

# Sustainability Bulletin



## Sustainability Coordinators Program Established

The first wave of sustainability coordinators completed their training last month. This program is geared towards any employee who wishes to become involved in the environmental sustainability movement. Coordinators assist in "creating a culture of awareness" around sustainability issues and policies. Another training session will be offered this spring. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office by sending an email to: [mmallia@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:mmallia@uamail.albany.edu)



Coordinators brainstorm ideas at the fall training session.

Below is a list of all the coordinators who completed the training this semester.

Name:	Location represented:
Tom Bessette	IT
David Burz	Chemistry
Gail Cameron	Faculty Senate / President's Office
Julie Anne Crisafulli	University Applications Development
Beth Conrad	Student Leadership & Involvement
Michelle DiDonna	UAS
Rose Dorsman	Parking and Mass Transit
Patricia Eaton	Sponsored Programs
Karla Gareau	Performing Arts Center
Jacob Gehrlein	Mail Services
Thomas Kilcullen	University Police Department
Joane MacMillan	Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Linda Mertz	Downtown Campus / Richardson Hall
Maria Moon	Earth Science
Kristen Tipton	Grounds
Tracey Williams	Human Resources
Diane Yoder	Computing Center

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### Correction!!

In the last bulletin, we inadvertently left off our Dutch Quad representatives: Marlene Rodriguez and Brittini Maria Laterza are chairing the effort

### Welcome two new members:

Ryan Lennon - Alumni  
Jonviea Chamberlain - Commuter Council  
Jaclyn Hade - Dutch

### Update on the Sustainability Councils

The sustainability councils have begun gearing up to spread the word on environmentally responsible behavior. Some activities have included: tabling in the campus center, conducting recycling bin audits and posting "did you know" fliers. In the works are programs on battery recycling awareness, recycling off campus, reducing food waste, alternative forms of commuting and returnable can drives. If you would like to join a council, go to the go green website and click on the environmental sustainability council link.

## Campus Sustainability Day - October 22nd

We celebrated campus sustainability day with two events. First, the Office of Environmental Sustainability sponsored an electronics collection event. Second, we kicked off our Change a Light campaign in the resident halls. Check out details of each event below.

### Changing the Lights

UAlbany is participating in the national "Change a Light" campaign sponsored by Energy Star. Nearly one-fifth of electricity used in homes comes from lighting, and this campaign is an effort to increase usage of energy efficient light bulbs. RA's stopped by State Quad on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to pick up light bulbs for their residents along with tips on how to dispose of CFL bulbs should they break or blow out. Energy efficient light bulbs use 75% less energy than the typical light bulb which saves both energy and money.

Over 1,300 light bulbs were handed out. Old light bulbs will not be thrown out after being replaced. Jason Middlebrook, a well known artist whose projects usually revolve around sustainability, is making use of the old light bulbs for an exhibit that will be displayed in the University Art Museum in spring 2009. To date, 50,400 pounds of CO2 have been saved at the University due to the switch to CFLs. This equates to a savings of \$3,594 over the life of the bulbs.



Students participate in the Change a Light campaign by distributing CFL's.

To track our progress, check out the change a light website at:

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showpledgedriverdetails&cpd\\_id=14710](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showpledgedriverdetails&cpd_id=14710)

### Electronics Recycling

When electronics break, often they are thrown out rather than recycled. Seven million tons of electronic waste was generated in the United States last year. Inside these items are quantities of lead, mercury, lithium, cadmium, and beryllium. On Campus Sustainability Day, the community was given the opportunity to conveniently recycle their old electronics.



eLot Recycling set up at State Quad so people could drop off DVD players, coffee makers, fans, microwaves and many more electronics. The only disposal fee applied to TV's which cost \$10. The event was extremely successful with over 10,000 pounds of electronics successfully recycled. eLot recycles year round. For the next collection go to [www.elotrecycling.com](http://www.elotrecycling.com) and look for another event on our campus this spring!



