluorocarbons. They are the reason aerosol spray cans and many older air conditioning units are harmful and have an adverse effect on the ozone.

VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds. With the potential to have negative health affects on humans, these are in many house-fixing products such as paints, adhesive carpet/tile, and other home furnishings.

Earth Day Festivities

Wednesday, April 22nd is Earth Day. This year's theme is reducing your impact on the environment. Below are the various activities planned for the day. All events will take place in Assembly Hall and the Fireside Lounge.

9:00 AM Exhibits Tables Open: Official Welcome

10:00 AM Roundtable Discussion on Your Carbon Footprint

12:00 PM Key Note Speaker- Alan Belenzs , Chief, Climate Science and Technology New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Climate Change

This speech will be webcast live as well as archived for later viewing.

1:00 PM Water Footprint workshop

2:00PM Panel Discussion: Green Jobs



*"To move the world,
we must first move
ourselves"*

— Socrates

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