Highlights of 2015 CHESC!

Reflecting on What We Learned at CHESC

The decision to attend any conference is motivated by the desire to gain new insights, learn about the latest innovations, and make connections with leaders in the field.

It was these opportunities that motivated the more than twenty CSULB students, faculty and staff that attended this year's California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) hosted by San Francisco State University. That, and the fact that we were also there to receive three best practice awards!

CHESC, which has been held annually at universities...
New This Fall!
Free Campus Shuttle!

Now picking up at 3 convenient locations:
- Stearns/Los Coyotes
- Ferro/Los Coyotes,
- Garford/Park

Click here for more info!

Need A Capstone?
Take ES&P 392: Climate Action and Neutrality at CSULB

CSULB is offering a brand new class in Fall 2015, and it is open to students of all majors and

presentations, inspiring keynote addresses, and lots of networking opportunities. Highlights from this year’s event were the rousing keynote by American environmental advocate, civil rights activist, and attorney, Van Jones, the Student Convergence, the Sustainability Officers’ Workshop, and the awards ceremony, during which CSULB was the most recognized CSU campus.

Members of the CSULB delegation are planning to meet in the coming weeks to share what they learned at the conference and discuss how to utilize those lessons to advance CSULB’s own sustainability goals.

Check out the video above for a glimpse of the CSULB team’s time at the conference.

Check Out This Water Action Plan Video!

Check out this short video to learn about CSULB’s Water Action Plan, one of the projects for which the school was awarded an honorable mention in the water conservation best practices category!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY FOR THE FACULTY GREEN THREAD WORKSHOP!
Disciplines. ES&P 392 is a Service Learning Capstone that focuses on CSULB's efforts to achieve climate neutrality and sustainability through service learning assignments. Students will work with staff, faculty, and community partners, and will develop important skills through hands-on experience. The class is currently open, so if you want to get involved, consider taking the class!

How Sustainable is CSULB?

Efforts are underway to evaluate and measure just how sustainable CSULB is according to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®).

STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework that colleges and universities can use to measure their sustainability performance in the areas of academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration. STARS is designed to help institutions understand how well they are doing at achieving the

The Green Thread Workshop, which is open to all faculty, will be held Friday, September 11, 2015! In this workshop, faculty will learn how to connect sustainability issues to core concepts in their own disciplines and connect with engaged faculty across disciplines to enhance student understanding and awareness.

SPACE IS LIMITED! RSVP to sustainability@csulb.edu before Friday, September 4, 2015.

The Learning Community Team Works to Bring Sustainability to Life

In April 2013, a workshop was held to explore the idea of developing a sustainability-focused learning community at
goals of sustainability while also providing a way to track their progress over time and compare their performance to other universities.

Stay tuned for more on our progress in the coming months!

CSULB. A learning community is a group of people who share common academic goals and attitudes and who meet regularly to collaborate. One of the goals of the sustainability-focused learning community is to help prepare the next generation of leaders to face the challenges of integrating sustainability into their decisions, both as professionals or in their everyday life choices.

Since the workshop was held, an interdisciplinary team of faculty who make up the Sustainability Learning Community work group has taken steps to bring CSULB’s learning community to life. Current efforts include initiating the production of several short videos that will highlight campus sustainability activities, working to develop a sustainability mobile app that will be integrated into the existing CSULB app, and presenting the white paper entitled “Sustainability: Our Community as a Living Lab” at this year’s California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC).

The group is also planning its first seminar presentation for the fall semester on the topic of “Sustainable Aquaculture.” The topic was chosen because of its relevance to our region, as there are an increasing number of activities planned to develop the fisheries off our coast in the Southern California Bight. The topic also has implications for the local economy, small and large businesses, the environment, tourism, and quality of life for residents – all important elements of sustainability! More details about the seminar will be provided with the next newsletter!
This newsletter highlights the sustainability achievements of Cal State University, Long Beach students, faculty, & staff and promotes awareness & collaboration.

Our mailing address is:
California State University, Long Beach
Physical Planning and Facilities Management
1331 Palo Verde Ave, MS5701
Long Beach, CA 90840
Phone: (562) 985-1939

unsubscribe from this list  update subscription preferences
Are there mismatches between desired learning outcomes and sustainability outcomes?

There is a challenge of ensuring that the CHEM 100 course activities in meeting sustainability outcomes over time. The question remains—specifically how will the water quality testing be of practical use to PPFM in the short and long term?

Do you need to modify existing outcomes?

Outcomes will likely need to be reevaluated and possibly modified at the end of the project and intention of the course redesign is to link water quality testing to actual actions that PPFM can take to minimize stormwater contamination and reduce campus water use. Further, while this project focuses on water quality and conservation, we also want to use this course as a platform for students to interact with Facilities staff and in the process, become more aware of campus sustainability efforts.

What activities can CALL program support?

I would like to possibly create short video interviews from Physical Planning & Facilities Management (PPFM) or Chancellor’s Office staff on different water conservation efforts on campus and system-wide.

What Sustainability Outcomes does your team want the students to achieve?

We want students to contribute to data collection and analysis that will inform our campus water conservation practices while also becoming informed consumers of water who have the knowledge and skills to advocate for water conservation and water quality in their communities.

How will you know if students achieved Sustainability Outcomes?

Students would have achieved sustainability outcomes if the data collection and analysis they conduct is used to inform PPFM’s water conservation efforts and if the students themselves are able to articulate to their peers and PPFM the connections between campus sustainability issues, the chemistry of water and their lab and lecture activities.

How will you know if this redesigned course is an improvement over the current version? How will you measure?

Improvement can be tracked through content analysis of their discussion and written assignments. The current version of the course only has lab report forms, textbook homework, and multiple choice exams as assessments.

How does this proposed course align with CALL program objectives?

Physical Planning & Facilities Management (PPFM) is committed identifying and pursuing operational improvements that will reduce CSULB’s impact on the environment and conserve resources. The goal of the project and intention of the course redesign is to link water quality testing to actual actions that PPFM can take to minimize stormwater contamination and reduce campus water use. Further, while this project focuses on water quality and conservation, we also want to use this course as a platform for students to interact with Facilities staff and in the process, become more aware of campus sustainability efforts.

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What is the team’s vision for the next year as part of the CALL redesign program?

The vision is to potentially develop a policy related to campus water testing which would identify how frequently water should be tested and how information should be disseminated to the campus and CSU communities.

Do you need to modify existing outcomes?

Outcomes will likely need to be reevaluated and possibly modified at various intervals. This would be achieved through regular collaboration and communication with the CALL Champion and key PPFM staff.

What Sustainability Outcomes does your team want the students to achieve?

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