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.

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.

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 students 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.
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 Mission Green Student Association (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 decision 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 easily 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.

Visit www.fau.edu/broward/sustain

Television, 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
- 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

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

Most importantly: VOLUNTEER!

Looking For a Few Good Greenies!

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

Visit us at
www.fau.edu/missiongreen

To submit articles for this project, send to:
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Making a Campus Sustainable:
Sustainability Committee

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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
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Facilities and Operations
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