

Recycling for greener ideas

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The Clackamas Print

The concept of sustainability has received significant media attention recently, becoming an issue that many feel is important to the world.

Clackamas is taking a stand for the cause; faculty and the college have formed the sustainability committee, which has brought in members of nearly every department to combat waste on campus

through school policy.

The committee will target key dilemmas and find ways to make Clackamas a better place for everyone.

The college formed the committee to evaluate the condition of the campus "and help develop new policies," said Don Hartsock, philosophy and sustainability instructor.

At the Nov. 8 sustainability meeting, Mickey Yeager, of campus services, addressed current recycling situations, which were then explained by

the department heads in attendance.

Problems discussed included the lack of plastic recycling at Clackamas this year. The school has lost the contract with the private company responsible for it in the past.

Another issue brought up was block Styrofoam that is used for packaging, which has to be sent to landfills from the bookstore because there are no recycling options for the product.

However, committee members have taken positive steps to create change.

According to David Holcomb, who manages the college bookstore, the store reuses and recycles packaging peanuts and bubble wrap.

Possible disposal plans for batteries, oils, insecticide, hazardous waste and paints have also been debated.

Co-chair Elizabeth Howley of horticulture, and Yeager have also suggested inviting a Metro representative to the next meeting to provide other ideas regarding how to further sustainability progress.

"Anyone interested in this topic can attend meetings," said Jim Grabill, English and sustainability instructor.

The sustainability committee meets every other Friday. Their next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 30 in the Community Center, room 127. It will run from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Interested students can sign up for the sustainability class, SSC 181-01, which will be

taught by Grabill during Term. The course is part of a sequence of three classes that will be led by another instructor in the spring. The current class, taught by Howley, emphasizes the principles and philosophy of sustainability.

"I'll be teaching 181 as a focus of defining the various problems and explaining their impact on the Northwest," Grabill said.

Many clubs have also been active around campus. ASG, SSC and the International Club have all placed such recycling stations in the Community Center, Hall and other buildings.

"Each term we put out cans that we take back to the deposit," said ASG President Lussier.

Lussier provided an explanation of why some cans are unrefundable and others are not.

Missing from the Nov. 8 sustainability meeting was a food service company, Charo, which was not able for comment about its recycling policies.



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MARIJUANA: Forums wrestle criminality with medicinal benefits

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levels of use and abuse are high among adolescents and young adults."

About 1,600 students in Oregon have been arrested for the possession of marijuana so far this year and, as a result, are now ineligible for financial aid, said Anthony Johnson of Voter Power.

"Are you more afraid of a rapist or a pothead?" Belville asked the audience.

After the forum, community member Bill McDonald posed several relating questions:

"Who are the criminals? Marijuana users? Or is it the people who view 'pot smokers' as being no better than rapists, murderers and corrupt politicians?"

Another key question presented at the event was whether the direct policy surrounding marijuana does more damage than the drug itself.

Although no drug is completely harmless, some are safer than others, Belville said.

"Marijuana benefits several medical conditions, including nausea, vomiting, stimulating appetite, promoting weight gain and diminishing intraocular pressure from glaucoma," a NORML flyer reads. "Patients and physicians have ... reported that (smoking) ... marijuana provides relief from migraine headaches, depression, seizures, insomnia and chronic pain, among other conditions."

According to NORML,

"marijuana prohibition is all about emotion, fear and social control."

Visit www.ornorml.org or www.myspace.com/ornorml for more information about NORML. To learn about Voter Power, see VoterPower.org.

Many students talk to their peers about their opinions on the legalization of marijuana; why not tell someone in power?

These organizations encourage students and community members to contact their con-

gressman at 202-225-3111. Individuals have to do their zip code and make their views known.

As stated by Chandler of MAMA, "We have the power to make a difference."

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