

Sustainable Spotlight:

Rahil Shah



Rahil Shah is a graduate student studying Electrical Engineering and a research assistant for Green UH. He is in charge of collecting data and completing surveys for the Association for Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) on Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS).

Shah is also evaluates the progress report of green initiatives on-campus according to the Green Report Card rating system. With his dedication to sustainability, Shah helped UH receive an AASHE rating of Silver on its sustainability scale, as well as receiving a B+ on the Green Report Card.

Rahil is grateful to everyone that is a part of University Services and looks forward to the progress to come for green initiatives at UH.

“I am thankful to Emily Messa, Assistant VC/VP for University Services for giving me this opportunity to be a part of the sustainability team and for supporting me throughout this wonderful journey. In the end, I would also like to thank Jonas Chin, Sameer Kapileshwari, Dr. Lefer, Mike Nagy, Johnnie King and the whole University Services team,” said Shah.

News:

UH EARNS SILVER STARS RATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES



HOUSTON— Feb. 7 – UH gains ground in their quest to become a greener campus, earning a sustainability rating of silver using the AASHE STARS self-reporting tool. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) administers the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) which is a self-reporting tool for universities to publicly collect and report their sustainability performance.

UH registered as a charter participant in STARS program last semester and worked to collect data for many months in order to determine the rating. AASHE’s STARS acts as a guide for UH in reaching the next level of sustainability. Led by the efforts of the Sustainability Task Force, the university is able to recognize areas we have excelled in our sustainable efforts as well as areas where we can improve.

“The completion of UH’s STARS report is the culmination of years of work,” said Emily Messa, Assistant Vice President for University Services and campus sustainability officer. “Three years ago when we began our journey as a task force, we visualized the day when we would submit this report, a formal documentation of years of effort by many. Congratulations to the Task Force for their commitment and dedication. Also, my congratulations and thanks to Rahil Shah, our research assistant for dutifully documenting these efforts.”

Institutions report their achievements in three overall areas: Education and Research; Operations; and Planning, Administration and Engagement. UH earned a total score of 53.64 with its highest points in Planning, Administration and Engagement.

The silver rating is valid for three years with expectations that the university will make a good faith effort to maintain its status. AASHE’s STARS is open to all institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada. It can be used by both institutions with established sustainability initiatives looking for long-term goals as well as institutions taking their first steps toward going green.

-Lindsay Marshall, University Services Communications Coordinator

For more information on UH’s efforts for going green, visit www.uh.edu/green.

WINNER CHOSEN FOR GREEN UH T-SHIRT CONTEST

HOUSTON— Feb. 23 – Congratulations to David Delgado! Delgado created the winning design that will be displayed on the new Green UH t-shirts available for purchase at the UH Bookstore in April 2011. Along with the chance to showcase his work on the shirts, he also received a \$100 gift card to Barnes and Noble.

“I haven’t really won anything before therefore it feels a bit surreal to have won,” Delgado said. “It feels great to have my artwork appreciated and to have won something for it.”

The freshman business major said he felt the contest was a great opportunity to contribute to the Green UH organization and its cause. He said his family had each been involved in the arts at some point of their lives and grew up with art all around him.

The submissions were judged by the Sustainability Task Force and Delgado’s design came out on top. “Cougar Recycles a Can” will be shown in white print on a green Alta Gracia t-shirt available for purchase in sizes small to 2XL in time for Earth Day. Alta Gracia has committed to producing sweat-free apparel, providing workers with a sustainable standard of living and the opportunity to raise their families out of poverty.

Green UH hosted the contest to give students the opportunity to use their talent to promote the Green UH mission. All designs were required to meet specifications and incorporate the Green UH brand logo.

-Lindsay Marshall, University Services Communications Coordinator

To get involved and learn more about Green UH, visit www.uh.edu/green.



UH PARTICIPATES IN SUSTAINU’S “oneSHIRT National Collegiate Clothing Drive”

UH participated in a clothing drive on Feb. 21 and 23. Student residents were asked to help the less fortunate by leaving clothing in front of their doors that they wanted to donate. Volunteers picked up the clothing from the students, weighed and stored the clothes at UH to be shipped to several local Goodwill locations.

This is the first time that UH has ever cooperated with SustainU. SustainU is an American clothing company dedicated to promoting recycling and eco-friendly practices in the textile industry and to provide for those in need. The clothing drive was a great opportunity for students to reach out to community members.

For more information on SustainU’s clothing drive, visit: www.sustainuclimbing.com/one-shirt.

Or visit their main website at: www.sustainuclimbing.com.

