

UH Sustainability Newsletter

Informing the UH community of the latest green events and initiatives on campus, spanning from recycling to research

HEADLINES

RECYCLEMANIA OLYMPICS A HIT WITH STUDENTS

Houston, March 10, 2011–

Butler Plaza filled with students as they lined up for games and prizes on Wednesday, March 9 for RecycleMania Olympics. Green UH set up games made of recyclable materials from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students to enjoy and take a break between classes. Students had fun while showing support and learning more about green initiatives on campus.

“RecycleMania 2011 Olympics exceeded our expectations,” said Billy Garner, Marketing Coordinator for University Services. “I have never seen that many students come out and show their support for Green UH. It’s clear to see we are getting through to all the students in a way that is fun for everyone.”

Students had five games to choose from to test their skills including skee ball using recycled foil balls, a bean bag tic-tac-toe, ring toss with recycled bottles and oversized horseshoes.

Also, groups of students gathered to face off at tug-of-war competitions throughout the afternoon. UH’s Recycle Man came out for the day to cheer on the students and encourage recycling.

After working up a thirst, students could stop by the Honest Tea table for a sample or swing by for recycled Coca Cola T-shirts and hats.

C.L.A.S.P. was also on site to hand out samples of cilantro grown in the garden and sign up volunteers.

The event was part of this year’s Recycle Mania, a national competition between universities to raise awareness about recycling. UH led Texas in 2010 in the actual weights category for recycling.

Green UH also challenged the campus community to get involved by hosting its own competition. Faculty/staff groups and student organizations compete to be crowned recycling



champions and win a catering credit for their group.

“I recently visited England where they recycle all the time. Americans need to have better recycling ethics. We are wasting way too much.” said Kevin Gandhi, Industrial Construction sophomore who attended the RecycleMania Olympics.

To get involved in green initiatives on campus, visit uh.edu/green.

For more information on RecycleMania events visit uh.edu/recyclemania.

- Lindsay Marshall
University Services
Communications
Coordinator

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Recycling Contest Stats

Green UH has been hosting the Recycling Contest drop-off every Friday, since the start of RecycleMania, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the UC Circle. There are 24 student organizations and 6 faculty/staff departments signed up for the competition. This event has been successful from week one.

Amount of recycled materials weighed for each week:

- Week 1– 2,921 Pounds
- Week 2– 4,070 pounds
- Week 3– 4,655 pounds
- Week 4– 4,505 pounds
- Week 5– 4,287 pounds
- Week 6– 6,334 pounds

RecycleMania Statistics

Check out UH’s statistics for the 2011 RecycleMania competition at www.recyclemania.org

See what you can do to help UH at <http://www.uh.edu/recyclemania/>

C.L.A.S.P. TAKES PART IN UH SPRING EVENT

Houston, March 11, 2011 – C.L.A.S.P. volunteers demonstrate the joys of gardening to children attending the 21st Annual UH Faculty/Staff Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9. The group will have a table set up to help children plant seeds to take home to nourish and watch as they grow.

Children will be given a small container, soil and vegetable seeds at the Spring Vegetable Planting Station during the festivities at Lynn Eusan Park from 9 a.m. to noon. Basil, bean, okra and squash seeds will be available on a first come first served basis.

C.L.A.S.P. volunteers will help the children discover the pride that can come from getting your hands dirty and watching as seeds become vegetables. Parents can take home healthy recipes corresponding to some of the seeds available.

“We hope to teach them that spring-time brings special gifts, and that because of the environment, each season brings a new set of tasty crops to enjoy,” said Leah Wolfthal, C.L.A.S.P. director.

Over 250 children are expected to attend the event this year from the ages of 0-12. Arts, crafts and

entertainment will also be available for the family-friendly UH event.

To help the children during the Spring event and volunteer for C.L.A.S.P. , contact Leah Wolfthal at lwolfth@central.uh.edu. For more information on C.L.A.S.P. activities, become a Facebook fan at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Campus-Community-Garden/160638127118>.

