



The SLO Green Scene

SLO GREEN BUILD'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
+ 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

Spring 2008

Green Build Events & Meetings:

May 15, 2008, 5-7PM MAY PEER REVIEW

LOCATION: Ludwick Comm. Center, Room "A",
864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo
CONTACT: peer-review@slogreenbuild.org
(PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AT
LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE)

May 16, 2008, 12PM LEED RESOURCE GROUP

LOCATION: RRM Design Group, 3765 South
Higuera Street, Suite 2, SLO
CONTACT: Andy Pease @805.235.6355 or
e-mail: andy@slogreen.com
(YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR LUNCH)

May 21, 2008, 6:30PM SLOGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOCATION: Air Pollution Control District
Conference Room, 3433 Roberto Ct, SLO
CONTACT: Roger Pankratz @ 805.286.0072

June 4, 2008, 6:30PM LEARN-BUILD-SAVE (SLO)- Educational Series: "Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels"

with John Ewan, Pacific Energy Company
& Jeremy Howard, Pacific Gas & Electric
Company

LOCATION: Ludwick Comm. Center, Room "A",
864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo
CONTACT: Jessica Steely @805.466.6737
x203 or jessicas@semmesco.com

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Send your events to: Events@SLOGreenBuild.org

Greening up the Blue and Gold; Erasing UCSB's Big Carbon Footprint

By Elizabeth Werhane, "Coastlines," Winter 2008 Vol. 38, No. 3
(Excerpts reprinted here with permission of UC Santa Barbara Alumni
Association)

Perrin Pellegrin hollers into the men's restroom. It's empty so she walks in and proudly points out the 100 percent recycled, bleach-free paper towels, automatic faucets and a ceramic contribution to conservation – waterless urinals. The lowly, yet undeniably necessary urinal, Pellegrin notes, in its waterless form can save about 40,000 gallons of water per year.

Whether it's urinals or air conditioners, all fall under Pellegrin's purview. As Campus Sustainability Manager, she's responsible for executing UC Santa Barbara's Campus Sustainability Plan. A 72-page document spanning the next 20 years, the plan calls for eventual net zero greenhouse gas emissions, net zero waste, more local and organic food served on campus, green purchas-

ing and additions to environmental education.

When she weighs in on decisions affecting the entire campus, she asks: "Is the technology there? Is it cost-efficient?" Those questions will guide UC Santa Barbara as it tackles the sustainability plan. The sustainability plan decrees UC Santa Barbara evolve to a carbon-neutral campus within the next 20 years, meaning that

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SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES AND LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

By, Stratton Semmes, Registered Landscape Architect
and SLO Green Build member

When the subject of sustainable landscapes comes up, most people think of native plants and low flow irrigation systems. While both of these elements are good, there are a lot of things you can do to protect the land long before it is time to install the plants. In fact, if you wait until it is time for the landscaping, which typically occurs at the end of a construction project, you will have missed many opportunities.

Each project is part of a larg-

er ecosystem. The more you can keep the natural systems healthy at the individual site level the healthier the larger system will be at the end of the project. Three of the most important elements to consider are the protection of the water, the soil, and the trees. The sooner the design team is in place and starts to develop a master plan for the property, the more smoothly all the elements will fit together at the end, and the more the environment will be protected.

Sustainable design principles call for reducing the overall square footage of impervious areas by reducing the size of buildings, parking, patios, and other hard surfaced elements. Appropriate materials, which are pervious and semi-pervious, can also alleviate the problems associated with run off. The sooner the details for rain gardens and bio swales, which encourage water to remain on the site longer, are worked into the design, the more they will

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Green Build Events & Meetings:

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June 11, 2008, 6:30PM

SLOGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOCATION: RRM Design Group, 3765 South Higuera Street, Suite 2, SLO
CONTACT: Roger Pankratz @ 805.286.0072 or admin@slogreenbuild.org

June 12, 2008, 5-7PM

JUNE PEER REVIEW

LOCATION: Ludwick Comm. Center, Room "A", 864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo
CONTACT: peer-review@slogreenbuild.org
(PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE)

June 13, 2008, 12PM

LEED RESOURCE GROUP

LOCATION: RRM Design Group, 3765 South Higuera Street, Suite 2, SLO
CONTACT: Andy Pease @ 805.235.6355 or e-mail: andy@slogreen.com
(YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING YOUR LUNCH)

June 25, 2008, 6PM

LEARN-BUILD-SAVE (NO-CO.)

Educational Series: "Energy Production and Landscape"
LOCATION: Paso Robles City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 Spring Street, PR, CA.
CONTACT: Jessica Steely @ 805.466.6737 x203 or jessicas@semmesco.com
(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!)

