Cool Davis INITIATIVE

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In this issue:

H2o,Energy & Greenhouse gases.....P.1-P.2
Call for Projects.....P.2
Helpful Website.....P.3
Become a conservation connoisseur.....P.3
CDI welcomes new partners.....P.4-P.5
Freedom from high energy bills.....P.5
Cool Davis Festival information.....P.6
CA Clean Car P.7-P.8



Coalition Partners

- B&L Bike Shop
- Caffè Italia
- Care for God's Creations
- Ciocolat
- City of Davis
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Davis Bicycles!
- Davis Bike Collective
- Davis Chapter of Society for Conservation Biology
- Davis Energy Group
- Davis Farm-to-School
- Davis Farmers Market
- Davis Food Coop
- DHS Environmental Club
- Davis Joint Unified School District
- Davis Waste Removal
- Dos Coyotes
- Emerson JHS Earth Club
- Explorit
- Good Humus Produce
- Green Sanctuary of UU Church of Davis
- Holmes JHS Green Team
- Monticello Seasonal Cuisine
- Parent Institute for Infant Brain Development
- Putah Creek Council
- Sierra Club Yolano Group
- Stewards of God's Creation
- Tandem Properties
- 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.

WATER, ENERGY, AND GREENHOUSE GASES

By: John Mott-Smith

By some estimates, almost 20 percent of all electricity used in California is used to move and manage water: to pump it from the ground, clean it up, send it to farms, homes and businesses, and dispose of it after it is used. Water is piped into our homes and when we are done with it is either pumped out to the sewage treatment facility or goes to the same place as waste water in a separate system of pipes. Underlying our streets is a vast network of conveyance that is largely invisible to us on a day-to-day basis, but which is part of an infrastructure. It takes a lot of energy to keep our water works working.

As part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases created when electricity is produced, the State has set a target for urban water suppliers such as the City of Davis to reduce per capita water usage by 20 percent by the year 2020. The Davis city council, in furtherance of this goal, enacted a Climate Action Plan that gets us halfway there by requiring the city to reduce its water usage by 10 percent by 2015.

While some of this reduction target can be met by city actions such as facilitating "gray water" systems and setting standards for water use in new development, successfully meeting this goal will depend on the actions of Davis residents in their homes and businesses.

Water costs money; the more we use the more we pay. There are a number of easy ways to reduce water use and save money. One of the biggest is cutting down on water used for lawns and landscaping, especially in the summer months when this can account for 70 percent of the water used in the average Davis home. Irrigation systems can be made more efficient (drip) and watering times can be reduced (most of us overwater).

Finding and fixing leaks is another measure that can save lots of water, energy, and money. Surveys of water utilities indicate that most systems lose an average of 10 percent, with some as high as 50 percent. Leaks can be indoor ("running" toilet or dripping faucet) or outdoor (holes in irrigation system). *Continued on next page...*



Many firms offer leak detection services.

Speaking of leaks, do you ever notice poorly aimed or leaky sprinklers in parks, schools, or greenbelts? All of us can help the city save water by reporting these. Go to www.cityofdavis.org: at the bottom right is a "Report a Problem Box" that can be used to report these leaks.

Finally, that same web site (www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve provides a ton of information on how to conserve water both indoors and outdoors, points to some rebates for water efficient clothes washers and toilets, and provides links to other useful web sites.

Call for Projects
Cool Davis Day of Service
By: Judy Moores



As part of the Cool Davis Weekend of events in October, the CDI Cool Day of Service will be held on Saturday, October 15. The theme of the day is Healing our Planet and our Community. On this day of community-wide climate action, volunteers, and organizations are invited to join together in work parties, service projects, and workshops to provide environmental, climate mitigation, and eco-justice opportunities to care for our environment and our citizens.

Projects might include tree-planting, creek or park clean-up, planting drought -tolerant gardens, installing solar panels, adding attic insulation to neighborhood homes, inviting neighbors to learn about living a lower carbon lifestyle (Cool Davis teams), food drives, gleaning, making bee houses for native bees, sewing vegetable bags, etc.



While many projects will occur on October 15, others may be scheduled earlier in the fall, such as the proposed project of Davis Bicycles! for a 350.org event on Sept. 24, or as on-going projects, such as the CDI Veggie Bag Project.

To obtain a Service Project Proposal form or learn more about the Service Day, please contact one of the co-coordinators, Judy Moores at jemoores@aol.com or Manny Rin at jerin@ucdavis.edu or check out www.cooldavis.org.



