

# THE ECO MOSQUITO

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS AND EVENTS AT HSPH AND BEYOND

ISSUE 19, MARCH 2014

After successfully springing forward for Daylight Savings Time, most of us are getting a little more sunshine in our lives these days. That might explain the sense of optimism that's been in the air at HSPH lately. Or maybe it was that one 50 degree day we had...

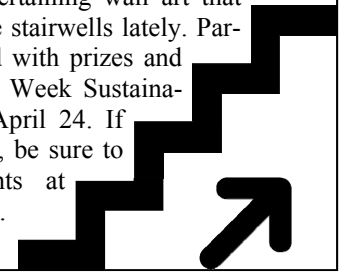
## Spring is On the Way, Says Calendar

Although there is very little physical evidence pointing to the fact that spring is in our near future, the calendar says that the long-awaited season officially begins with the spring equinox on March 20. How will you be celebrating the end of a long winter? Here at the Eco Mosquito, we plan to start our spring cleaning by giving our offices and labs the once-over, rounding up all unnecessary items, and bringing them down to the Green Room in the basement of Building 1 (just follow the signs!) While we're there, we're sure to find just the organizational doohickey we need in order to finally get our desks in order. And after all that cleaning, we're excited to get our hands dirty again by getting a start on spring gardening. Whether you're priming the ground for a home vegetable garden or just putting some herbs in a pot on the windowsill, it's good to get some green in your life. If you really want to be a gardener but don't have the space at home, you can always volunteer at the Countway Garden. That's right, our campus has its very own garden! It's right around the corner from the Countway Library and volunteers will soon begin preparing the garden for another beautiful season of abundant vegetables, flowers, and herbs. If you're interested in volunteering in the garden this spring or summer, just email Heather Cristiano at [heather\\_cristiano@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:heather_cristiano@hms.harvard.edu). See you out in the sunshine!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Many of your colleagues are going to be spending a lot more time in the stairwells over the next month, so prepare to see more healthy, flushed faces and svelte figures around the School. The annual Take the Stairs Campaign kicks off on March 19 and runs through April 18. During this time, teams of 4 or 5 will try to reach the goal of climbing 1,069 flights of stairs to simulate climbing the 16,024 feet to the top of Mount Puncak Jaya, the highest mountain in Indonesia. Even non-participants are encouraged to check out the entertaining wall art that has been popping up in the stairwells lately. Participants will be celebrated with prizes and raffles at the annual Earth Week Sustainability Fair on Thursday, April 24. If you're one of the climbers, be sure to keep logging your flights at [www.hsph.me/takethestairs](http://www.hsph.me/takethestairs). Happy climbing!



## Do Revolving Doors Really Save Energy?

We know that large buildings like those at HSPH use a lot of energy (and money!) to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. And it's logical that differences in air pressure cause air to flow in and out of buildings through open doors. But are revolving doors really the answer? Luckily, our neighbors at MIT are on the case! In 2006, a study was conducted on a campus building which showed that the swinging door allowed up to eight times more air flow than the revolving door. On top of that, just 23% of visitors used the revolving doors. By extrapolating this data and applying average Boston weather to their equations, the MIT team found a 74% savings in annual energy consumption if everyone used the revolving doors, which translates to 14.6 tons of savings on carbon dioxide emissions per year. So we know revolving doors save money and energy, but the fact remains that most people go through swinging doors when given the choice. We can only imagine that the occasional barely-budging, in-need-of-grease revolving door is to blame. So next time you are presented with the choice, go for a spin!



## DON'T MISS THIS

Remember that the **Green Room** is open to all Harvard Longwood employees **Monday through Friday** from **7:30am-4:30pm**. The Green Room is in the basement and can be easily accessed through Building 1 by just following the signs. Lots of great office supplies are available and lab supplies are always welcomed!



Come one, come all to the March **Sustainability Speaker Series** to see Heather Henriksen, Director of Harvard's Office for Sustainability, present "Acting On Our Accountability to the Future" on Tuesday, **March 25** from 12:30-1:30pm in Kresge 502. Save the date for Doug Dockery's talk at lunchtime on Wednesday, **April 23**.

We hope to see you all at the **Centennial Earth Week Celebration** from **April 22-25** at events all around the Longwood Campus. More details to come!