Send your events to: Events@SLOGreenBuild.org

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION from page 1

seem like part of the unified whole and less like last minute additions.

While we tend to focus on the end result of construction, the importance of the early phases is often overlooked in the overall scheme of site sustainability. The careful design of strategies regarding the clearing and demolition of the site, the selection of areas for stockpiling materials, as well as the choice of areas for parking during construction are all important factors in the successful implementation of a sustainable site design. Are we only clearing what is absolutely necessary; using the smallest equipment possible? Clearing more than is necessary will reduce the amount of vegetative cover, which will increase the speed of runoff and reduce necessary wildlife habitat. The equipment used to clear the site will compact the soil in the process, which will reduce its capacity to absorb water. The smaller the equipment, the less likely it will damage existing trees and compact the soil. This, of course, needs to be balanced with the cost

and efficiency of the job.

If the plans call for 'trees to remain' on the site, extra care should be taken to insure that this does indeed happen. Although the general rule of thumb is to install tree protection at the drip line of the tree canopy, in reality the roots extend much further than this. If at all possible, the tree protection area should be larger. Soil compaction should be avoided in the tree protection area at all costs. This is not, for example, an appropriate area for parking or for stockpiling of materials. Grading should be kept to a minimum - no more than six inches - in the areas immediately adjacent to tree protection areas. When soil is overly compacted air cannot move through the soil, which is just as much a problem for trees as the lack of water. This is especially important when dealing with the native oaks of San Luis Obispo County. Extra topsoil resulting from any grading operations should be saved on site in an area that will be convenient for future use. The location

of these stockpiling areas and parking areas should be clearly designated by fencing. The soil in these areas will receive a lot of compaction due to the weight of materials and vehicular circulation during the course of construction. These areas might not be best suited for gardens, but might work well for a driveway or guest parking.

The best way to achieve a sustainable landscape is to get the complete design team in place early on; working together from inception to coordinate the design and siting of the house and its surrounding landscape. By working together the design team can make sure that all of the requirements of the project - aesthetic, functional, and ecological - reach their full potential.

Stratton is also a sometimes lecturer in the Landscape Architecture Dept., Cal Poly. For more information, she may be reached at 805-704-4115

LEARN•BUILD•SAVE

www.slogreenbuild.org

For more information contact:

P.O. Box 12043
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
tel: 805.461.5986
fax: 805.466.6739
admin@slogreenbuild.com

Your local non profit organization dedicated to minimize construction-related waste, create healthier, more durable buildings, reduce operating costs, and support local businesses.



SLO Green Build 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

“The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

2007 marked a watershed year for SLO Green Build --- organizational change, new programs, expanded programs, broader outreach and membership growth. We reflect upon these milestones with pride and humility. Proud of the accomplishments; humbled in knowing they are the result of a common cause and common action. Our success is the success of our members, our volunteers, our partner organizations and our civic partners coming together and working together. “The whole IS greater than the sum of its parts.”

The Organization...

In late 2004, a small group of professionals from the design and construction industries and environmental and social services advocates came together to promote sustainable development and green building here on the Central Coast. Their efforts quickly coalesced around the notion of creating an organization to focus on these issues.

By Spring, 2005, this grass-roots campaign took shape in the form of SLO Green Build with a shared Vision that in a sustainable future, every building is a green building and a common Mission:

To promote sustainable building techniques that minimize construction waste, build healthier indoor environments and reduce energy use while conserving natural resources;

To provide architects, engineers, contractors, developers and other building professionals with the proper tools to build sustainable projects; and

To support and help develop public policy which advocates for sustainable architectural, social and building practices.

The work of SLO Green Build is driven by this Mission and is directed and overseen by an independent, volunteer Board of Directors and, on their behalf, by the Executive Committee. Specific programs are organized around and carried out by our Standing Committees.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN 2007

- The Board of Directors authorized organization as a stand-alone Community Benefit Corporation and made application to secure independent “501c3” tax-exempt status.
- The relationship between SLOGB and Eco-SLO (extending non-profit status and providing fiscal agency support) was terminated upon mutual consent
- Building upon the work of the first Director’s leadership retreat in 2006, a second was held in 2007 and laid out the framework for the organization’s Strategic Plan.
- The Board of Directors engaged a part-time Administrator to oversee operations and coordinate programs.

The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and expresses deep appreciation for the benefit of Eco-SLO’s generous accommodation over the last 3 years. Likewise, the Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge and thank the law firm of Sinsheimer, Juhnke, Lebens and McIvor, LLP for the generous consideration and counsel in seeing us through the incorporation and tax-exempt application processes.

Government Relations Committee...

