OHLONE COLLEGE

Green Gazette

"Sustainable practices for a sustainable future."

Sustainability Tips:

- Use reusable bottles for drinking instead of throwing away single use beverage bottles.
- When shopping, buy products with the least amount of packaging.
- Start a compost bin at home. Compost fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and yard clippings to create rich soil for your garden.

October Quote:

"You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself."

-Nelson Mandela

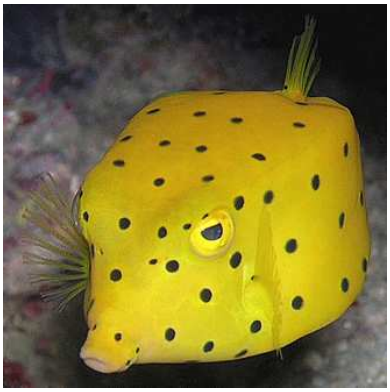
Ohlone Newark Center: "Greenest College in the World!"

LEED Platinum—the highest level possible—was awarded to Ohlone College Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology for green building construction. Ohlone president, Dr. Gari Browning, received notice from the US Green Building Council that the new Ohlone College campus in Newark achieved Platinum Certification for environmentally sustainable construction and building operation. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, sets standards for building construction and operation that will have the least negative impact on the environment and the greatest benefit to the community and the building occupants. LEED certification is determined by a point system, with points given for each environmentally sound construction or operational process. Trained LEED specialists work with the project directors to help maximize the number of beneficial techniques incorporated into the construction.

LEED points received by Ohlone include the following practices:

- 1585 solar panels that generate up to 50% of the building's energy needs
- 26 miles of geothermal ground coils
- Two 10-foot diameter enthalpy wheels, fresh-air energy recapture systems that save up to 25% of costs for cooling and heating
- Water efficient, Bay Friendly® landscaping
- Ground denim insulation, more efficient than traditional fiberglass
- Carpet made from 30% to 38% recycled plastics
- Up to 97% recyclable, ergonomically-designed furniture
- Recycled content terrazzo flooring
- "Machiche" Guatemalan hardwood, responsibly harvested using Forest Stewardship Council guidelines
- Brownfield remediation of pesticide contaminated soil
- Wetland restoration site to become Living Laboratory for campus
- Low VOC emission paint

Word of the Month: *Biomimicry*



As it turns out, Biomimicry may very well be one of the most important factors for modern designers to take in to factor when designing new products, automobiles, and buildings. Biomimicry is the development of sustainable ideas from nature itself. Bios (meaning "life") and mimesis (meaning "to imitate") is how Biomimicry gets its name. People from many industries are using biomimicry to develop more efficient designs for products in their industries.

Studying fish to develop the next car designs, studying leaves to improve solar cell technology, or studying termite mounds which may lead to the next building designs are just a few examples of biomimicry. Plants and animals have evolved over millions of years. Natural selection has allowed only the most efficiently designed plants and animals to survive.

Left: *Boxfish (Ostracion cubicus).*
Above: *Mercedes-Benz Bionic concept car designed after the Boxfish.*

Sustainability Committee

"Green technology has the potential to be the most profitable and rewarding industry in the next decade."

David Acorn
Student Sustainability Coordinator

Ohlone College faculty and staff members have started a sustainability committee to promote sustainable practices on campus and address issues concerning energy and the environment. Professors Dr. Jeff Watanabe (Ohlone Newark Center) and Tina Mosley (Ohlone Fremont Campus) are heading the committee as co-chairs. Committee members will discuss ways which they can promote sustainable practices in the classroom, on campus, at home, and in the community. By taking charge and leading by example, they hope others will begin to practice sustainable lifestyles as well. This will lead to a cost savings for Ohlone and its students, as well as reduce strain on the environment. David Acorn, Ohlone's Student Sustainability Coordinator says, *"Ohlone College has one of the most energy efficient buildings in the world. We have the opportunity to teach others how to be sustainable and realize how much potential sustainable practices have. Green technology has the potential to be the most profitable and rewarding industry in the next decade."* Be sure to read the Green Gazette monthly to stay informed on sustainable practices, events on campus and in the community, news in green technology, and much more!

Green Technology

LED and CFL lighting. What is all of the hype about? Are these bulbs really worth the cost? These are just a few of the questions many people have about energy saving lighting. The fact of the matter is, these bulbs make sense for many reasons. These bulbs can save up to 10 times more energy than the standard incandescent light bulb. Less energy is used which is less harmful for the environment. This energy savings also leads to a huge cost savings. Although these bulbs cost more to purchase initially, they only use approximately 1/6th of the energy of an incandescent bulb, and last over 7 times longer. This means that through the long run, you will save money on your energy bill, save energy, save the environment, and save time changing light bulbs.

