

THE ECO MOSQUITO

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS AND EVENTS AT HSPH AND BEYOND

ISSUE 3, OCTOBER 2012

Here we are in October, arguably New England's most beautiful month. As Robert Frost reminds us, "nothing gold can stay." So get outside as often as possible to enjoy autumn and get that vitamin D before it's too late!

Green is the New Crimson



We all know that Harvard is a cutting edge place full of big dreamers, right? Then you may not be surprised to hear that we're also one of the leading "green universities" in the world. For that distinction, we can thank the Harvard Office for Sustainability (OFS). Since 2008, Harvard has shown its dedication to

the environment by devoting a central office to making Harvard a greener place to work, study, and live. You can look around and see the effects everywhere, from composting in cafeterias to student grant programs to big green events. With the creation of OFS, Harvard adopted a lofty goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30% below a 2006 baseline by 2016, including growth. Since then, the campus has become a living laboratory in the search for innovative and cost-effective solutions. So how are we doing so far? From Fiscal Year 2006 to Fiscal Year 2011 Harvard experienced a 7% decline in the University's overall greenhouse gas emissions, including growth of approximately 3 million square feet, with a 18% decline in emissions if growth is excluded. Find out more about projects and opportunities at www.green.harvard.edu.

Sustainability Smackdown 2012

Unfortunately, neither candidate had a section devoted solely to the environment on their respective campaign websites, but we took a look at each of their proposed energy policies to fill you in on where they stand.



- Increase natural gas production
- Save 12 billion barrels of oil by doubling automobile fuel efficiency standards
- Increase oil production by opening up 75% of our oil and gas resources in the Gulf and Arctic
- Continue US growth of clean energy by increasing production of wind and solar energy
- Pave the way for clean coal



- Allow states to control all forms of energy production
- Open onshore and offshore areas for oil drilling
- Approve the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline to be extended from Canada to Texas
- Reform environmental laws and regulations to facilitate development
- Facilitate private-sector-led development of new energy technologies

DID YOU KNOW?

The Natural Resources Defense Council recently published a paper highlighting the problem of food waste in the US. Apparently 40% of our food ends up being thrown away. That's 20 pounds per person per month! Pretty scary, considering that, according to the NRDC, "getting food to our tables eats up 10% of the total U.S. energy budget, uses 50% of U.S. land, and swallows 80% of freshwater consumed in the United States." Read the paper at www.nrdc.org.



GREEN TIPSTER

It's not necessary to wash clothes in hot water and it can even damage them. Most of the energy used in laundry goes towards heating water, so use cold or warm water to save money and the environment. Also, rip your dryer sheets in half. You'll get the same soft and static-free results and your box will last twice as long!

DON'T MISS THIS!

Free **BIKERS' BREAKFAST**! Roll into the Kresge Courtyard between 8-9:30 AM on Monday, **October 22** and show us your bike helmet to receive a free breakfast from the Harvard Longwood Bicyclists. Apparently they want to help you replace some of those calories you burned on your way over...

Then join the conversation with a **BIKESTORM** (brainstorming for bikers). Discuss priorities and projects with the Harvard Longwood Bicyclists on Tuesday, **October 23**, from 12:30-1:30 PM in Kresge 502.



Hey! Yeah, we're looking at you. Join the **GREEN TEAM** and share your ideas about how to make HSPH a more sustainable place. Our next meetings are Thursday, **October 25** from 11-12 in FXB G03 and Wednesday, **November 28** from 11-12 in Kresge 209. We heard there would be snacks!