The charge of this committee includes promotion of government policies at the local level that incorporate sustainable development and green building components. This is accomplished in collaboration with government staff, community stakeholders and residents in a number of forums and forms.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN 2007

- Entered into Memoranda of Understanding with each local municipality and the County of San Luis Obispo establishing working relationships in support of sustainable development and green building on the Central Coast.
- Constructed and installed public information Kiosks in each of the Planning and Building Departments throughout the County to serve as distribution points for information regarding sustainable development and green building, as well as SLOGB programs and services.
- Compiled and published a catalog of green build example projects as a complement to the kiosk. “Green by Example” catalogs are available for reference in each of the Planning and Building Department lobbies.
- Organized and conducted quarterly meetings among the Municipal Liaisons representing each City and the County of SLO to review current issues in sustainable development and green building and prioritize needs of local government agencies for information and training.
- Conducted several training sessions for local government staff.
- Served as a resource and consulted with staff in design of local public policy addressing open space and commercial development.
- Organized and co-hosted “South County 2030 Challenge Forum” and Regional Energy Planning Conference for the benefit of local public policy makers.

Member Services/Fundraising Committee...

This Committee oversees membership development to maximize the organization’s relevance and empowerment in the community and, in concert with fund development, to support the organization’s fiscal health. Member Services manages the referral and resource support for SLOGB members and publishes and distributes a monthly internal newsletter, “Green on the INSIDE.”

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN 2007

- Compiled and published the monthly membership newsletter, “Green on the INSIDE,” which serves to keep the membership abreast of developments within the organization. Over 400 copies are distributed each month by e-mail.
- Increased new and renewal memberships and overall membership revenue.
- Conducted a full review and reorganization of membership levels and benefits.

Community Outreach Committee...

This Committee is responsible for organizing and executing SLOGB’s community outreach and education efforts. Components of this effort include publication and distribution of a quarterly community newsletter, an educational series, a “road show” speaker’s bureau and representation at public events.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN 2007

- Compiled and published the quarterly community newsletter, “The Green Scene,” which serves as an information resource regarding developments in green building. Over 1,000 printed copies are distributed each quarter (and over 400 by e-mail).
- Coordinated nearly 20 presentations by volunteer SLOGB speakers before a variety of community audiences throughout the County, organized exhibits at 3 Home Shows and staffed information tables at several conferences and public meetings. .
- Organized and hosted six, bi-monthly “Learn-Build-Save” presentations at the SLO City-County Library. “L-B-S” features local professionals on topics relative to sustainable development and green building on the Central Coast and is free and open to the public.
- Expanded the “L-B-S” program to include a complementary North County venue beginning in August 2007.
- Oversaw a full review of the design and content of SLOGB collateral materials. New brochures were produced in 2007 and development began on a new SLOGB website.

SLO Green Build Community Programs:

•GREEN HOME CONSTRUCTION AND REMODEL SELF-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

Use the guidelines to rate your home.

•GREEN BUILD KIOSKS:

Explore it in the lobby of your local building department.

•NORTH & SOUTH COUNTY LEARN-BUILD-SAVE EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

Attend presentations by local professionals about green building on the Central Coast

•ROAD SHOW:

Invite a green specialist to speak at your next meeting.

•THE SLO GREEN SCENE:

Quarterly community newsletter about green building and sustainable development.

•SLO CO. GOVERNMENT NETWORKING PROGRAM:

Green Build Liasons from each municipality meet quarterly.

•TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW:

Bring in your project for free professional advice.

•WEBSITE:

www.SLOGreenBuild.org

•GREEN BUILDING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY:

Connect with the resources you need.

•MONTHLY CALENDAR:

Attend presentations, meetings & workshops.

•LIBRARY:

Download innovative green bldg. information.

•PARTNERSHIPS:

Join the local, state, and national organizations in our network.

GREENING UP from page 1

the school would not generate more greenhouse gas emissions than it can offset by generating or procuring clean and renewable energy. Grassroots efforts pick up where Pellegrin and the facilities team leave off. Katie Maynard, a sustainability coordinator and member of the Ellison Hall Sustainability Committee, encourages employees and students to turn off computers and lights when not in use, or take the stairs instead of the elevator. Computers and other electronic gadgetry are among the campus's energy gluttons. According to the Gaucho Energy website, a third of UC Santa Barbara's energy flows to what people plug into the walls and switch on and off. "We really believe that building users should understand how a building works," Maynard said. "In order to do these behavioral changes, we have to get building occupants engaged."

