

mission green™

FAU



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Earth Week—Focus the Nation

On Saturday, April 18, FAU, in partnership with Lynn University, PBCC and the City of Boca Raton, hosted “Focus the Nation: South Florida’s Energy Future,” a community town hall meeting that is part of a nationwide forum intended to advocate policy change for “America’s clean and just energy future.”

Approximately 200 people attended the event which opened with endorsements from political leaders and the presidents of FAU, Lynn University and PBCC.

This was followed by a discussion among business leaders, educators and student representatives well versed in the topic of sustainability.



Focus the Nation panel of speakers

The symposium provided a venue for the panelists and the audience to discuss the development of common strategies for reducing the local community’s ecological

footprint, promoting sustainability projects, learning about renewable energy within the local area, and exploring green careers.

It was followed by an exhibition of “green” businesses, where private exhibitors showcased products and services that provide innovative solutions to issues of climate change and renewable energy as well as opportunities offered by the new economy. Faculty and student groups displayed research and academic projects promoting sustainability.

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Earth Week—A New Look

In celebration of Earth Week, April 19 - 25, two groups made it their mission to add an invaluable resource to the FAU landscape.

On April 22, the Mission Green Student Association (MGSA) hosted a live oak tree-planting ceremony on the Boca Raton campus Free Speech Lawn.

The Jupiter campus’ Housing and Residential Life stu-

dents organized a “Courtyard Beautification” project on April 19 and eight trees, donated by the Hans Reiter Exotic Plant Nursery of Plantation, FL., were planted in the courtyard that serves the two Jupiter residential housing units. These tree plantings replaced those lost during past tropical storms and hurricanes.

The residential students also undertook trash pick-

up and repainting seating areas as part of the beautification project.



Newly planted tree in residential housing courtyard - Jupiter campus



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Making a Campus Sustainable: Mission Green Student Association (MGSA)

FAU's Mission Green Student Association is more than just a club; it is a lifestyle for many students. It started when Alexander Van Mecl enrolled at FAU and decided that the Mission Green initiative needed to have more robust participation from the student body.

Shortly after, with support from the Campus Sustainability Committee, the club's constitution was drafted and the Mission Green Student Association (MGSA) was born.

The first official meeting, held last February, attracted approximately 35 students and a week later, elections were held to fill leadership roles. Since then the MSGA has been working to mobilize students and educate the FAU community regarding the club and its goals.

MGSA has undertaken many projects that have fostered team building and community outreach. These include beach clean-up and participating in events such as Move It Out, Don't Throw It Out, Focus the Nation and Earth Day. By hosting FAU's first an-

nual Earth Week, MGSA officers have recruited new members and currently the MGSA Facebook group has welcomed over 300 members.

On April 22, MGSA hosted a tree-planting ceremony on the Boca Raton campus during which a live oak tree was planted on the Free Speech Lawn with a commemorative plaque quoting Dr. Suess's "The Lorax" affixed to the base. The selection, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." underscores the need for participation from all.

The MGSA's efforts in promoting sustainability have caught the eye of the University community and as such have been rewarded with the titles of Best New Club, Best President and Best Overall Member. This level of recognition has spurred the organization to continue its mission of team building and student outreach.

The MGSA understands that involving students of all backgrounds and interests is the only way to be truly effective in achieving a sustainable campus. As

such, the organization welcomes all; from the business major who wishes to start a green-oriented company to the arts major who exhibits love of the earth through artistic expression.

With an ever-growing membership and strategic plans for the coming years, the MSGA will undoubtedly achieve unprecedented success.

Going green? This mission seems more than possible!

To join, e-mail

avanmec@fau.edu

MGSA Leadership:

President: Alexander Van Mecl

Vice President: Ayden Maher

Chief of Staff: Erica Mooney

Secretary: Eric Kolifrath

Alicia Trimarco

Public Information Officer: Sloan Davis

Sub-Committees:

Creative Services

Event Planning

Public Education

Making a Campus Sustainable: Involving Decision-Makers!

On April 15, the Board of Trustees (BOT) welcomed a presentation on the University's Mission Green campaign. The presentation highlighted areas of the built environment, operations, business practices, housing and academics.

Current sustainability initiatives and projects undertaken by various FAU units were presented by the vice president and assistant vice president of the Division of Facilities.

Alex Van Mecl, President of the

MGSA, showcased the commitment by the student body in creating a sustainable campus when he spoke of the efforts, goals and ambitions of the MGSA.

The BOT members, enthused by the presentation, commended those involved, especially the MGSA and Alex Van Mecl, for the student group's dedication, and his leadership and passion.

By creating and maintaining strong working relationships with key deci-

sion makers, such as the BOT, more support, consideration and action can be garnered to achieve a sustainable FAU.

Everyone has a stake in achieving a sustainable FAU!



Making a Campus Sustainable: Sun Technology

In 2007, as a final assignment based on the sustainable campus concept, students of FAU's School of Urban and Regional Planning proposed a solar panel project for the Fort Lauderdale campus.

