The Role of Student Leadership in Climate Change Mitigation



Scott Thach, VP of Education Alliance to Save Energy



Alliance to Save Energy

Mission:

 Promoting energy efficiency for a healthier economy, a cleaner environment, and greater security.

Organization:

- Staff of 35+ professionals
- 38 years of experience
- \$7 million annual budget
- Recognized as the premier energy efficiency organization





PowerSave Campus Overview

- 16 campuses
- Student driven workforce education and training program
- Paid student internships
- Generates actual savings, KPIs tracked by students









Pacific Gas and Electric Company

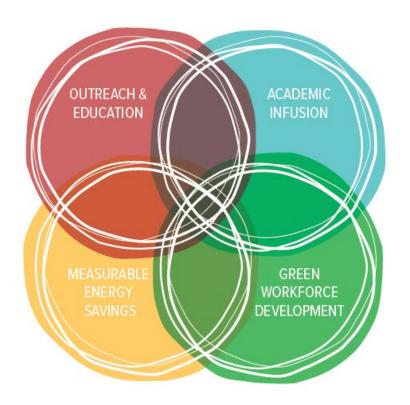






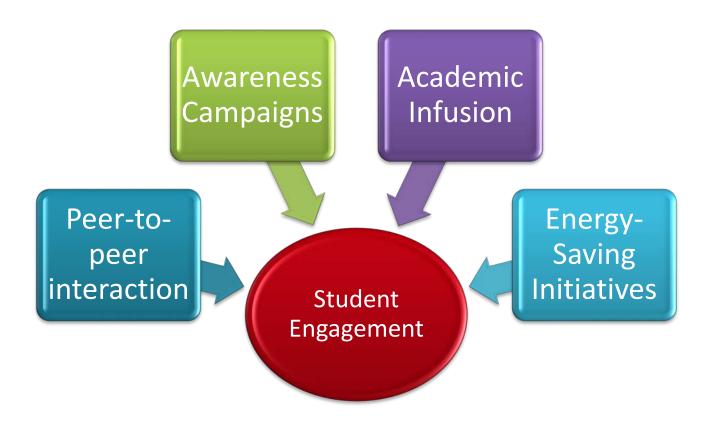
PowerSave Campus Overview

- Measurable energy and water savings
- Integrating efficiency into curricula
- Fostering ongoing campus awareness
- Green workforce development





Tomorrow's Sustainability Leaders Taking the Lead Today





Peer-to-Peer Interaction

 Effective way to educate student body about energy efficiency, water conservation, and campus climate change goals





Energy Awareness Campaigns

- Tabling events
- Community outreach
- Videos
- Pledge drives







Interaction Through Social Media

- Students are the most up-to-date with social media trends
- Student intern groups can gather more followers in less time









Academic Infusion & Professional Development

 Student-led seminars about energy efficiency, climate change, and careers in sustainability





Career panels



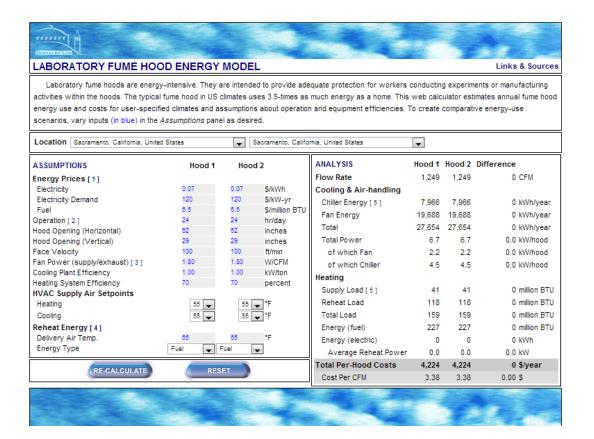
Achieving Actual Energy Savings

- Fume Hood Shut the Sash campaigns
- Removing unnecessary lighting
- High-efficiency water fixture retrofits
- Energy Audits



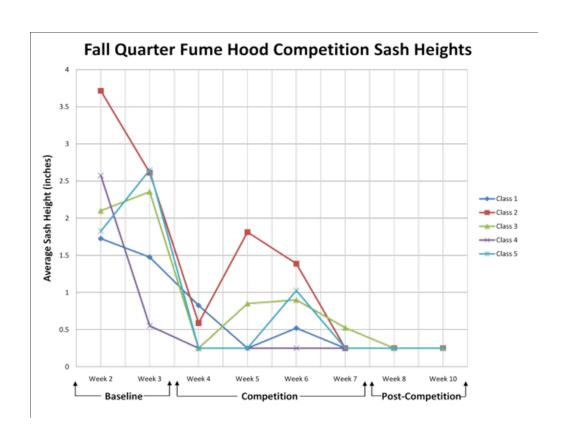


So what about the savings?