Op-ed with Heather McCarty: Why you should vote NO on Prop 7

I am no expert on environmental issues. My reusable grocery bags and my recycling and composting bins hardly qualify me to comment on the intricacies of energy legislation. Yet it doesn't take an expert to see the glaring problems with Proposition 7 and realize that it is imperative to vote no on it.

Proposition 7, titled "Renewable Energy Statute," sounds wonderful. Normally the words "renewable energy" brings a song to my heart and a skip to my step. And I know they do the same for millions of green-conscious Californians. But if Proposition 7 passes, it will be far from wonderful for the developing renewable energy field or California taxpayers.

A laundry list of California's leading environmental and conservationist groups oppose Proposition 7 — this should give us all pause. Even the renewable energy industry itself, which should in theory benefit from this legislation, opposes it. The reasons for opposing Proposition 7 are complicated and hard to follow at times, but let me attempt to highlight some of them.

Proposition 7 increases the states renewable energy targets; mandating that 50% of the state's electricity must come from solar and clean energy by 2025 (current law requires 20% by 2010). This seems like a good idea, but it could actually put smaller existing renewable energy providers out of business because Proposition 7 excludes all renewable power facilities smaller than 30 megawatts from counting towards fulfilling the states increased renewable energy targets. Today, the majority of solar energy projects in California are smaller than 30 megawatts. Small businesses and homeowners who place solar panels on their rooftops get rebates from the utilities for installing the systems, and they then sell small amounts of energy back to the utilities. These projects are too small to count under Proposition 7, leaving no incentive for utilities to pay for them.

I am particularly concerned that Proposition 7 requires a 2/3 vote by the Legislature or another ballot measure to change ANY of the provisions in Proposition 7. To give you some perspective, a popular joke in Sacramento is that even the Messiah can't get a 2/3 vote from the legislature. This will make it very difficult to fix any problems that emerge. And since Proposition 7 actually reduces penalties by 80% for utilities that fail to meet the state's renewable energy targets and limits environmental review of renewable energy projects by fast tracking plant construction permits I expect many "unforeseen" problems to arise if it passes.

Proponents like to claim that Proposition 7 won't raise taxes and that it won't increase the price of electricity by more than 3%. But Proposition 7 will expand state government, so the money will come from our pockets one way or another, even if the measure does not specifically raise taxes. Even the claim that the price of electricity will not increase by more than 3% is untrue. The Legislative Analyst's Office points out there are no specific provisions to implement or enforce this 3% cap. Proposition 7 is going to cost us all.

When you go to the polls and vote NO on Proposition 7 (which I hope you do) I want you to feel comforted by the fact that we already have legislation in place to cut greenhouse emissions. Currently the state must get 20% of its power from renewable energy sources by 2010, and a bill mandating an increase to 33% by 2020 is supported by Arnold Schwarzenegger and likely to pass next year. We live in one of the few states in this country that is taking global warming seriously. So go vote, and do the environment a favor and vote no on Proposition 7.

Heather McCarty, PhD, is an Associate Professor at Ohlone College, in the department of History and Political Science. She may be contacted at hmccarty@ohlone.edu. *For further information about proposition 7, visit www.noprop7.com*

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Sustainability Spotlight: Composting at Ohlone

Ohlone College is committed to doing everything possible to develop sustainable solutions for every day activities on campus. At Fresh and Natural, the café at Ohlone Newark Center, many leftover food scraps and coffee grounds were bring thrown away in the garbage which fills up our landfills. A sustainable solution would be to compost these items on campus to provide nutrient rich soil for plants on campus. A composing bin was set up on campus in close proximity to Fresh and Natural. According to stopwaste.org, 35% of our trash in Alameda County is from leftover food scraps and food soiled paper. Leftover fruit and vegetable scraps and coffee grounds at Ohlone are now being composted and will benefit the environment because the compost will replace the need for chemical fertilizers on campus which harm the environment. This also drastically helps to reduce waste in our local landfills. If you have any leftover food scraps while on campus, stop by the Fresh and Natural to drop them off or look for the composting bin outside so they can be properly composted. (No meat or dairy products, please).

Upcoming Events

Wednesday October 29th
Holiday Job Fair. 1:30pm-4:30pm, Ohlone Newark Center. Participating industries include biotechnology, green business, health services, manufacturing, retail, and much more!

Friday November 7th
LIFE Club General Meeting. 12:00pm-1:00pm. Palm Bosque (Fremont Campus, weather permitting) or Building 1. For more information, visit www.ohlonelifeclub.com

November 14th-16th
San Francisco Green Festival. For more information visit: www.greenfestivals.org