

# Sustainability coordinator seeks long term awareness

By Mark Sunderland  
The Clackamas Print

Tim Maher is a sustainability outreach coordinator for Clackamas Community College, and he works strictly at the Oregon City campus. He is working on creating an inventory for the Oregon City campus on greenhouse gas emissions, and he also works with local green-building societies in the local area and deconstruction consortiums.

I sought out an interview with this man and upon meeting Maher, I found what I was looking for.

Maher is a seemingly quiet man with his sweater and glasses, a stylish beard and all in all a typical looking college student. Lest appearances be deceiving, I break the ice of the interview with a query into what were his reasons

for joining the AmeriCorps.

"It's probably a combination of a lot of things. The job market is pretty terrible right now, as many people know, and I was unemployed for a long time. It is also a really great opportunity," Maher said before giving further insight into the program he works for in AmeriCorps and his job at CCC.

"The program that I'm in is basically 80 percent of the time I am here, and 20 percent of the time, I am out doing other AmeriCorps things. Other workshop based, training based and a lot of community service," said Maher. "The 80 percent of the time I'm here, I'm mainly focusing on doing a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the school; to get a good base line, to see where we are and put numbers on everything. It's almost a

way to do environment accounting."

He went on to talk about his position and his background prior to CCC.

"This position itself is very attractive to me. I really wanted it when I saw it because my title is Sustainability Outreach Coordinator," Maher revealed. "My background is in astrophysics and climate science in particular, and so I spent a lot of time studying, worrying about what is climate change from a scientific perspective, why is it being caused and what are the effects going to be about it. That is my background as more physics, like actual hardcore science, so now I've learned what the problem is and now I really want to focus on trying to fix it. So, the main goal for me, I'm a very simple person, and the problem is greenhouse gas emissions. So, that is basically what I am focusing on for the rest of my life is cutting down those emissions."

It is his hope and the hope of those he works with, such as Martha (Marty) Mitchell, an environmental consultant, that within a couple years, students or groups of students or even classes will take the inventory and continue the course.

"We are hoping that students will take this ball and run with it next year. This update, in order for this to work, this inventory - the whole idea of it is to have measurable outcomes. So, this is something we can measure; we can actually say we are emitting this much in commuting, energy use, paper usage, food waste, all these areas. We are emitting all these things. It's like a big pie graph and then we can focus our efforts, you know, on the biggest ones - kind of to get the biggest bang for the buck," said Maher, clarifying on what exactly he hopes this inventory will become.

The next obvious question is what does Maher do at Clackamas, and while he gave an overview of it, I sought a more defined answer.

"So, the difference between Marty and me, we are in separate programs," said Maher. "Not just here on campus, she is housed in Campus Services, and I am here in customized Training and Development, but in the actual AmeriCorps world as well. But,

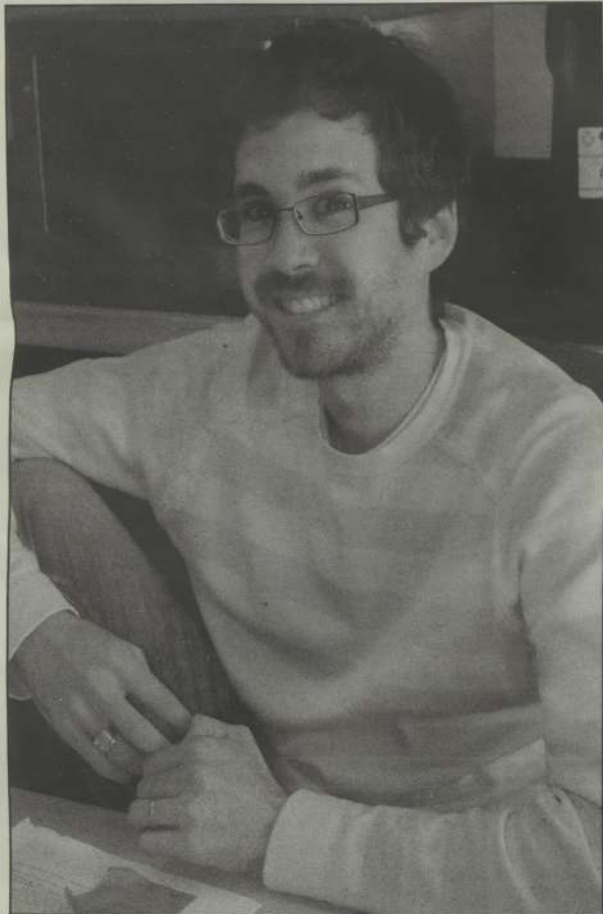
basically in her AmeriCorps program, she is here 40 hours a week at Clackamas Community College. The program I'm in, I'm here only 80 percent of my time, so on average 32 hours a week and the 20 percent I'm doing other stuff. The 80 percent of the time I'm here, my goals are to improve climate literacy and have all people be able to understand greenhouse gases and climate change and be able to speak that same language so that later years when humans are going to be in 200 years, hopefully, these are things we will have had to do. We're going to have to be sustainable and in order to be sustainable, these are essential steps that we're going have to take. We are going to have to start from kindergarten and up will have to learn about things like greenhouse gases and climate change."

After the quick explanation of how he and Mitchell are in separate programs within the AmeriCorps fold, Maher goes into explaining how his position doesn't just entail that he is working on a greenhouse gas inventory but also to heighten awareness of climate change, greenhouse gases and how such aspects of science affect the future of the planet. He continued to explain how he seeks to make literacy of climate change and greenhouse gases as common knowledge as computers.

"So, we grew up with that, our generation did, and so now people in their thirties that grew up with this are changing the whole world. Computers are changing the whole world now and the whole world runs by Internet. The whole world runs by computer and that has just happened in my lifetime, our lifetime," Maher said.

He believes that if the people become just as literate about greenhouse gases and climate change as they are of computers nowadays, there is no way of calculating what could happen.

"So, think about what could happen if in 30 years from now if we started, right now, implementing climate literacy, climate change, greenhouse gases and all that kind of stuff into the educational curriculum from kindergarten all the way up starting now. I mean, what would happen in 30 years?" posed Maher.



MAHER

New Year's resolutions that will most likely not improve your life but are pretty easy to accomplish

- Gain 20 pounds
- Drop out of school
- Keep smoking regardless of any ban
- Get a credit card
- Watch more TV
- Eat more fast food
- Spend more time on Facebook
- Have an illegitimate child
- Spend more time doing and less time doing
- Stop making payments to CCC's "payment plan"
- Disregard the "safety" policy
- Spend less time with friends
- Make the same mistakes last year
- Spend more time getting up in the morning
- Don't update your hair
- Keep listening to music lyrics about getting drunk
- Stay ignorant about politics and international affairs
- Create a WoW account and spend all your free time on it
- Stay negative; things won't get better
- Smile less
- Drink more coffee
- Cut out veggies from diet
- Only shop at corporate-owned companies
- Create more trash
- Watch more reality TV
- Don't move on from a relationship until it starts
- Make sure everyone is happy when you're pissed off
- Begin modeling your life after Lady Gaga songs
- Party more!
- Wash clothes more often
- Completely stop calling people; that's what texting is for

- Abigail



All photos John Shuffelt Clackamas Print

## Craft fair vendors come to campus Community Center

LEFT: Carl Beaulieu displays his air brushed works of art during the craft fair in the Community Center Dec. 1. RIGHT: Tre Seibert shows her metal suncatchers during the craft fair, which continues Wednesday Dec. 2.