Quantify Behavior





Fume Hood Competition

- Avg. fume hood costs \$4,300/year to operate. Closing the sash could save \$1,898 per year. (LBNL)
- Savings per Hood: <u>11%</u>
 Cost Savings per hood: <u>\$914 / year</u>
 Number of hoods in Tan Hall: <u>105</u>
- Total Savings Potential for Tan Hall:\$95,970 / year

Be GOOD in the HOOD... and win the fume hood competition!



Shut your sash & panels to SAVE ENERGY & BE SAFE!

March 2 - 30, 2015

First place winners will be recognized at the Living Green Awards Ceremony AND earn a pizza party!

Join these universities with good sash etiquette:

-Harvard University
-Massachusetts Institute of Technology
-North Carolina State University
-University of British Columbia
-University of California, Berkeley
-University of California, Davis
-University of California, Ir

-University of California, Los Angeles -University of California, Riverside -University of California, San Diego -University of Central Horida -University of Central Horida

UCSF LivingGreen Contact: sustainability@ucsf.edu

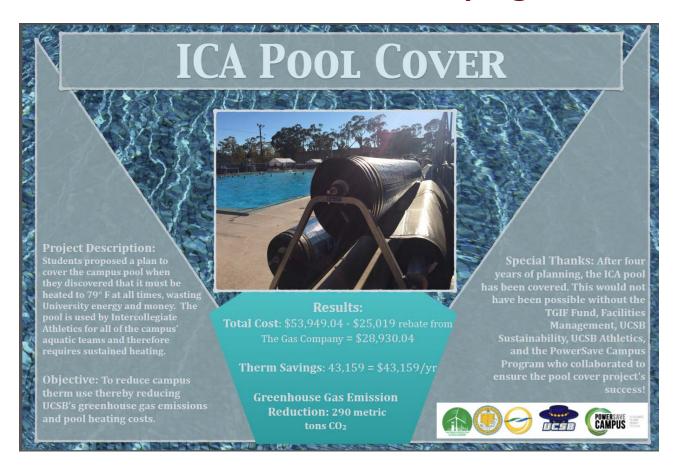
Join our listserv at livinggreen.ucsf.edu







UCSB Pool Cover Campaign





Heated Pool Cover Campaign – Cal Poly SLO

- PowerSave Campus interns calculated potential savings for using existing pool covers.
- Worked with Athletics to run a pool cover competition between the two swim teams.

Cost: \$0

Savings: 128,501 therms

\$100,231 (Jan-Dec 2013)





Leveraging Student Project Grants for Energy Efficiency Upgrades on Campus

- Student intern groups can secure project funding through tuition-based grants for on-campus energy upgrades
- The Green Initiative Fund on University of California Campuses

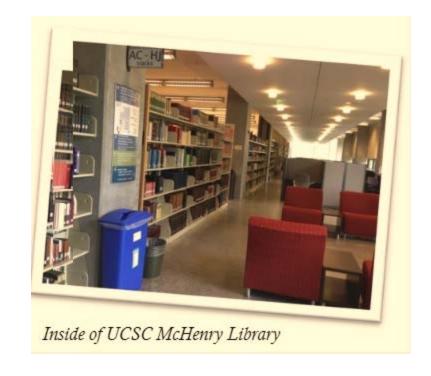




McHenry Library Lighting Retrofit – UC Santa Cruz

LED retrofit and reoriented fixture angles to be more efficient in the book stacks

- Spent: \$256,279 (\$353,363-\$97,064 utility rebate)
- Annual energy savings: 404,515KwH/\$54,609
- Project life = 15 yearsTotal Savings = \$819,305



Housing and Student Affairs Support

- Student interns working with housing to promote energy efficiency in dorms
- Hold energy efficiency training sessions for Resident Advisors
- Create a culture of sustainability within residence halls
 - Green Room Certifications
 - Mock energy audits in dorm rooms







Campus Conservation Nationals

- Residence Hall Energy Competitions
- PowerSave Campus teams have seen up to a 25% reduction in energy consumption in campus buildings





Facilities Support

- Student interns can be the public relations arm of the facilities department
- Assisting facilities employees in campus projects
 - Retrocommissioning tasks
 - Energy Audits





Dennis Elliot, Dir. of Energy & Sustainability Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

"I consider our interns to be an extension of my position as campus energy manager, with a direct focus on energy conservation projects. Especially valuable to me is their ability to effectively reach out to students and faculty. Their youthful enthusiasm, genuine concern for the environment, and ability to educate and motivate others allows them to achieve participation and buy-in from a wide variety of campus stakeholders...."



Dennis Elliot, cont.

- "In addition to accomplishing more energy conservation projects, we are finally able to begin working on behavioral change by energy end users - a critical component to any effective energy conservation plan, and something that Facilities has had difficulty dedicating time and resources to in the past..."
- "They are laying the groundwork to expand on these pilot projects and make them long term campus programs that will deliver significant energy savings in perpetuity."