Helpful website

Contributed by Kathy Coulter

Do you want to understand what's happening around you when it comes to climate change? A new website called Cal-Adapt, designed by Google, in collaboration with several partners including the California Energy Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey specifically addresses projections about climate change in California. (http://cal-adapt.org/)

Through Cal Adapt, you can obtain information on wildfire risks, which coastal areas are threatened due to sea level changes as well as information on temperature that shows degrees of change, historic temperatures and future projections.

While Cal-Adapt is not a comprehensive resource in finding climate impacts to specific areas nor makes forecasts, it does provide potential scenarios to describe how climate may evolve in California. Whether you are interested in how your neighborhood, city or county will fare or interested in the larger statewide picture, Cal Adapt offers a variety of tools and resources that enable you to visualize climate change data for California.

Cal-Adapt is an excellent tool for starting the discussion to take action in response to climate change, offering a preliminary rendering of the extent of climate projections and impacts, and serves as a starting point for adaptation planning. It is a work in progress and developers plan to add new features, enhancements, and data sets.



Become a conservation connoisseur!

The Davis chapter for the Society of Conservation Biology (http://scb.ucdavis.edu/) is offering two educational seminars on conservation topics relevant to the entire Davis community. Our first will be about climate change and conservation. This is a great opportunity to learn from local conservation biologists how climate change impacts natural places and its meaning for you, whether you're a state parks visitor and/or a lawn-proud homeowner.

Where: Blanchard Room at the Davis Library (315 East 14th Street)
When: Thursday July 14th 6:30-9:00PM (Second seminar TBD)

If possible, please bring a $5 donation to support our chapter's travel grant fund. See website for details.

CDI welcomes new partners

Davis Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology - The DCSCB is a local, student-run chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology dedicated to the promotion of conservation-related education, practice, and policy. Marit Wilkerson, the 2010-11 president, indicates that the group is especially proud of two their projects.

- The first is WIDSI ("Watch It Don't Squash It!"), their UC Davis homegrown science outreach crew, which visits local classrooms and after-school programs. Marit says, "The group is mostly made up of graduate students, but anyone can join! They plan lessons and activities, which often have an artistic component, focus on animal behavior, ecology, environmental science, and physiology. Sometimes they bring in live animals or specimens for a "hands-on" approach."
- Second, members of the DCSCB also volunteer about once a month to help other local organizations that need volunteers for local riparian restoration projects. Marit noted, "The group has a wealth of climate/environmental/conservation knowledge within their membership and would like to become better and more active at translating that knowledge to others and into action."

For the 2011-12 academic year, in addition to continuing their WIDSI program and volunteering, the DCSCB has two projects. First, the group plans to fund raise to help graduate students attend the Society for Conservation Biology Biennial International conference in December 2011 in New Zealand and second, is to get local members actively involved in planning the North American regional meeting of SCB to be held in Oakland the summer of 2012. The group will appreciate community support for these efforts.

Holmes Junior High Green Team - Martha Quenon, the Club's academic sponsor, says the object of the group is "to promote environmental awareness and action on campus." She said, "The Green Team created student action teams to encourage all members of the student body to "Do One Thing" (DOT) every day which benefits Mother Earth." Their efforts to get the whole student body involved in taking care of our planet, earned the Green Team the 2011 City of Davis Environmental Award.
Also, the Green Team sponsors an annual Bike Loopalooza station at the Holmes site, and plans to continue to promote on-going recycling and their "DOT" program.

At the City of Davis's Environmental Award ceremony, not only did most of the students team members come, they did took turns describing aspects of their "Do One Thing" project. Teacher Martha Quenon and parents, with good reason, looked on proudly as the Holmes Green Team did their presentation.

Monticello Seasonal Cuisine - Rhonda Gruska, co-owner with her husband Tony and farmer Jim Eldon, presents their business mission for their Monticello Seasonal Cuisine Restaurant as, "Monticello will serve customers interesting and flavorful food they aren't likely to make for themselves at home. In addition to the menu showcasing seasonal appropriateness, regional resources, freshness and minimal interference between source and plate, the wine and beer list will feature local and regional selections. This farm to fork business will serve as a model reflecting the values and sustainable future of Yolo County and the region."

