

WALTON OUTREACH

APPLIED SUSTAINABILITY CENTER



“We made this decision because it was the right thing to do. It saves the environment; it saves us money. It improves quality of life, and it improves our image as a leader in our state. We really couldn’t afford not to do it.”

-Carlos Ochoa, Interim Director

UA Office for Campus Sustainability

An Energy Efficiency Success Story:

The University of Arkansas

Project Overview:

The University of Arkansas is leading the state of Arkansas into an era of sustainable resource use, sustainable community living, and a sustainable economy. The U of A applied energy conservation and energy efficiency technologies to campus buildings. They have installed innovative boiler and chiller systems at the central plant and upgraded lighting with LED and compact fluorescent lamps all over campus, inside and out. The U of A is committed to designing and building state-of-the-art, LEED certified buildings. The University is continuously working to integrate water conservation, energy conservation, recycling, healthy living, strong social connections and socially just relationships into every facility and every program on campus.

Sustainability does not stop with facilities. The University of Arkansas is developing an ethos of sustainability in academic units and administrative units across campus. Class syllabi, curriculum committees, green teams, student organizations, and research programs are all working to

move the University toward sustainability.

Daily habits on campus are becoming more sustainable. Over the past seven years, UA has improved their recycling diversion rate from 25% to 32%, reduced waste sent to the landfill by 10% per student, reduced building energy use—both per square foot of building space and per student, doubled the number of bike loops on campus, and invested over \$15 million on campus in energy conservation and efficiency. Recently, an additional \$23 million of energy and water conservation improvements were installed in buildings across campus. With over 25 current projects and minimum guaranteed savings of \$2.2 million a year per the ESPCs (Energy Saving Performance Contracts), the University of Arkansas is well on their way in understanding energy efficiency and renewable energy and how easy it is to reap the rewards.

Strategies for Success

- Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) were the first step towards mitigating greenhouse gas levels to the 2008 level for Scope I, as outlined in the 2009 Climate Action Plan. The ESPCs are a \$52 million dollar investment based on efficiency of existing buildings. The energy performance agreement guarantees that energy savings over a 13-year period will cover the cost of building improvements. Energy Systems Group, the contractor who implemented the renovations in 56 buildings across campus, guarantees that the University's total annual energy consumption on campus will decrease by 30 percent.



- Renovations include the installation of more efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, water conservation equipment, and installation of a solar powered heater for the swimming pool in the Health Physical Education and Recreation building. A total of 210 individual projects have been completed since the summer of 2009. The total annual savings are estimated by the University of Arkansas to be \$3.5 million dollars and avoids 28,957.23 MT CO₂e per year.



- The bio-diesel initiative began in February of 2008. It is a partnership between Chartwells and the Division of Agriculture. The diverted oil is used for the production of biodiesel, which fuels farm equipment on-site at the University of Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences Farm. The project avoids approximately 32 MTCDE (Metric Tons Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) and diverts nearly 3,000 gallons of vegetable oil from the landfill each year.



- GO! Green Outreach* quarterly newsletter is published by the Division of University Advancement for the campus to highlight sustainability news and information and to introduce colleagues who are incorporating sustainability into every day life.

Find out more at:

<http://sustainability.uark.edu/GO-Summer2012.pdf>

Follow the University of Arkansas Campus Sustainability blog:

<http://wordpress.uark.edu/uaocs/>

GO! Green Outreach
SHARING KNOWLEDGE OF GREEN EFFORTS AND NEWS WITH THE PEOPLE OF CAMPUS
SUMMER 2012

Changing How We Choose Hotels

Would you prefer to stay in a hotel that took steps to be "greener"? If you said "yes," then the University of Arkansas recently has taken a big step towards being greener. Our Green Outreach initiative has been successful in convincing every day you save the amount of water...

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Do you have story ideas or submissions for the next issue of GO? Contact Dawnita Brinkland at dawnita@uaocsa.edu