

# Cardinal Green

*The Sustainable Stanford Newsletter*

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Call for submission or comments due at the end of the month for publication in the following month.

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## In This Issue

Welcome to Cardinal Green's academic year end issue. We have great news on special programs that show promise for the whole campus and outstanding people who remind us of Stanford's excellence. We were particularly excited about the April 14, 2009 sustainability event where Denis Hayes '69 reminded us of the importance of student engagement. This spring quarter our office has invested in better understanding student needs and employing their talent, and the results have started to show. As the academic year ends we thank all of you for the partnership and support that continues to strengthen our programs. Enjoy the issue.

Fahmida Ahmed

Manager, Stanford Sustainability Programs

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## Stanford Commencement Weekend Goes Green

As one of the largest of the "Big Five" events at Stanford, Commencement Weekend attracts thousands of people to campus each year. A leader in campus sustainability planning and action, Stanford is committed to achieving sustainability in event planning. Stanford Events, Sustainable Stanford, Building and Grounds Maintenance, PSSI, Event and Labor Services, and the academic departments and programs at Stanford are working



*Stanford commencement ceremony*

to integrate "green" practices into every step of the planning and implementation of the weekend's celebrations. Efforts towards green commencement activities include: minimizing print materials, event decoration that can be reused every year, utilizing local caterers who specialize in "green" practices, publishing weekend activities information online available for PDA download, and additional efforts to use compostable and recyclable materials for waste and recycling.

For more information on the green initiative, visit the Commencement website at <http://commencement.stanford.edu/green/>. For additional information on campus-wide initiatives, contact Fahmida Ahmed, Sustainability Programs Manager, at 725-1518 or [fahmida@stanford.edu](mailto:fahmida@stanford.edu).

# Earth Day Pioneer Urges Students to Make A Difference

Stanford's own Denis Hayes, National Coordinator of the first Earth Day, delivered the keynote on why he coordinated the first Earth Day and shared his thoughts on how young leaders can address the key challenges that face us all.



He spoke at a Sustainability at Stanford Festival on April 14, at Meyer Lawn, an outdoor venue bordered by the Stanford Bookstore, Barnum Center and Meyer Library.

Hayes, who served as National Coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970, is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bullitt Foundation, which advocates for environmental protection and sustainability practices in the Pacific Northwest. He also directed the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in President Jimmy Carter's administration.

The event is sponsored by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford, Sustainable Stanford, and Students for a Sustainable Stanford.

For details about the April 14 event, visit <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2009/april8/sustainability-festival-denis-hayes-040809.html>. The program video can be found at <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2009/april8/videos/497.html>

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## Stanford Celebrates Earth Day at Greenfest

On April 22, the Stanford Community celebrated Earth Day at White Plaza, at an event appropriately named "Greenfest". The festivities were coordinated by Students for a Sustainable Stanford members Molly Oshun ('10) and Alex Luisi ('11). A mixture of "interactive" tablers included a drinking water taste test (Utilities Division), "pin where you live" map and color to match the mode of transportation used to commute (Parking & Transportation Services), smoothie-making blender bike (courtesy of Rock the Bike in Berkeley and ingredients provided by Jamba Juice), and Stanford's very own produce stand.

Greenfest also set the stage for AF&PA to present to Stanford the recycling award, which was accepted by Julie Muir (PSSI) and Ted Tucholski (Grounds Services Manager).

*story continued on page 3*

## A Student's Guide to Sustainable Living

Sustainable Stanford has produced a new booklet titled "A Student's Guide to Sustainable Living at



*SEM student intern Heather Benz*

Stanford". Heather Benz ('10), an intern with Sustainable Stanford, is the lead author. The guide is a collaborative effort between students, faculty, and staff from many departments across Stanford's campus.

It provides practical tips for students to reduce their environmental impact, as well as giving information about Stanford's current sustainability efforts. The guide will be emailed to class of 2013 incoming freshmen in an electronic format as part of their *Approaching Stanford* materials. It will also be available on the Sustainable Stanford website in Fall 2009, with a limited print run.

## Cardinal Green Tip: Summer Energy Use

Going on vacation this summer? Don't forget to let your computer go on vacation, too. Before you leave, make sure your computer, monitor, printer and other peripherals are turned off. If you leave



your computer on, with the screensaver running and printer in stand-by mode, that uses over 120 watts, which translates into greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. If you've got everything plugged into a power strip, just turn off the power strip before you leave. Save energy, save money, and help save the atmosphere

Continued from page 2 — Stanford Celebrates Earth Day at Greenfest

Students played the lead role in organizing the Greenfest week.

"I think Greenfest has demonstrated the awesome power of coalition building", says Molly Oshun, Stanford student and Greenfest organizer, "Through collaboration with numerous student and staff groups, SSS was able to generate enough funding and student support to bring Majora Carter and Denis Hayes to campus, host our first ever Sustainable Fashion Show, and build our passion for activism at Sunday's workshop."

