



“Ride-a-Bike and the 7 Green Resolutions” November 2009 Report

Report to the National Wildlife Federation from the Campus Verde Proposal at UPRM Puerto Rico.

I. Ride a bike!

Bicycling around the towns Mayagüez and Rincón

Departing from our campus, on November 11, we rode bikes around the Mayagüez Town. The purpose of this activity was to be seen by the people in town and promote the use of the bicycle for transportation in the city.

On Saturday, November 14, 2009 we went bicycling around Rincón exploring the town with a local member of Ride a Bike. We stepped by several beaches and visited some of the town's main attractions including the Light House.

Campus initiatives

a) Showers

We identified shower facilities on Campus and its schedule. Main shower facilities are located in the first level of the Mangual Coliseum. The open hours are from 6:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Also, there are two separated facilities for men and woman in the Biology building. This information will be send to the campus community for the benefit of those who may need to shower because of getting on Campus by bicycle.

b) A place for air and basic maintenance

We met with Eng. Ayala, the engineer in charge of the Lands and Buildings section in campus, to follow up on the habilitation of a place for basic bicycle maintenance and regulated air. This collaboration will support and promote the use of the bicycle for transportation on Campus.

c) Bicycle paths On- and Off-Campus

We met with a professor of the Department of Civil Engineering who specializes in transportation. He gave us some ideas to promote the use of bicycle on campus and the surroundings. He also recommended us to contact a student association of the Department of Civil Engineering. We are going to collaborate with this association and will unite efforts for creating bicycle paths.



II. Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

The new messages have been sent through-out campus including posters, emails, and talks. We have planned to increase the number of old battery and cell phone recipients. The amount recycled is larger.

III. Energy Conservation & Efficiency

University Electricity Monthly Bill

We are excited to inform that the electricity bill for the university has gone down from an average of \$1 million per month to half that amount!!! This is an extraordinary achievement, and it's thanks to the designated committee which was established at UPR for the Conservation of Energy. Our advisor (an electrical engineer) met several times with the lead person at UPR, Eng. Wilson Ortiz to discuss the problem and ideas of what could be done in order to reduce the bill. Several initiatives were carried on related to increasing the power factor (pf) and implementing other efficient technology. He is working with Dr. Lionel Orama, also from the Electrical Engineering department.

IV. Nature

Gozalandia Waterfalls Clean-up Day

This past 11th of October, our group coordinated this clean-up event for two of the three waterfall system called Gozalandia in the town of San Sebastián. We had 22 students participating including 2 from a nearby campus of UPR-Aguadilla and one student's parent. We collected 25 large garbage bags including 5 of recyclable materials. See photos at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/UPRMfun/LimpiezaGozalandia#>



This activity was done in collaboration with UPRM chapter of PRWEA, NUPA, and IEEE. One of the waterfalls is the one that appears in the movie Perfect Getaway.

Tree Planting

On September 30, 2009, a 50-bushes planting activity in the shape of the numerals 350 was done by the student parking area with the sponsorship of LM Company at UPRM. This was done in anticipation of the celebration of the **International Day of Climate Action** (Oct 24, 2009) where emphasis was placed on the number 350, the level of CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere we have to go down in order to stabilize our climate. We coordinated their Green Day this day, which included this planting, a talk by our advisor on How to Fight Climate Change, a movie about human impact on the planet (titled The Story of Stuff) and an eco-friendly dinner.

New Student Organic Orchard

This initiative came from Campus Verde's students from agricultural sciences. Last October 30th the students started the Huerto Ecológico (or organic orchard) at a field in our campus. They follow organic practices by using only compost and no chemicals. This was in collaboration with the AEA (Asociación de Estudiantes de Agricultura).

<http://picasaweb.google.com/UPRMfun/HuertoOrganicoColegial#>

V. Purchasing Recommendations

Green Cafeteria

The cafeteria has finally finished with the installation of the dishwashing machine to stop using Styrofoam. Yet, we are still waiting for them to receive the dinnerware in order to use it and announce it across campus.

VI. Education & Outreach

TV appearance

Our advisor was interviewed in another TV show (WORA TV local station), where she talked for half an hour about energy efficiency, the rechargeable batteries, Bisphenol-A free reusable water bottles and much more. The ½ hour segment has been aired at least 5 times already!

Student Training

This semester we offered another student training like previous semesters and all 32 participants passed the training test. Among those attending were two elementary teachers that learned about the training through Facebook Event and asked permission to attend. They were very pleased with the activity and said they would apply concepts at their schools. The participants had a sandwich lunch covered by us. This activity was done on the 6th of October.

EcoCinema: 3 Movies and Free Lunch!

We organized this activity to create awareness of problems. We had an eco-friendly lunch for about 50 people and they could choose among one of [Flow](#), [Food Matters](#) or [World in the Balance](#). This cost us \$100!

The 3 movies deal with the topics of the global **food** crisis and **population** crisis. The activity so far (it's still going on electronically, waiting for some people to answer the small 5-survey) have been very **positive**.

350 and ecoRock Concert

Campus Verde joined over 5,000 events all over the globe to celebrate the International Climate Action Day on 2009. We had 2 activities. The first activity was the formation of a human 350. Why 350?