- Lindsay Marshall

University Services
Communications Coordinator

HRM “GREEN TEAM” RALLIES COLLEGE TO RECYCLE

Houston, March 03, 2011 – The RecycleMania Competition began with a visit from a large box truck labeled “Conrad Hilton” on the side. One of the first teams to drop off their goods was the Hilton’s HRM Green Team. From now until the end of the competition, the smaller yet enthusiastic College of Hotel and Restaurant Management will be collecting recyclables to turn in for the competition. Katie Gorski is part of a core group of students that is working to rally the college’s recycling efforts and win the RecycleMania team competition.

“We’re doing it in shifts. I’d say there are about five or six of us who are really trying to manage all the folks who are interested,” Gorski said. “We’re trying to get all

the student organizations each week to help out.”

The College of Hotel and Restaurant Management is one of the smallest at the University of Houston with under a thousand undergraduates. According to Gorski, there are about ten organizations in the college that the Green Team is bringing together to recycle. Their main strategy for collecting, however, is not through the organizations; it is through bringing awareness to all the students in the college.

“Since we’re recycling basically as a college, in our big classrooms we have recycle bins, ones for cans and bottles and also paper recycle bins,” Gorski said. “They’re dispersed throughout the college and right now our recycling mega center is in our student’s lounge. Students can

come and bring stuff from home, but the majority, 95 percent of what we’re collecting, is from the classrooms.”

To do this, the Green Team is talking to the students directly. They visit the classrooms and informed the students about what means of recycling are available to them. One of the HRM advisors, Daniel Arocha, even goes the extra step and transforms himself into a recycling mascot.

“He dresses up as Recycle Man,” Gorski said. “He comes to the classroom, and he pumps up students and lets them know what we can or cannot recycle. He has this little green costume, essentially like a recycling bin.”

Gorski said their efforts were almost immediately seen after

talking to students.

"One of my teachers asked me to talk to the class and it's just crazy. Within the week we've noticed the difference in the bins," she said.

Bringing awareness to the students is one of the biggest issues, according to Gorski. Some of the students she talked to were not aware that there are recycling bins.

"People grow up and that's not the mentality they grew up in. Hopefully, we can change that," Gorski said. "I think within the college itself, it's just bringing awareness to help out the environment."

Not only are the students helping

the environment, they are also helping themselves because it is more cost-effective. The Green Team hopes that if students start recycling here, they will start recycling at home and see the advantages it brings. As for the competition between the bigger organizations and the Green Team, Gorski said what they lack in size they make up with their "secret weapon."

"I think there are a few of us that are incredibly passionate on the HRM Green Team and honestly also the amount we produce," Gorski said. "We do have a hotel associated with our college, so we have people

coming in and using our things. I think the sheer amount we have in our college compared to theirs is more. If we just continue the student participation, we can win."

To learn more about Recycle Mania and where each team stands in the competition, visit www.uh.edu/recyclemania.

-Bethel Glumac
Green UH Intern



CENTERPOINT ENERGY EASEMENT CLEARING

Houston, March 1, 2011 –

Starting March 12 through March 19, Center Point Energy will conduct site clearing operations from their transmission line easement on the UH Main Campus. The easement runs along Wheeler Street, from Calhoun Road to Law Residence Hall.

In the past, trees located with transmission line easements were pruned to keep safely away from power lines. However, in 2003, a massive blackout in the Northeast was found to have been caused by the failure of an electrical provider to properly trim trees around their transmission lines. The blackout affected approximately 55 million customers in the Northeast and Midwest U.S. and Ontario, Canada. Due to this event, utility companies across the US re-evaluated their policies

for allowable plant material in transmission line easements.

Approximately 80 trees will be cleared during these operations. The trees recently planted from Hurricane Ike Landscape Improvements will not be impacted. Some of the newly planted trees that were part of the Cougar Village housing project will be relocated around campus. Center-Point Energy will donate \$10,000 to the University as a goodwill payment through their Transmission Operation's Tree Replacement Program which promotes the company's "Right Tree in the Right Place" program. The University will apply the donated funds to purchase new trees to be planted throughout campus.

For more information regarding this project, contact Roger Warner, Landscape Project and Planning Manager at 713-743-9671 or email rwwarner@central.uh.edu.