Visit the SSS website for more information: <http://sustainability.stanford.edu/>.

Congratulations Students for a Sustainable Stanford on a successful event!



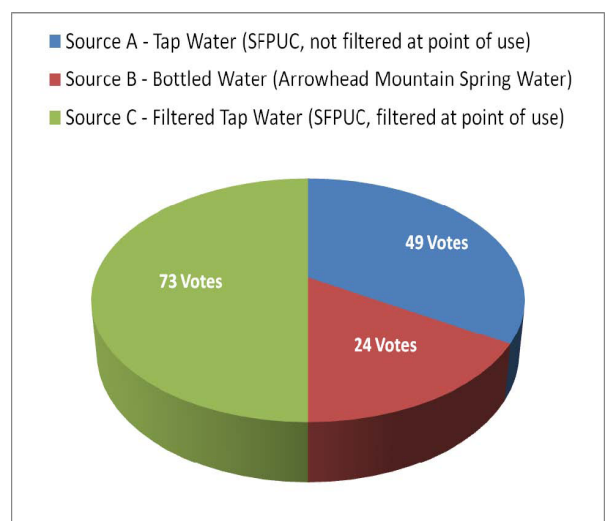
Julie Muir (left) and Ted Tucholski (right) accepting the AF&PA Award presented by Jim Howell (middle), Smurfit Recycling's West Area procurement manager.

## Drinking Water Taste Test at Greenfest

During the Greenfest event, the Utilities Division featured a water taste test. Three unmarked containers were offered that contained drinking water from three different water sources: SFPUC filtered tap water, SFPUC tap water, and bottled water. Participants were asked to taste each one individually, mark their favorite, and write "tasting" notes for their own reference. A total of 146 participants completed the taste test. When the results were tabulated, the SFPUC filtered tap water was clearly the favorite (see graph).

The taste test event highlighted the differences in water quality, costs between tap and bottled water, and environmental impact.

For more information about the results of the taste test or about the water conservation program on campus, contact Adam Kern, Utilities Environmental Engineer, at (650)736-1946 or [akern@stanford.edu](mailto:akern@stanford.edu)



Water taste test results. Source: Utilities Division

# Produce Stand Re-Opens for 2009

On April 3, 2009, the Stanford Produce Stand re-opened to the Stanford community for its third year. The Produce Stand, a student-run operation sponsored by Stanford Dining, operates every Friday from 11 am to 3 pm during the Spring, Summer, and Fall quarters and is located in the front courtyard at Tressider Union. The idea of the produce stand is to provide affordable, local and organic food to the Stanford community and to educate the community about the importance of local foods available on campus.



Produce Stand on opening day



“It is a great opportunity to educate and connect with the Stanford community about the dining hall gardens and other sustainable food programs within Stanford Dining and Stanford Hospitality & Auxiliaries,” says Erin Gaines, Sustainable Foods Coordinator with Stanford Dining and Stanford Hospitality. “It provides ‘a student face’ to our outreach programs.”

For additional information about the produce stand or for answers to questions about the programs mentioned above, visit the produce stand website at:

[http://www.stanford.edu/dept/rde/dining/produce\\_stand](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/rde/dining/produce_stand).

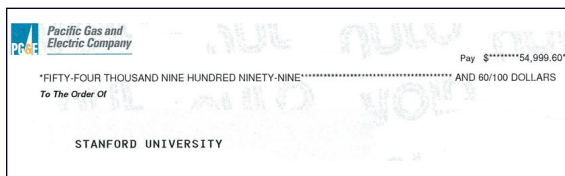
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## Stanford Receives \$55k Rebate from PG&E

Thanks to the technology of Big Fix Power Management, and the participation of dozens of schools & departments, monitors across campus are being set to turn off after 15 minutes. In addition to saving energy, Stanford received a \$54,999 energy-saving rebate from PG&E earlier this year. The funds will soon be distributed proportionately to 33 schools & departments based on how many Big Fix Power Management clients deployed.

The highest rebate went to the School of Medicine, who received \$28,991 for the 4,149 power management clients they had deployed as of December 2008. GSB received \$6371, Land and Buildings \$3347, Alumni Center \$2,648, and IT Services \$2424. Those receiving the rebates are being encouraged to apply the funds to other green IT efforts, such as purchasing Smart Strips to reduce phantom power or replacing CRTs with flat-panel monitors.



Copy of PG&E rebate check

Six months later, 2000 additional computers have enabled Big Fix Power Management, bringing our total to 9,967 on campus. As departments are becoming more comfortable with the service, we are seeing schools and departments use Big Fix Power Management to put computers to sleep in addition to turning off monitors. SULAIR and the Law School have led the way with putting computers to sleep when they are idle.

For more information about Big Fix, contact Joyce Dickerson, Director of Sustainable IT, at 723-8254 or [jdickerson@stanford.edu](mailto:jdickerson@stanford.edu).