### Are CFLs dangerous?

No! There is a trace amount of mercury in the bulbs (equivalent to a ball point pen tip) which is needed to ensure their long life. One bulb does not pose a high threat. However, if many bulbs accumulate in one area, like a landfill, there could be cause for concern. That is why CFL's should not be thrown out. Check with your waster removal provider (if living off campus) and Environmental Health and Safety (if on campus) for proper disposal. If broken, wipe up the pieces with a wet cloth, don't vacuum, and seal everything in a plastic bag.

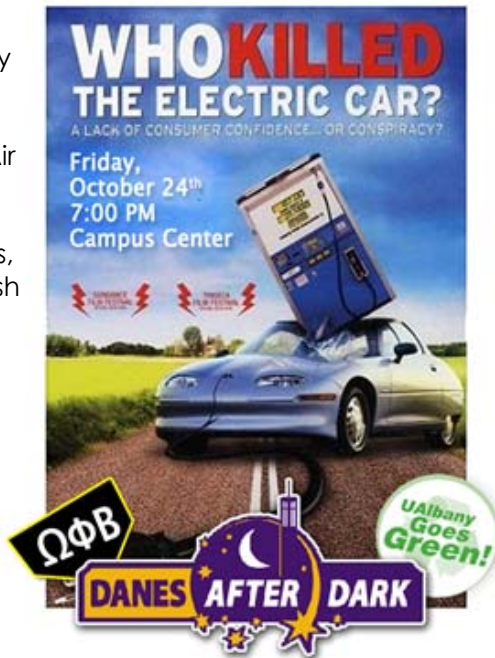


**"One man's trash is another man's treasure"**  
~Proverb

## Who Killed the Electric Car?

In 1996 General Motors introduced the EV1 battery electric car in response to the 1990 ZEV mandate passed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Following lawsuits from automobile manufacturers, the oil industry and the Bush administration, the mandate was reversed, and in 1999 the EV1 was discontinued.

On Friday October 24th, 2008 *Who Killed the Electric Car* was shown on our campus as part of Danes after Dark. The documentary, made in 2006, discusses the invention and suspicious disappearance of the battery electric car and ZEV mandate. When the mandate was released and the electric car entered the market, oil companies panicked over future revenue and began pressing CARB to relax its standards. The electric car was only available for a three year lease, with no option for the user to purchase the vehicle. By 2003 all of the electric cars were off the streets and crushed by GM. The advent of a new wave of electric cars, such as the Tesla and the Chevy Volt, hitting the market, makes this documentary a must see.



## Bringing the Electric Vehicle to UAlbany

After months of anticipation, UAlbany Facilities Management received two new electric trucks. You might have seen small golf-like vehicles that are used to transport workers and materials around campus. The trucks will help us comply with Executive Order 111, which states that by 2010, 35% of our vehicles must be green vehicles.

Given that the average gas truck used on campus gets eight miles to the gallon, these electric vehicles are predicted to save over 20,000 pounds of carbon a year which is equivalent to planting 1,170 trees. They will also save an estimated \$4,400 in energy costs.



UAlbany's very own electric vehicle that's used by Facilities Management.



Members of the Omega Phi Beta Sorority with 4 bags of recyclable aluminum, plastic, and glass. The sorority donated the money earned from the recyclables to the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation (CAAF).

## Betas go GREEN!

For the past thirteen years, the Omega Phi Beta Sorority holds a yearly benefit to honor a deceased mother of one of the sisters who died of AIDS in 1994. This year, combining sustainability and their Chapter cause, the Betas launched their "Betas Go Green" campaign. From October 19 to October 24 the Betas dorm stormed all of the Quads and University Apartments going door to door to collect returnable cans and bottles. A total of 1,500 items were gathered and turned in for cash.

The Beta's 13<sup>th</sup> annual banquet for AIDS, this year entitled: *Beauty and the Beast: AIDS Epidemic Amongst Our Children* was held on November 8. The proceeds from the returnables and the benefit were donated to the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation (CAAF). Way to go Betas!!!



## Recycling Road Trip with Tina

My name is Tina Daniels. I am a junior environmental science major who works in the Office of

Environmental Sustainability and I'm going to take you on a recycling road trip. The University at Albany was highly successful in its Recyclemania campaign last spring. The majority of the success was due to the dedication and hard work of the students here on campus. As a fellow student, I have taken much pride in speaking about the advances in attitudes towards the various recycling programs we have available to us here. However, many wonder what happens to our recyclable materials once it leaves our hands?