And they walk their talk: The restaurant supports the local economy. For the renovation, they hired local businesses, recycled most all of the materials in the space that they could not use, used natural materials such as cork for the floors, and worked with PG&E on restaurant energy efficiency. They insulated all outside walls and the roof, repaired a holes and leaks in the walk-in cooler, used LEDs and low voltage fluorescents in the restaurant lighting, and bought a super energy and water efficient dishwasher. Now that they are open, they hire local employees and source almost everything they buy locally and regionally, including produce, meat, sustainable seafood, wine, and beer. They send all of their compostable waste to a local farm to feed chickens or for composting, reuse paper and plastic bread bags as garbage bags, provide compostable containers for take-out food, use cloth napkins and tablecloths, etc.

When asked about how CDI could help the restaurant, Rhonda said, "Help us get the word out: It is amazing to us that more restaurants don't work harder to be energy efficient, as it really helps the bottom line. With our energy efficiency

efforts, we reduced the PG&E cost to 25% of the previous restaurant that used Monticello's space."

Rhonda also had good words for Randii MacNear of the Farmer's Market, "She has been a great - helping us connect with local farmers and promoting our restaurant. It has taken a village to build this restaurant. We are very grateful to the many people who supported our sustainable concept and offered assistance at every turn. We are grateful now in a position to give back to our community by purchasing local products and services, creating local jobs, etc. It is all comes full circle, so to speak."

For the future Rhonda and her partners hope to get better and better, add a patio to the front of the store, and increase the ambiance of the Davis Center on G Street, where they are located.

Cool Davis now has 37 Partners and several more in process. Advantages to becoming CDI Partners include the opportunity to learn more about the CDI and its many other Partners, share their own organization's actions relative to the climate crisis and find mutual ways to help each other meet challenges, participate in mutually reinforcing publicity, collaborative projects, and net-working, and have representatives attend CDI core group meetings and Partner events. Some partners may co-sponsor CDI projects; others may propose projects that fulfill the CDI mission as well as the partner organization's goals. While CDI CORE GROUP members initially approach most potential partner groups, others may contact CDI and request to become a partner.

CELEBRATE FREEDOM FROM HIGH ENERGY BILLS

By John Mott-Smith



Summer is here and with the heat comes increased costs for air conditioning and other energy needs. This is especially true of older homes built before the state enacted strict energy efficiency building standards, but even new homes can use an energy tune-up. The big questions are: "What should I do and how do I pay for it?

Both these questions, and any others you might have about how to make your home more energy efficient, will be answered at an informational meeting from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, July 14th at the Davis City Council Chambers at 23 Russell Boulevard.

A new organization --- Energy Upgrade California --- has been formed to promote a "whole house" approach to help Californians save thousands of dollars on their energy bills. Those attending the meeting will also learn how to take advantage of PG&E rebates and hear about how to qualify for a special low interest (3 percent) loan program.

Attendees will also have a chance to speak with and ask questions of an experienced contractor about conducting a home energy assessment and what specific measures can make the summer more comfortable in our homes.

Also, all Yolo County residential property owners who attend will be eligible to participate in a drawing for a free home energy assessment with an estimated value of $500.

The informational meeting is sponsored by the City of Davis, the Cool Davis Initiative, PG&E, the Davis-based Valley Climate Action Center and Yolo Energy Watch.

2011 Second Annual Cool Davis Festival and Day of Service

Meeting Wednesday, July 13

Focus: Publicity

Celebrating Healthy Pathways to a Low Carbon Life!

Veterans Memorial Game Room

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Refreshments!

Another Inspirational Musical Surprise!

For all participants and interested folks!

Wanted: fresh ideas, suggestions, and enthusiasm

Bring a friend!

The Cool Davis Initiative is planning the second annual **Cool Davis Festival – Celebrating Healthy Pathways to a Low Carbon Life!** at the Veterans Memorial Center on **Sunday**, **October 16** from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m., following the Day of Service Projects on Saturday, October 15.

We're excited to make this second festival even more dynamic and meaningful than the first… with your invaluable assistance! **Yes, we need volunteers to fill a wide range of positions.**

To volunteer for a specific job, contact Lynne Nittler at lnittler@sbcglobal.net or 530-756-8110.

- Organize sections of the program
- Plan children's activities
- Work on a raffle
- Put up posters
- Hand out flyers at Farmer's Market
- Handle the T-shirts
- Recruit and confirm volunteers
- Write press releases , etc.