The Future





Behavior change as a critical means for an energy efficient campus

- Energy efficient buildings are becoming more common
- Low-hanging fruit has been picked
- Behavior is often the limiting factor in high performance buildings

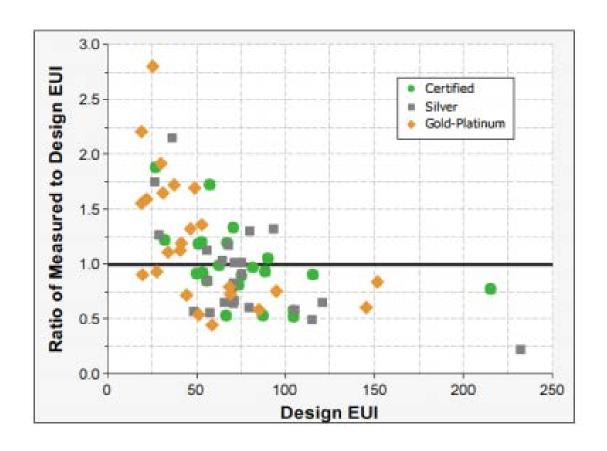








High-Performance Buildings Can Under-Perform





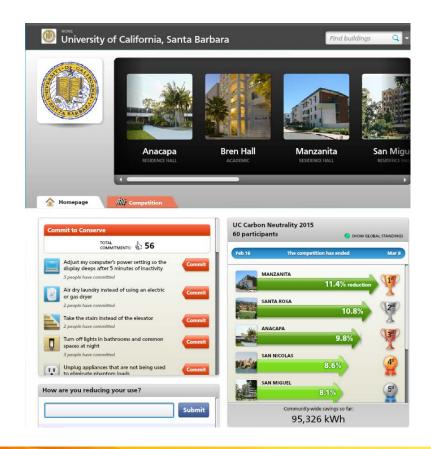
Measuring Impact

- Energy management hardware and software becoming simpler,
 more cost-effective and versatile
- Sub-metering and smart data allow more granular view of opportunities
- Occupant behavior is easier to quantify





Dashboards Provide a Window on Performance





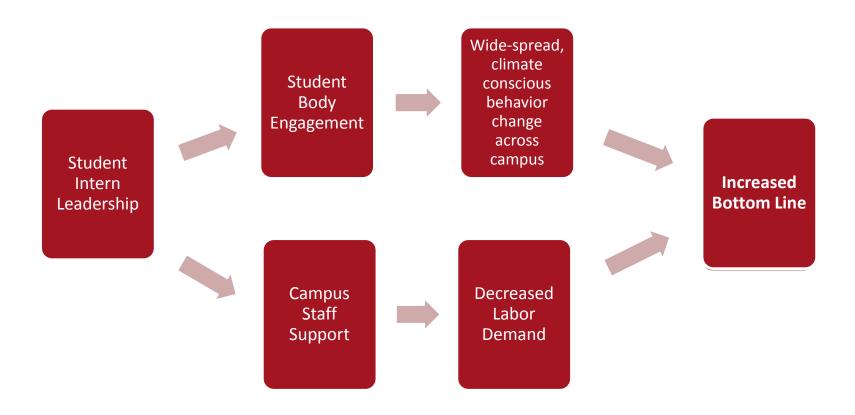
Making Sustainability Sustainable

- Behavior programs can pay for themselves through energy savings
- Begin with analysis of savings opportunities
- Different PowerSave Campus program models tailored for different clients
- Taper program costs as savings increase





Financial benefits to intern leadership





Dennis Elliot, Dir. of Energy & Sustainability Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (finale)

"The fact that the program is administered by the Alliance to Save Energy is valuable to Cal Poly as well, as it reduces the burden on our operating budgets and administrative staff. We sincerely believe that the funds being invested in the PowerSave Campus Program deliver a tremendous return on investment for Cal Poly, the CSU, the Investor Owned Utilities, and the rate payers of the state of California."



Hidden Benefits of Student-Led Behavior Programs

- Increased facilities performance for minimal cost
- Improved reputation
- Professional development for students
- Increased finances for capital improvements













Conclusions

- Occupant engagement helps maintain performance and save energy
- Students are the best behavior change agents on campuses
- Carefully targeted behavior programs can save campuses money
- Sustainable sustainability campaigns save more than they cost





Key Questions

- 1. Where are the operational savings opportunities on your campus?
- 2. What efficiency projects have you found with the best returns on investment?
- 3. Do you incorporate occupancy engagement currently? How?
- 4. Do you have existing work study programs that could fund student interns in an efficiency program?
- 5. How do you currently track your savings? Do you use smart meters? Are your buildings sub-metered?



Thank you!

Scott Thach

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