



AN ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY PROGRAM

# THE GREEN INSIDER



Mega Energy Competiton: Blackout

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PowerSave Energy Hog Training

CAL POLY POMONA



BY RYAN GOFF

The Cal Poly PowerSave team was involved in a multitude of trainings this past month, both attending and administering. The intern team attended an Energy Hog Training in the middle of October. The training was hosted by the PowerSave Schools program and it trained the Cal Poly Pomona and Fullerton teams on how to hold an Energy Hog assembly for elementary schools, giving them info on how the program works and what to say, including putting on the Energy Hog costume.

The Team also successfully held their first Green Rooms training for the Resident Advisors of the Palmitas and Encinitas Residence Halls. The training was a follow up to the presentation we gave them the week previously, pitching the program to them and giving them a brief overview of the process and checklist. The training involved a practice run of an audit with the RA's on the office of the Resident Life Coordinator's office. The RA's were given all the materials needed and once the training was complete, they were cleared to start signing up their residents for audits. For the rest of November the PowerSave team plans to finish trainings for the other four residence halls and start signing up rooms for all of the halls and hopefully audit most rooms by the end of the quarter, and analyze the metrics for the project and see how much energy it saved and how much behavior changed.



BY ARPY KASPARIAN

**BEWARE!!!!** Energy vampires are among us! They're in your dorm! Your office! Your BATHROOM! No, they're not after your blood... worse...your ELECTRICITY!!

Wait, what? What's an energy vampire? An energy vampire (also known as phantom energy or a plug load) is the energy that is consumed by appliances that are turned off but are still plugged into an outlet. Manufacturers have built appliances that go into "standby" mode when you turn them "off," and so a time is still displayed, or a signal is still constantly being searched for. These displays consume energy even though the appliance is not being used. Such appliances include televisions, computers, and microwaves and can account for 5-15% of the total energy used in a household. Many people are unaware of the continued energy consumption of products that are turned "off". The convenience of these appliances have us consuming energy blindly and its going to take conscious changes in our everyday unconscious habits to effectively reduce this invisible consumption.

Defend yourselves from their fangs! Unplug your devices when they aren't in use. Though it can be a hassle to unplug everything every time (like your television), you can plug bundled devices (for example, your computer, monitor, and printer) into the same power strip and then turn off the power strip when the devices aren't being used. The power strips are your silver stakes against these monsters! Not only does flipping the switch turn off all your devices, it kills their sneaky energy consumption.

Is your suite competing in the MEGA Energy Competition? Do you want your dorm to become Green Room certified? Fighting against energy vampires is a sure way of doing your part to reduce energy consumption. Take just a few minutes at the end of your day to go through your dorm or your suite and unplug as much as is reasonable. Toaster plugged in? Unplug it! Laptop charger plugged in, but laptop charged? Unplug it! Not using anything plugged into the power strip? Flip the switch! Check out this diagram of how much vampire energy is being used by everyday devices. The consumption is scary!

BOO! I'VE COME TO SUCK YOUR ENERGY!

# MEGA ENERGY

BY JOMEL BAUTISTA

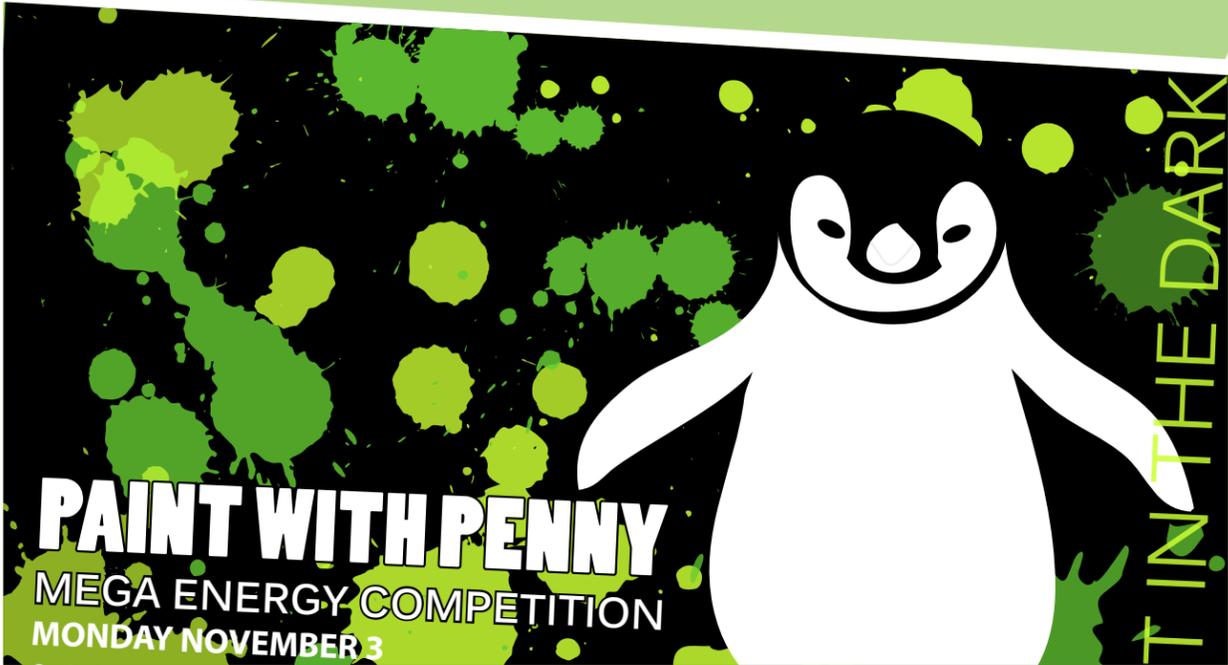
Do you remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room? Do you unplug appliances that are not in use? Do you leave your air conditioner blasting throughout the day? The truth is, many of us do. What many of us do not realize is how much energy is being wasted. For example, when a television is left plugged in when not in use, thousands of kilowatt hours (kWh) are wasted annual which adds up to a couple hundred dollars. Thinking about your energy saving habits? Well you are in luck! Mega Energy Competition has begun! Cal Poly Pomona will be participating the 2014 Mega Energy Competition. From October 27th to November 24th, the Cal Poly Pomona residential suites will competing against other Southern California Universities such as: UCLA, UCI, CSU Long Beach, and several others, to see which campus can save the most energy.