As counterintuitive as it may seem, open grassy areas are not particularly green. Lawns require watering and maintenance often in the form of gas-powered tools and petroleum-based fertilizers. But who wants to study or play Ultimate Frisbee on a cactus patch? Don't despair. Other sustainability strategies exist. For example,

the athletic field next to the Recreation Center was replaced with artificial turf. Plastic doesn't need to be watered. Plus, campus sprinklers nourish living grass and plants with 80 percent reclaimed water—far less wasteful than spraying pure drinking water—and it's 30 percent of the cost. The goal: Put all campus vegetation on reclaimed water. To help, "for the most part, we try to get adaptive and hearty plants," Pellegrin said. The tall, drought-tolerant native grasses outside the Bren Building require less care than a lawn.

Remember those waterless urinals? Inside Bren Hall, Girvetz Hall, the Student Resources Building and the Recreation Center, they are saving about 3 million gallons of water per year. More than 70 urinals are installed to date. Another innovation coming to the local UC Santa Barbara restroom is the dual-flush toilet. This device offers two flushing modes, one for liquids, and one for solids. The liquid flush uses at least half a gallon less water. The dual-flush toilets are installed in restrooms at the Student Resources Building and the Recreation Center.

Thinking green isn't just a way for environmental stud-

ies students to get extra credit. In fact, supporting green projects is now mandatory. In 2006, 75 percent of undergraduate students and 82 percent of graduate students voted to approve a quarterly \$2.60 fee for The Green Initiative Fund, or TGIF. "It was less than the cost of a burrito," said Logan Green, campus sustainability coordinator and TGIF grants manager. "We wanted to have enough to invest in real projects and make a difference without burdening students with a large fee."

TGIF pays for projects that the university would otherwise not. "For example, it is UCSB policy to put waterless urinals in all new buildings," Green said. "Therefore, TGIF would not fund waterless urinals in new buildings. But in most cases, there is not funding for retrofitting older buildings with waterless urinals. That is where TGIF will step in and fund the project."

What's been highlighted here is just a sampling of the green headlines from campus. The sustainability Website consolidates information about campus-wide efforts in one online resource. Visit www.sustainability.ucsb.edu to learn more.

Join the team that keeps this powerful engine running
VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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Technical Committee...

SLO Green Build's Technical Committee addresses research and identification of means to employ sustainable development and green building with a focus on the Central Coast environment. This effort supports resource initiatives in the community and efforts to develop public policy which incorporates sustainable development and green building components. In addition, the Committee oversees SLO Green Build's Peer Review Program and Green Building Guidelines.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN 2007

- Printed and distributed Green Building Guidelines for new home, remodel and multi-family construction projects (including a SLOGB supplement which addresses the Central Coast environment specifically).
Offered 12 Peer Review sessions in 2007 addressing construction projects in the Cities of San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande and the unincorporated communities of Nipomo and Templeton. SLOGB's Peer Review Program provides professional-level, technical review to support owners, designers and contractors in the design and execution of green projects.
Working with City staff, prepared and presented findings identifying and prioritizing options available to the SLO Planning Commission and City Council as they considered the Height Ordinance.
Engaged in the effort to bring a U.S. Green Building Council chapter to our region as an allied effort and represented on the local chapter Organizing Committee. The USGBC is responsible for creating and directing the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.
Organized the Appropriate Technology Study Group (in collaboration with the local chapters of the Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club). "Appropriate technologies" are proven, natural processes that are both environmentally and economically sustainable for application in design, construction and operations.
Working with County staff, developed a needs-analysis and work program for research and identification of appropriate technologies and incorporation, by reference, into public policy and process.
Launched the Community Education and Outreach campaign with "Where's the Water?" the first in an on-going series of public forums.

Annual memberships to SLO Green Build are available at the following levels (please check one):

- [] Cypress \$50 [] Student/Senior \$25
Bumper sticker, newsletter, and one complimentary copy of the Green Building Guidelines book
[] Manzanita \$100
Above + member website listing
[] Bay Laurel \$250
Above + one featured insert in the Green by Example binders*
[] Madrone \$500
Above + member resource listing and website link + member brochures displayed at SLOGB-tabled events*
[] Coastal Live Oak \$1000
Above + four additional featured inserts in the Green by Example binders + member logo displayed on binder's "sponsors" page*

YES! I support SLO Green Build. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____. SLO Green Build is a nonprofit organization.

Name _____

Profession _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Please make your check payable to: SLOGB

Detach and mail to: SLO Green Build
P.O. Box 12043
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

*Green by Example binders are on display at SLOGB kiosks located throughout the county, and at SLOGB events. Please contact "admin@slogreenbuild.org" for insert, resource listing, and brochure specifications.

Business members will be asked to sign a SLO Green Build "Commitment to Green Business Practices" agreement prior to being on the Web site resource listing.

For questions or more information, contact SLO Green Build by e-mail at "admin@slogreenbuild.org" or by phone at (805) 461-5986.