# Sprocket Man Visits Stanford Children’s Center

Sprocket Man, the masked crusader for bicycle safety and mascot for Stanford’s Parking and Transportation Services, paid a visit to the Children’s Center of the Stanford Community on March 18.



Daycare children received bike safety gift bags delivered by Sprocket Man

The caped hero (played by student Jordan Knox (‘10)) towered over the 4- and 5-year-olds as he handed out bike bags and reflective pant-leg straps.

Sprocket Man provided age-appropriate safety tips, such as wearing shoes, making sure the laces are tied, and always riding with a guardian.

For more information about the bike safety program on campus, contact Ariadne Scott, Bicycle Program Coordinator at 725-2453 or [adscott@stanford.edu](mailto:adscott@stanford.edu).

# Sustainability at Stanford Featured on Local TV Channel KTSF

Every Monday, KTSF News (Channel 26) features a Green Report produced by Jessie Liang, whose main focus is environmental pollution and global warming issues. During Spring quarter, KTSF completed a series of interviews at Stanford Campus covering different areas of sustainability efforts at Stanford. Thanks to the many participants who provided interviews, Jessie Liang and her news crew were able to cover six topics, including alternative transportation, green dining, and Jasper Ridge. The news reports, aired in Cantonese and Mandarin (links listed below). For the full series information, contact Fahmida Ahmed at [fahmida@stanford.edu](mailto:fahmida@stanford.edu).



KTSF Reporter Jessie Liang

Topic	Link
The Natural Project in China	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m033009c.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m033009c.flv</a>
Alternative Transportation	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m042709c.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m042709c.flv</a>
Green Dining	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m050409b.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m050409b.flv</a>
Sustainability at Stanford - Denis Hayes Event	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m042009a.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=2&amp;clip=m042009a.flv</a>
Jasper Ridge	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m051109b.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m051109b.flv</a>
Sustainability Education at Stanford	<a href="http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m051809a.flv">http://www.ktsf.com/share/news/KTSF_Video_Player.asp?playMode=3&amp;clip=m051809a.flv</a>

# Building Level Sustainability at Stanford: Green 170 — An Inspiring Success

In Spring 2009, SWG member Tom Fenner partnered with the Office of Sustainability to initiate a pilot project to assess and quantify the potential benefits of individual actions on resource conservation at a building level. He became the lead volunteer for the Green 170 pilot project for Building 170 and inspired representatives from various departments in that building to join him in the pilot. Building 170 is a four-floor administrative office building in Stanford's Main Quad (01-170). It is home to Public Affairs, the Provost's Budget and Faculty Affairs offices, and the Office of the General Counsel. The pilot program consisted of a combination of desktop power management, smart power strips, timers, decommissioning unnecessary equipment, and turning off unneeded lighting to reduce the building's electricity consumption by over 20% during a three-month period with an estimated return on investment of less than a year.



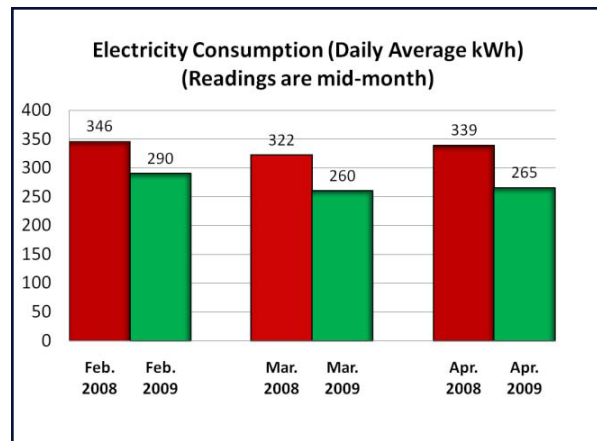
Green Building 170 Coordinator Tom Fenner demonstrating timer use in a supplemental computer station located in Bldg 170 kitchen

## Result Highlights

- In a month-to-month comparison with 2008 data, Building 170's 2009 electricity consumption during the pilot period showed a 16% reduction in February, a 19% reduction in March, and a 22% reduction in April.
- Adjusted for other trends in the building's electricity consumption, return of the relatively modest investment involved in the pilot (for smart strips and timers) is estimated to be less than a year.

This inaugural pilot's success and best practices have inspired additional pilots to be conducted in other buildings this Summer and Fall. The process that was followed for Green 170 also informed a campus-wide Green Building Program/Rating System for Existing Buildings in planning right now. The pilot has shown that meaningful conservation by occupants is possible and that the results help the bottom line as well as complement building-level efficiency improvements.

If you are interested in conducting a pilot, please contact Fahmida Ahmed at [fahmida@stanford.edu](mailto:fahmida@stanford.edu) for process and training arrangements.



Green Building 170 graph showing energy savings February 2008 through April 2009