

# Gilbert Hall renovation could include solar cells

■ The Ecological Design Center hopes to incorporate photovoltaics to improve campus' use of energy

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

University energy experts will explore ways to make Gilbert Hall more energy efficient when renovations on the building begin later this year.

Photovoltaics, solar energy cells that transfer the sun's energy into usable electricity, have been proposed as a new source of electricity.

Brian Hawley, energy management engineer for Eugene Water and Electric Board, said the proposed photovoltaic cells would be placed on the roof and coupled with the new building's design. These additions would allow Gilbert Hall to use 50 percent less energy than a building at current standards.

"That would be a great improvement," he said.

Fred Tepfer, project planner for the Lillis Business Complex/Gilbert Hall Additions and Alterations Project, said the photovoltaics would be placed on the south glass wall and skylights of the new atrium, as well as on the roofs of the mechanical equipment penthouses. Funding for the panels, however, is the major factor on whether they are added, he said.

"There is a desire to incorporate building-integrated photovoltaics, but at this point it's still quite iffy, as there is no source of funds for photovoltaics in the project," he said.

Tepfer said he does not know where funding would come from, but most likely it would be from private donors and tax credits, and not from the University.

"Neither the Lundquist College of Business nor Facilities Services are actively involved in the fund raising," he said.

Ben Gates, co-director of the University's Ecological Design Center, formerly known as the Solar Information Center, said he would like to see solar energy panels placed on all campus buildings. To do so, he said, incidental fees might play an important role.

"Our plan is to try and arrange for one dollar of every student's incidental fees to go into a general fund every term," he said. "It would be something that every student would be involved in."

Jonathan Pincus, the building manager for Gilbert Hall who formerly served on the renovation management team, said he would support photovoltaics on the new building.

"Naturally, I am very supportive of the overall project and the concept of incorporating photovoltaics and other advanced energy measures into the design," he said.

Tepfer said \$300,000 is needed to add the maximum number of

solar cells.

Hawley said the placement of the solar energy panels would help make it a sustainable energy resource.

[The solar cells] "would help solar energy grow to where it would be more cost efficient," he said. "This building is the right step in making it a sustainable campus; the campus should be praised for its efforts."

He added that the cells would give Gilbert Hall a unique look compared to other University buildings.

The photovoltaics, combined with the finished building, would make it one of the more modern buildings on campus. Room for 600 new seats has been planned in the construction, which is the first major addition to the building in almost 50 years. When finished, the Lillis Business Complex is expected to be a four-story building, at a size of 196,500 total square feet.

The design for the project was finished in 1999 and construction is scheduled to begin no earlier than September 2001, Tepfer said. The building's addition is scheduled to be completed no sooner than September 2004, with the remodeling phase of the project nine months later. If money is raised for the photovoltaics, Tepfer said the construction of those would parallel the time frame of work done on Gilbert Hall.

# Milk protests target Starbucks

■ Opponents of milk from hormone-treated cows try to get Starbucks to reject it

By Aaron K. Breniman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The fight against genetically engineered foods has hit the streets.

The Organic Consumers Association held a nationwide protest Tuesday, March 20, against Starbucks Coffee Co. to address the issue of Starbucks' use of milk from cows injected with the genetically engineered recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH).

In Eugene, the Sierra Club joined the effort by leafletting Starbucks Coffee at 13th Avenue and Alder Street. Standing by a largely empty outdoor seating area facing 13th Avenue, Debrah Higbee, the executive commissioner of the Sierra Club of Eugene, handed out leaflets to passers-by and Starbucks customers.

Although the Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of rBGH, many contend that the hormone's long-term effects are not known and that it affects each individual differently, especially those with allergy problems.

"If this is a democracy, why don't citizens have a response to the concerns of the public?" Higbee asked.

Despite the efforts of the Sierra Club of Eugene, few local Starbucks customers seemed to care about the issue.

"Here, there has been zero interest in people asking us any questions," Starbucks manager Steve Traffas said. "I really like the push made by the groups, but I thought

we'd see more public interest."

Traffas said that his 13th Avenue store had a stapled package of information to give to customers with any questions on the issue of genetically engineered products, but halfway through protest, nobody had even asked about rBGH.

Starkly contrasting the effort in Eugene, Seattle protesters generated much more interest in their efforts.

“What they see as mainly a money issue, we see as an ethics issue.”

Ronnie Cummins  
Organic Consumers  
Association director

Ronnie Cummins, national director of the Organic Consumers Association, said about 100 people gathered outside the annual shareholders meeting held at Starbucks' headquarters in Seattle.

"The shareholders got the message loud and clear," he said. "It's important for Starbucks to see that this is not a public relations problem, but more a policy problem."

Cummins emphasized that it is a problem with no easy solutions.

"What they see as mainly a money issue," he said, "we see as an ethics issue."

The OCA's complaints focus on issues of genetic engineering, fair trade coffee (shade-grown and organic) and the working conditions and wages of impoverished plantation workers.

Earlier last month, OCA directors sent a letter to Starbucks, the nation's leading coffee-drink retailer, demanding that the company assess the unique situation they face as the one of the largest commercial users of milk from rBGH-injected cows. In reply to the letter, Starbucks CEO Orin Smith issued a statement indicating that simple economic principles have prevented Starbucks from using completely rBGH-free milk.

"Because Starbucks does not produce these goods and does not have control over their supply, we are not in a position to give immediate assurances that we can offer only genetically-modified-organism-free goods," Smith said.

Traffas added that while Starbucks does sell coffee that is labeled as being "fair trade coffee," those beans are not the ones used in the majority of their drinks.

Although Higbee said that the potential is minimal that the dairy industry will make any immediate changes, there are things that consumers can do to clearly display their position on milk from cows treated with rBGH.

She said that customers can call businesses such as Dari-Mart and Safeway and ask them which type of milk they sell. Higbee pointed out, however, she is uncertain if the answers would be "straightforward."

Higbee said that the manner in which stores receive milk shipments provide for ample labeling of the distinction between rBGH-infused milk and rBGH-free milk, but when the milk goes to the shelf the labeling that is on the box is largely disregarded.

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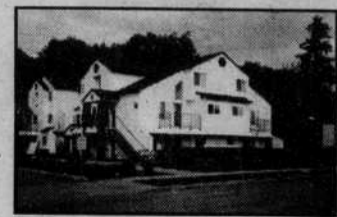
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