- Cynthia Ramos
Executive Administrative Assistant
Facilities Management

SUBSCRIBE TO GREEN UH

Green UH now has a List Serv, so you can stay informed about green initiatives on campus. You will receive the latest articles, reminders of upcoming events, Green UH projects and the monthly sustainability newsletter. It's as easy as 1 2 3 to sign up, just go to <http://www.uh.edu/af/greenUH/listserv.htm>, enter your name and email, select subscribe and submit.



UH RECYCLED ART GALLERY

1st Place



“Mr. Roboto”

By: Chris Lopez

2nd Place



“Recyclable Me”

By: Andrew Thai

3rd Place

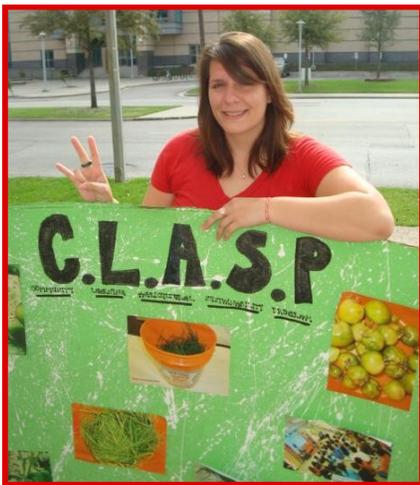


“Stay Puff”

By: Kylie DeFrance

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Recycling Art Contest! We also want to thank everyone who participated in this event. GO COOGS!

SUSTAINABLE SPOTLIGHT



Sarah Clouse

Greeting new gardeners with a smile, teaching yoga by the garden and doing what it takes to maintain the Campus Community Garden with the C.L.A.S.P. team sums up April’s Sustainability Person of the Month Sarah Clouse.

A native Houstonian who transferred to UH in August, Clouse wanted to get involved on campus and found the Community Learning Agricultural Sustainability Program (C.L.A.S.P.). After years of working in the retail industry, a growing interest in gardening and a willingness to get involved led her to join

the program in August 2010. Since then she’s worked with Leah Wolfthal, C.L.A.S.P. Coordinator, on various community projects at the garden such as Relaxation at the Community Garden Yoga Series and also waters the garden in the mornings.

Clouse hopes that you’ll visit her soon and enjoy the Spring Harvest season or join her yoga series at the Community Garden every Friday at 11:45 a.m. For more information on how you can volunteer, visit the CLASP website at www.uh.edu/green.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARTH DAY CARNIVAL

The Earth Day Carnival is on April 21. It is a nation-wide holiday to bring awareness to maintaining Earth's natural environment. To celebrate Earth Day, Green UH will provide recyclable games for everyone to play, the day will bring a shining sun and we guarantee that you will have fun! For more information on this event you can visit www.uh.edu/green, or visit us on [Facebook](#).



RECYCLING CONTEST ENDING SOON

UH faculty/staff and student teams have been competing to see who can recycle the most materials. The competition ends April 1, and the ceremony to announce the winners will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6 at the UC Satellite. The top three employee and student teams that recycle the most will win a large credit from UH Catering Services—the top prize is a \$150 credit.

RELAXATION GARDEN YOGA



CLASP will provide well-deserved relaxation from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. every Friday at the Campus Community garden, near the intersection of Wheeler and Cullen. We will practice yoga in between the vegetable beds of the Campus Community Garden; engaging in smells, sounds, touch and poses of the natural world. This event is free, just remember to bring a towel or mat for yourself.

TIER ONE SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING

Green UH's Nancy Nguyen, Mary Myles and Jonas Chin have been visiting with administrative assistants throughout the university to share tips on how to live green with the new Tier One Sustainability Training. The training provides recycling tips, the operational recycling process on campus and creates a forum for discussion on living green. So far the team has spoken to administrative assistants in the divisions of Administration and Finance and Academic Affairs. The training will continue and if your department is interested in scheduling a sustainability training, please contact Nancy Nguyen at nnguyen11@uh.edu

**Want more information on Green
UH?**

Website: www.uh.edu/green

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Email: gogreenuh@gmail.com

Blog: uhsustainability.blogspot.com