VISION FOR GAIA, 2012-13

GREEN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATIVE ACTION (GAIA)

Role of GAIA

As an umbrella group, GAIA will continue to endorse a unified vision for the member groups in the realm of sustainability. It is also important, however, for the coalition to recognize the unique mission of each group. Students unfamiliar with the sustainability groups often question the need for multiple sustainability groups. Some believe that there is too much overlap and that groups should be combined. For those who have been a student leader of a GAIA member group, the different roles of the sustainability student groups are clear. Each group has a special niche in sustainability at Stanford and in the surrounding community and it is important that GAIA supports and preserves the mission and goals of each group.

GAIA will help facilitate communication among groups so that student leaders are aware of all other sustainability efforts and events. Rather than combining programming of different groups, GAIA can help to spark discussion between student leaders on organizing related events into a single venue so that both groups can gain larger audiences (if that is a common goal). Given our common interest in sustainability, GAIA will also serve to tie together the community of student group leaders. Hopefully, these connections will expand beyond sustainability initiatives into interactions around campus and in classes. Building a stronger community will encourage more collaboration and communication between the groups.

Aside from spurring collaboration on sustainability initiatives, GAIA will act as a representative of student sustainability at Stanford and communicate the common needs of the member groups. Additionally, GAIA will take the lead on bringing campus-wide events into reality, as when the organization was first founded in the year of Steven Chu's talk at Stanford and FutureFest.

Given this vision, GAIA will serve these primary roles:

a) **Support and promote the unique role and mission of each member group.** Exhibit these differences to other students at sustainability events, whether those hosted by the Office of Sustainability (e.g., the Sustainable Student Welcome in the Y2E2 Courtyard this past year) or by GAIA and student group hosted events (e.g., a sustainability fair like FutureFest and Vision Earth).

b) **Expand GAIA's member base.** There still remain sustainability student groups that are not member groups of GAIA. These groups have their own initiatives and valuable connections. By including them as member groups of GAIA, there will be more opportunities for collaboration and a greater outreach base. Furthermore, more events can be united for greater audiences rather than having separate events that may pull attendees from one another.

c) **Facilitate collaboration and communication between member groups.** It is important for the member group leaders to get know each other and easily reach out to other groups. GAIA will serve to highlight opportunities for collaboration, such as bundling events into one venue or theme, and combining outreach and publicity efforts. To aid these efforts, a sustainability calendar will be created and shared as a tool for the member group leaders.

d) **Represent the member groups and relay common visions and needs.** GAIA will serve as a representative for the member groups when communicating with the ASSU Sustainability Chair and Office of Sustainability, as well as other relevant contacts and entities within, and potentially outside of Stanford. The GAIA Chair will meet with these contacts on a regular basis.

e) **Lead and coordinate efforts of large campus-wide events.** Each member group has a significant number of sustainability initiatives and much to handle. Rather than placing additional responsibilities on any member group to take the lead on large campus-wide events such as a recognized speaker event or sustainability fair, GAIA will work closely with the ASSU Sustainability Chair and be point on the overall planning and logistics.

Timeline: Events & Deliverables

Autumn Quarter

Forum and Mixer, First GAIA Meeting

Second GAIA Meeting

Speaker Event Ideas

Sustainability Fair Ideas

Sustainability Student Welcome (OoS event)

Autumn GAIA Newsletter

Winter Quarter

First GAIA Meeting

Second GAIA Meeting

Speaker Event Planning

Sustainability Fair Planning

Social Event/ Service Activity

Winter GAIA Newsletter

Spring Quarter

First GAIA Meeting

Second GAIA Meeting

Speaker Event and Sustainability Fair Meetings, as necessary

Speaker Event

Sustainability Fair (around Earth Day)

GAIA ASSU Election Endorsements

Spring GAIA Newsletter