The proposal caught the attention of Dr. Jaap Vos, the school's director. With contributions from FAU, FPL, the State of Florida and a private donor, the project materialized on February 18, 2009, as a solar roof on the 12 story Higher Education Complex

building.

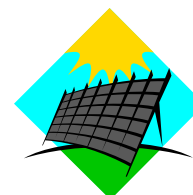
The benefits of this project include decreasing the building's energy demand from non-renewable energy sources (such as coal and oil) by capturing the sun's energy while proportionately reducing the by-products (mainly carbon dioxide) created by using these non-renewable sources.

Saving energy equates to saving money and a portion of this financial advantage will be funneled to a newly

created scholarship fund, Sun Fund, believed to be the first of its kind.

This project will serve as a model for projects within the University as well as for businesses and organizations at the local, regional and national levels.

Visit www.fau.edu/broward/sustain



Making a Campus Sustainable: Move It Out, Don't Throw It Out

Every year, several tons of reusable items end up in the garbage and eventually in landfills.

FAU is not immune to the practice of discarding "good" items and this is most prevalent when residential students vacate their dorm rooms at the end of the academic year.

Due to the collaborative efforts of both the MGSA and the Department

of Housing and Residential Services, the mindset of residential students towards engaging in this wasteful practice is changing.

The Move It Out, Don't Throw It Out campaign, has successfully curtailed this habit by providing a means to eas-

ily collect unwanted items, donate them to charities in an organized fashion and educate residential students on the benefits of such a program.

Through this process students also gain a sense of community involvement.

Televisions, Microwave Ovens, Refrigerators, Furniture, Clothing.

Making a Campus Sustainable: Try Rail

With gas prices sky-rocketing coupled with the nationwide economic downturn, the number of people using public transportation to and from work has increased. As a result in an effort to facilitate the convenience of such a service, FAU has increased the availability of direct shuttle service to/from the Boca Raton Tri-Rail station.

The result was a near tripling of Tri-Rail commuters to the Boca Raton campus, thus making the program a

highly successful one.

Tri-Rail allows bicycles on board and by using the newly completed El Rio Trail expansion that links the station directly to the Boca Raton campus, you can pedal to work. The trail, a mere one-and-a-quarter miles long, has great sights providing a connection to nature while exercising. Walking the trail from the station to campus and back is another option.

If you choose to ride in air-conditioned

comfort instead, then simply use bus route #94 that services the Yamato Road Tri-Rail station and comes directly to campus, stopping outside PBCC facilities and the FAU Administration building.

Never experienced it?
Pick a day and try rail.

Visit
www.get2fau.com



Making a Campus Sustainable: Green Printing and Advertising

Green printing involves using less toxic products or products that have a reduced carbon footprint and recycled products for printing purposes. By adopting paperless processes, there is decreased consumption of non-renewable resources.

The Division of University Communications and Marketing has become a champion of the concept by using:

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) - certified paper
- Recycled poster materials

• Eco-friendly inks and substrates
Other practices and projects have significantly reduced the division's need for paper printing such as:

- Developing reusable, generic parking and campus directional signs
- Encouraging the purchase of multi-use signs and banners
- Using e-mail to disseminate information, calendar releases, press releases and media advisories and, when possible, press kits.

In addition, the division supports the Mission Green initiative through the design of the logo, the posters, web graphics and video. Through press releases and articles, the division advertises and promotes the committee's efforts.

PRINT GREEN!



Making a Campus Sustainable: Community Engagement



Campus Sustainability Day
(October 21)

MGSA Dance Competition
(November 19)

Campus Clean-Up Day
Green Product Workshops
Move-In Day (Housing)
Move-Out Day (Housing)

[www.fau.edu/
missiongreen](http://www.fau.edu/missiongreen)

Making a Campus Sustainable: Make It Your Mission

Make your life Green:

Change to compact fluorescent bulbs
Take shorter showers
Ride the bus or train
Don't take what you can't eat
Donate items, don't throw out
Walk or ride your bike
Raise thermostat when not at home

Turn off lights
Turn off computer
Carpool
Plant a garden
Plant a tree
Recycle
Turn off ceiling fans

**Looking
For a
Few
Good
Greenies!**



**E-mail missiongreen@fau.edu
to join!**

Most importantly: **VOLUNTEER!**

We will create a culture of sustainability at Florida Atlantic University, in which the entire FAU community is aware of, involved with and committed to advancing sustainability through education operations and community engagement.

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To submit articles for this project, send to :

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Making a Campus Sustainable: Sustainability Committee

Co-Chairs:

Azita Dashtaki
Shannon Clounts

Sub-Committees:

Academics and Research
Chair: Dr. Tobin Hindle

Housing

Co-Chairs: Larry Faerman
Jill Eckardt

Purchasing

Chair: Steve Saposnik

Dining Services

Chair: Stacy Volnick

Transportation

Chair: Jill Rosen

Facilities and Operations

Chair: Lyn Forster

Community Engagement

Chair: John Hardman

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