METRO Q-CARD



Green UH hosted their annual Green Commuter Fair Feb. 8 and 9. Green UH signed up 194 students for Metro Q-cards. These students receive a 50 percent discount after showing a student ID. Every time they ride METRO buses, they will pay half of what other riders pay. Not only are they saving money, but they are reducing their carbon footprint as well!

Thank you to those who signed up for a Metro Q-card to make the UH and Houston a greener place!

GEORGIA'S TEXAS GRASS-FED BEEF

The CLASP Art & Agricultural Sustainability interns, Jackie Williams and Albert Sosa, two other UH students and two CLASP staff members, visited Waller farm Feb. 9. The purpose of the trip to Georgia's Texas Grass-fed Beef was to enhance our understanding of how animals fit into sustainable food systems.

One of the students, UH senior Alex Nguyen, reflected afterwards, "It was really interesting to learn how much effort goes into growing something so pure. The greenhouse was great and the vegetables we sampled really showed how much of a difference organic growth makes."

-Leah Wolfthal

COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMIT

CLASP is hosting a summit for universities who have community garden programs, or those interested in starting a program April 8 and 9. At the summit, CLASP will share best practices, solutions and answers to problems and questions and continue to encourage the community to learn about the program. Registration forms are due March 1 and the supplemental registration forms, which are not optional, are due March 11.

Information packet: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/profile.php?id=100001733434088>

Email: uhcampuscommunitygarden@gmail.com

GREEN UH TEAM'S HARD EFFORTS

The Green UH team has been working hard to encourage everyone on campus to recycle. Every Friday they spend time in front of the UC weighing organizations' recyclables for the on-campus Recycling Competition. Any team of four can register and compete to win \$150 in UH Catering Services credit. Bring your recycled materials Fridays to the UC, and they will weigh and record the results for your team. Green UH has also posted a video called "Love for Recycling", which was used for RecycleMania, a national recycling competition.

Register here: <http://www.uh.edu/af/recyclemania/competition.htm>

You-tube video: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UniServices>.

Drop-off Pictures: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=297371&id=134243949929>

Thank you to the Green UH team for working hard to make our campus greener!



Upcoming Events:

Recycling Drop-off

Every Friday in front of the UC from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a team of Green UH students helping different organizations to weigh their recyclable materials. These materials are weighed and recorded for our Recyclemania statistics. The more recyclable materials you bring, the closer we get to being the number one university for Recyclemania 2011!



Relaxation Garden Yoga

CLASP will provide will deserved relaxation from 11:45a.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.

Residential Raid

Green UH will be raiding residential buildings on campus from 6 to 7:30 p.m., March 2 at Moody Towers and from 7 to 9 p.m., March 8 at Cambridge Oaks to promote the importance of recycling and collect recyclable materials from their residence. Have your recycling ready!

RecycleMania Olympics

Join Green UH for fun and games at the RecycleMania Olympics from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 9 at Butler Plaza (in front of the library). Games such as horse shoe, tic-tac-toe toss, ring toss, tug of war and skee-ball will be set up for students, faculty, and staff to show off their skills. These games are made completely from recycled materials and if you rack up enough points you can win prizes! The elite "athletes" will also receive a medal! Join us to see how fun recycling can be!



Art of Recycling Contest

Demonstrate your artistic ability to recycle at the Art of Recycling Contest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 22 at the UC World Affairs Lounge. Don't forget recyclable materials such as bottles, milk jugs, magazines and cans; you can use any recyclable material. We will provide some materials just in case. Everyone is invited to come out to make any kind of art they want, as long as it is recyclable! The art submitted will be judged at a later date (TBA). The first through third place contestants will receive Best Buy gift cards. The winner receives \$75, second place receives \$50 and third place receives \$25.

Statistics from RecycleMania

UH began posting our recycled material results to the RecycleMania website on February 6. We need your support to accomplish our goals and become the number one university in the country in waste minimization, per capita classic, and be the grand champions of Recyclemania 2011! Keep recycling!

Week 1 (Feb. 6-12): We recycled 26.58 percent of all waste on campus. Our per capita is .57 pounds of recycled materials per person, and our waste minimization was 2.13 pounds per person.

Week 2 (Feb. 13-19): We recycled 13.56% of all wasted material on campus. Our per capita is .57 pounds of recycled materials per person, and our waste minimization was 4.17 pounds per person.

Keep in mind these numbers change often as we continue to receive more information.

Want more information on Green UH?

Website: www.uh.edu/green

[Facebook](#)

Email: gogreenuh@gmail.com