Mary Ellen Mallia, Director of Environmental Sustainability, set out to answer that and she kindly invited me, her eager student worker, along to document the journey from the recycle bin to recycled good. The first step from the receptacles in your quad and the overflowing containers outside, begins at a holding area near the Grounds Department. The faithful rumble of a *County Waste* diesel truck can be heard in the distance as it makes its way, packed to the brim with our plastics (no lids), metal cans, coated wax papers, and glass, to *County Waste* owned *Sierra Processing*, in Schenectady, NY for sorting, bundling, and barter.

As Mary Ellen and I stood in the parking lot of *Sierra Processing* and waited for our guide, I had a moment to stop and take in the scenery. Commingled

recyclables from businesses and homes all around the Capital Region rumbled in on truckload upon truckload, bits and pieces of material lay strewn about the large lot as we watched them blow around in the wind. Omar, manager at Sierra, greeted us a few minutes later for our tour. Once inside the plant we were shown their sorting techniques.

Most of our commingled items have a chance at another life. Omar informed us that plastics follow a number system and that only #1 and #2 are recycled. #1's are usually used in making new soda bottles and #2's are melted down and used in lawn furniture. Anything labeled #3 through #7 are usually discarded due to cross-contamination worries and poor quality to make new products. The glass was actually crushed at the plant to be used in roads, but the rest of the sorted recyclables were bundled up and loaded onto tractor-trailers to eventually make their way to various other processing plants where it would be turned into new materials.

After visiting Sierra Processing, I learned that there are four other plants in the area just like this one and all of them are in competition for recycling material.



Recycled material stacked in warehouse.



Mary Ellen Mallia (left) and Omar (right).

At this point the "three R's" of waste management come to mind. Try to remember that recycling just isn't enough when you think about the massive volume of waste that everyone on the planet produces and that recycling in some areas is still in its infantile stages. So we must look at reducing and reusing the things we already have in existence to help steadily slow the use of our natural resources. In the future, we may have to redefine what waste actually is and think about whether or not it would really even exist if we were more resourceful.

### Ask Omar!!

Knowing what can be recycled is tricky. To help solve such dilemmas, Omar, our recycling man, is here to answer questions.



### Are pizza boxes recyclable?

While pizza boxes are made from cardboard, **only clean cardboard** is recyclable. So if there are any stains on the box from cheese or oil, it can't be recycled.

If you have a question for Omar, email the office at [mmallia@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:mmallia@uamail.albany.edu)



## Voices from the Field

*We are starting a new feature on our bulletin where you can hear from people involved in the sustainability movement. Our first voice is Lenny Menye, a senior theater major at UAlbany who is doing community service work for the office. Here is his first hand account of working with us:*



I started my community service on the energy campaign back in mid-September with expectations of a good experience. Right from the first week of serving my hours, I was surrounded by people who were aware of energy and their consumption of it. That left me with a feeling of guilt because by no means have I played my part in saving energy. In fact, there were nights I would watch TV all night, fall asleep, and wake up to my TV still being on.

I was comfortable getting involved in activities. Not only did I work with a former suitemate of mine but in general I worked with people who were capable of teaching me a lot of things about energy consumption on campus. I was impressed and amazed to see a cell phone being charged by solar/wind powered charger. I became active in the energy campaign by creating and distributing energy awareness flyers and doing meter reads to track energy use.

If there's one thing that helped me be more aware through this experience, it is that saving energy is beneficial. It can save a great deal of money and also reduce CO2 emissions. I live in a residence where the average student is unaware of the excess energy being used. It's good to know that through an experience like this I can play a role in reducing energy use and promoting energy awareness.

### Newsletter

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**"Remember,  
reduce, reuse, and  
recycle!"**

## What to look for in the next issue ...

### Energy Campaign



Wrap up of the energy campaign. Check out the final tallies.

### Interession energy break



What will the University be doing to conserve energy during the break?

### Holiday ideas



Some green ideas for the holidays.

### Faculty No Paper Pledge



Find out how faculty can help cut paper usage for the spring semester.

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