Scientists indicate 350 parts per million CO₂ in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity to stabilize climate. Current level is 387ppm. (See <http://350.org/uprm>) We had over 100 students forming the 350 (see photos), including the participation of the university band... This activity took place on the soccer field at 10:30 a.m. The second activity that same day was a concert with social and environmental theme called Eco-Rock



Gratis 3 Movies + Lunch

Escoge entre:

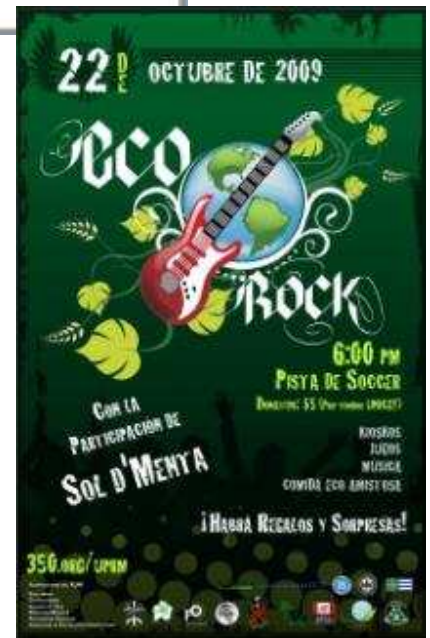
- 1. @ Stefani 5-209** Cover the next 30 years, 80 percent of the world's population growth will take place in our planet's poorest regions. And as the global labor force is nearly frozen by 2050, the social and environmental drains will be enormous in this groundbreaking worldwide investigation of humanity's future. NOAA shows how decisions made now will change the face of the planet over the next half century.
 - Movie: **WORLD IN THE BALANCE**
- 2. FoodMatters @ Stefani-208:** With a staggering number of Americans suffering from obesity and other food-related maladies, this film takes a timely and enlightening look at how the food we eat is helping or hurting our health, and what we can do to live (and eat) better. Nutritionists, restaurateurs, scientists, doctors, medical journalists and more weigh in on everything from why food is medicine to the value of organic food and the safety of the food we consume.
 - Movie: **FOODMATTERS**
- 3. Flow @ Stefani 5-205:** From both local and global perspectives, this documentary examines the harsh realities behind the mounting water crisis. Learn how politics, pollution and human rights are intertwined in this important issue that affects every being on Earth, with water drying up around the world and the future of human lives at stake, the film urges a call to arms before more of our most precious natural resource disappears.
 - Movie: **FLOW**

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the globe to October 22,



with the participation of the local rock band:

Sol D' Menta. This event was scheduled at 7pm. During the event we had eco-friendly refreshments and food for sale such as tropical fruit juices and frappes, organic pizza and fresh coconuts. We had the participation of the local Surfriders' Foundation team. This event was possible due to the support of the Mayaguez City hall, and a donation from General Electric, Lockheed Martin and Rock Solid Inc. In addition we had the collaboration from many offices at UPRM, including the Office for Social Activities, Quality of Life, Health Services and ten student associations! The 150 posters for the event were printed on the back side of damage posters in order to be environmentally friendly. This saved us 50% of the cost! This activity appeared on the University home page!

<http://picasaweb.google.com/UPRMfun/350EcoRockUPRM#>

During the events we collected donations and sold ecoRock and all funds (~\$2,000) were donated to Unicef, because change is impacting poor countries more rapidly. Ironically, countries are the ones that produce the least amount of greenhouse gases emissions to the atmosphere. (Africa, for produces less than 3% of emissions and is one of the continent's most severely impacted by climate change). It is a social and moral responsibility for us. Especially since children are the most vulnerable to climate consequences like drought, food scarcity and flooding. UNICEF is the humanitarian fund that most children help: it provides food, education, water, shelter, and medications to children in over 150 countries and has won two Nobel Prizes for its efforts. According to a UN report, everyday 25,000 people die due to preventable causes like hunger, lack of water, etc.



T-shirts, climate these instance,

ecoBazaar

On November 24, just before the we organized a bazaar at the Student where we invited 20 artisans that used and exhorted people to go there for their instead of buying imported goods.



Thanksgiving Day, Center, with music, sustainable materials Christmas shopping

For a sample of the kind of eco-friendly products sold, such as local organic coffee, vegetable-based candles and soaps, jewelry made with sea glass, seeds, bamboo, locally-made hammocks, pictures and musical instruments, etc. see <http://campusverde.uprm.edu/ecobazaarsamples.htm>

This activity was a success. The student decorated the place in festive motive and the artisans were very happy about the activity. This activity was co-sponsor by the UPRM offices of Social and Cultural Activities and Quality of Life.

Photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/UPRMfun/NovEcoBazaar#>

Additional alliances and dissemination

In our effort to reach beyond the university limits, we have form the following three alliances and dissemination strategies:



1. We have just started an official collaboration with **Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots (R&S)** environmental program, so our program is officially affiliated to them! This was as a result of our talks with Rick Asselta, Puerto Rico's R&S representative. We assisted to Dr. Jane Goodall Green Campus Talk in San Juan this month and presented a brief summary of our accomplishments. From this we expect to reach a larger audience and also learn from their activities.
2. In collaboration with Sustainable Environment for of Life of North Carolina, we translated the page 100 save the environment into Spanish. The page can be visited at: <http://campusverde.uprm.edu/100maneras.htm>
3. We created a global group in Facebook called Green Idea\$ (Idea\$ Verde\$) so that we can reach to people outside the academia with tips on how to save money and help the environment. We've had people from as far as Argentina complementing the group messages!



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Web Photo Album

Photos from all activities are being posted at: <http://campusverde.uprm.edu/album.html>