

Feb 2012 Sustainability Forum

Wed, Feb 01, 2012 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

2040 VLSB | Free Food, Open to All Students



February 2012 UC Berkeley Student Sustainability Forum!

LEARN ABOUT THE **30+** Green ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS @ CAL!

When: Wednesday, February 1, 2012
Where: 2040 VLSB
Time: 6-7:30pm

Free Food Provided!

The Forum is a great place to:
-Figure out what student environmental clubs to join
-Discover Volunteer Opportunities, internships, and jobs
-Network with Cal's sustainable community
-Learn the latest news on what green clubs are doing

ENGAGE WITH SPEAKERS OF Over 30+ environmental groups on campus!

Hosted by the Office of Sustainability and sponsored by the Green Initiative Fund (GIF) | <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu>

Summary:

Attracting over 50 attendees, the February 2012 Sustainability Forum featured over 30 speakers from various campus environmental organizations in 2040 VLSB. Occurring for the second time this 2011-2012 academic year, the sustainability forum fosters an interactive environment in which students can come together to exchange information and come up with solutions for greening UC Berkeley and beyond. Held at the beginning of each semester, the event aids new and returning students find groups that align with their specific energy, resource, and education interests. Most students became aware of the conference through social media websites, like Facebook, and email list serves. Representatives included the **Online Materials Exchange** which highlighted its website where students and faculty can offer *free* and *reusable* items to others within the Berkeley community, **Campus Green Campus** which announced that Unit 2 won the Fall 2011 Blackout Battles and the recent Fight the Flow campaign to reduce water usage in residential living. After the round of the group's 2-3 minute presentations, students mingled with student representatives over an array of sustainable foods--organic fruits from **The Local**, vegetables, and crackers. At the end of the event, a sustainable gift basket was raffled and presented to a lucky attendee to the February 2012 Sustainability Forum!

CACS—Both applications for a CACS Green Fund Grant and 2012 CACS Sustainability Award Nominations are due March 15th, 2012 at 5:00pm. Please see <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/cacs/> for more details.

TGIF—Abstracts for grant applications are due February 13th, 2012. They are seeking those interested in jobs and internships. Please check out <http://tgif.berkeley.edu/>.

ULAP—A group on campus that promotes social justice and human rights, two Decals offered this semester, researches and informs students about Keystone XL Pipeline. Leadership positions and internships available.

Green Campus—This group is promoting their goals with Alliance to Save Energy. Goals include academic infusion, outreach, green career events, energy saving. Blackout Battles are energy saving competitions between residence halls. Unit 2 won from Fall 2011. New campaign called Fight the Flow with the installation of showerhead nozzles in Unit 2 bathrooms that allow students to turn off water when they are shampooing/shaving. Upcoming paid and 4-unit internships available. Please contact them if interested.

CRSSO—Promoting enrollment in ESPM 117: Urban Garden Ecosystems; CRS students recently encouraged an alternative graduation. Main goal is to keep community alive within the major and encourage studies in CRS.

BOAA—UCB's only animal rights group. Activities include a potluck, speakers series, bake sale. Conscious eating conference in February with authors, speakers, food competitions and campaign for Meatless Monday (peta2) in residential dining.

Green CAT—Aims to target clubs that aren't environmentally involved but can become more green-friendly.

Coalition to Fight Factory Farming—Educate and empower consumers. Prepares a 40 min presentation that covers basics of factory farming for new members and those interested in learning more, works on local and national campaigns

ASUC STeam— comprised of 8 project groups (The Local, OSC, Earth Week, Focus the Nation, End Coal, Paper Pollution, STOP, The Composting Group). Highlights include: environmental documentary nights starting this month, End Coal kick off potluck February 10th, Earth week is looking for members to get involved with project

ASUC Efforts—Contact cackman@berkeley.edu for more information about the wide ranging ASUC efforts on campus, including collaborating with environmental groups and current and future Decals

Take Back the Tap—end sale of water bottles on campus by 2014. Working on installing more hydration stations, retrofitting drinking fountains, educating student body, campaigning in residence halls. Friday meetings in Eshleman from 2-3pm.

CALPIRG—State wide student directed campaign for energy and ocean conservation. Trying to ban plastic bags in Berkeley stores, 303 Eshleman 3-unit course credit.

ECO-holds a forum once a month, gets all environmental groups together to discuss and problem solving. Promoting through Facebook group and finishing up website with ALL student sustainability events at Berkeley from all groups, complete with a blog and interviews with student leaders.

Online Materials Exchange—Please check out www.exchange.berkeley.edu. It is a website similar to a Craigslist in which is online for students, faculty, and administration can advertise free appliances and furniture within the Berkeley community. Raffles for members who use the website.

Engineers Without Borders—works on international sustainable development projects. Summer 2012 Peru—projects include water quality, well testing, arsenic clean up. Open to all majors and interests. Please contact Ewb.ucb@gmail.com

Berkeley Student Food Collective—works on addressing the real food challenges—local, organic, fair trade, and humane. At least 2 of 4 are covered in the store. Non-profit and all of proceeds goes to future education about food. Community outreach film screenings. This semester the groups will work with elementary school students and local gardens. Fun food events in which members can learn to cook.

Strawberry Creek Restoration Project—Urban ecosystem restoration program, 3-4 Monday all welcome. Please contact if interested in hosting own restoration project.

Little Green Book— makes posters made of little green robots (6 focus areas of green living) that are displayed in International house, Greek houses, Cal Student Store, and Dorms; Play Green Festival—get 4 trading cards and exchange for T-shirt or waterbottles, will be launched during earth week. Please contact littlegb.berkeley.edu for more information

Compost Alliance--Volunteer program that works with STeam compost branch, telling people what can and can't be composted. Cool demos upcoming this semester. Recycle Mania—starting this month, UC Berkeley is starting on 2 month recycling competition against 5 other UCs and Stanford, and 600 universities across the nation. Mascot on will be out on Sproul Plaza soon (bag monster). Get a picture with him in the next couple weeks! Please contact: compostalliance@gmail.com;
BERC—Network of professional and academic contacts, turning university interests into careers and learning how the world operates, networking career panel. Please contact Berc.undergrad@gmail.com for collaboration.

Greening the Greeks—Recently participated in green campus energy saving competition. If you have a project or idea let them know at greeningthegreeks@gmail.com.

BS@C--Service-learning seminar 2-3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Building sustainability projects on campus available.

Net Impact—This semester, they will be working on sustainability with busses and the RSF. Please contact Nibundergrad@gmail.com.

Campus Bike initiative—looking and hiring two interns to do education and outreach. Please contact them. Look for Earthweek Dance party on April 23, which will be a peddle-powered event.

CSSC—Connects environmental leaders across 30 campuses, connect with leaders, weekly calls, Please visit www.sustainabilitycoalition.org.

**Notes taken by Nik Crain*