To volunteer to help at the Festival:
Contact Mary Parton at marykparton@gmail.com or 530-304-4782

To submit an idea for the program:
Contact Chris Granger at cgranger@@dcn.org or 530-757-6892

To become a sponsor or make a donation:
Contact Alan Pryor at Ozone21@att.net or 758-5173

Submitting articles

If you have a carbon reduction or energy efficiency related announcement or article to share please let us know. Cool Davis Initiative Partners enjoy special benefits in announcing their special events and activities in our newsletter. The 15th of the month is the deadline for submitting fully edited articles. Send to: Chris Blackman at cblackman@yolofcu.org.

Endorsements needed for the CA Clean Cars Program

On June 21, the City of Davis endorsed the California Clean Cars Campaign, joining many other local governments, public health leaders, consumer groups, small and mainstream businesses, clean technology firms, elected officials, organized labor, faith leaders, national security groups, environmental organizations, and other diverse constituencies that support the strongest possible standards.

"Since more than half of our community's greenhouse gas emissions come from cars and trucks, City support of the Clean Cars Campaign and other aligned initiatives is critically important," said Mitch Sears, City of Davis Sustainability Program Manager. The Cool Davis Initiative will consider endorsing the program at its July meeting.

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is updating four existing regulations, all part of the Clean Cars Program, in fall 2011 (see below). These updated standards would reduce carbon and smog-forming pollution from cars and light-duty trucks, spur the development of advanced technology zero-emission cars like plug-in cars and fuel cells, and put in place the fueling infrastructure for advanced technology vehicles. According to the city RESOLUTION NO. 11-078, SERIES 2011, Davis expects strengthening California's motor vehicle programs will "improve California's air quality, promote energy independence, support new jobs and investments in clean technology, help California achieve its goal of reducing global warming emissions, and will continue California's long history of national leadership on air quality and environmental policy."

The California Clean Cars Program consists of the following four different standards.

1. The Low Emission Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Standards will make sure new cars and light trucks produce fewer emissions that contribute to global warming. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2017.)
2. The Low Emission Vehicle Program will make sure new cars and light trucks produce fewer harmful emissions that contribute to smog and hurt public health. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2014.)
3. The Zero Emission Vehicle Program will make sure that the newest, gasoline-free, ultra-clean vehicle technologies – such as electric and hydrogen fuel cell cars – are brought to California. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2015.)
4. The Clean Fuels Outlet will ensure we have infrastructure – including hydrogen for fuel cells and public charging for electric vehicles – in place to support clean, alternative fuel cars.

These new standards are needed to clean the air and protect public health, to save consumers money and offer more vehicle choices, and to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Moreover, these stricter standards lower our dependence on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The city of Davis cited the following evidence regarding health as one reason they chose to endorse the Clean Cars Program. "California is experiencing a public health crisis due to poor air quality, with over 90% of Californians living in areas that exceed federal health-based ozone standards; and exposure to elevated levels of ozone and other pollutants such as particulate matter that annually contributes to hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks and tens of thousands of hospitalizations and premature deaths due to heart and lung disease; and recent research conducted by the RAND Corporation found that hospital care related to elevated pollution levels in California cost nearly $200 million from 2005 to 2007." According to the RAND report, the stricter standard will save lives and money when it comes to health care.

While the newer, less polluting cars will cost more, the upfront costs for cleaner cars will be recovered quickly in the money saved on gas. The Union of concerned Scientists calculated that at $4.00/gallon for gas, the owner of a vehicle getting 60mpg will save $8,900 in 3.5 years! Clean car standards also provide consumers with many vehicle choices including advanced technology gasoline cars, hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and all-electric battery or fuel cell cars that use no gasoline at all. *Continued on next page...*

Finally, these standards will encourage more jobs. From 2008 to 2009, green jobs grew at three times the rate of overall job growth in California. California's Clean Cars Program, together with federal emissions and fuel economy standards of 60 mpg, could lead to 167,000 new jobs in the state by 2025. (Data from California Clean Cars fact sheet)

The decisions of the CA Air Resources Board are tied to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Transportation as all three agencies together seek to develop fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for the generation of cars from 2016 through 2025. CA has the authority to lead with standards even more strict if the national standards fail to sufficiently protect the environment and public health. Thirteen other states and Washington D.C. have adopted California's regulations in the past and will likely follow California's lead again.

This is an important time for California to continue its leadership role by adopting the strict standards described above which are already in place in Europe and China. The city of Davis endorsed the four updated standards and urged the Air Resources Board to adopt them to protect the health of California's economy, environment and its people.

For more thorough information and to consider adding the endorsement of your organization, go to www.calcleancars.org.



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