Meter readings will be taken twice on a weekly basis and continuously be compared to initial baseline readings to determine if there was an increase or decrease in energy consumption. The suites of Cal Poly Pomona will compete as one large community to decrease their consumption as a whole.

Back in 2012, Cal Poly Pomona actually placed first in the competition by reducing their energy consumption by roughly 20%! Now those are some numbers our campus would like to see repeated.

Throughout the competition, PowerSave Campus and University Housing Services will team up to host programs that will influence positive energy saving behavior. For example, on October 27th, the suites participated in a "blackout" where all residents in the suites were encouraged to shut off their lights for 1 hour from 10:00-11:00PM. Future programs include a "Painting with Penny" event where residents can head to the MPR from 9:00-10:00PM on Monday, November 3rd, 2014 to paint a black t-shirt with glow in the dark paint. The first 50 residents to attend will receive an official competition t-shirt. While doing so, PowerSave Campus interns will be giving out useful tips on how to save energy as well as announcing some results from the first week. We hope to see you at an event soon!

For updates on the status of Mega Energy Competition, please visit the project's page at <http://powersavecampuscpp.weebly.com/mega-energy-competition.html>.



# SUSTAINABILITY COURSE GUIDE: 2015 WINTER

BY LYNÆ SALGADO

If you haven't seen the latest issue of the Sustainability Course Guide, check it out now! Wait, what is it? It's a guide that lists all of the courses offered here at Cal Poly that are sustainability related or focused. Every quarter we release a new issue around the time of registration. On October 20, 2014 the Winter issue was released. With now 7 issues released, we are looking to make vast improvements on the guide to better serve students. If you have suggestions on ways of improvements, please fill out this survey found on our website, <http://powersavecampuscpp.weebly.com/sustainability-course-guide.html>

Please check out the 2015 Winter issue today!

BY BRANDON SAUER

The lovely state of California that we call home is like no other place on Earth. The sheer variety in landscapes is breath-taking -- beaches, mountains, deserts, forests -- all just a drive away. But it seems no matter which of these beautiful scenes one decides to venture to, these views are disrupted by mankind's pollution. One of the most prominent and abundant contributors to this litter is the plastic bag.

Fortunately, law-makers have taken notice of the plastic culprit and are finally taking action. In September 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed off on the bill to begin the ban in mid-2015 for some businesses, early 2016 for others. The ban states that grocers can provide re-usable or paper bags for a fee of 10 cents each, but single-use plastic bags will no longer be provided in stores. California is the first state in the US to ban the bags, but Gov. Jerry Brown believes we will not be the last.

Not only will banning the sale of plastic bags help remove the abundance of litter from many California sceneries, but it will also help reduce energy use and carbon emissions. While some opponents to the plastic bag ban argue that the single-use bag requires less energy and resource to create than say a re-usable canvas bag or a paper bag, the point still remains that these bags are single use. To relate it to another energy-related issue, it is similar to buying an incandescent bulb over an LED: yes, the up-front cost of the is higher, but in the long run the benefits of longer use prove to be a much more sustainable option. It is with this ability to foresee long term benefits of new technologies that we will hopefully be able to create a more sustainable future for us all.

## CONTACT US!

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CALIFORNIA BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS