



Greening the Campus,  
Building the Workforce

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



2012 PowerSave Campus interns

The Alliance to Save Energy's PowerSave Green Campus Program offers college students the opportunity to engage in real world energy saving projects in the places where they live, work, and study on campus making them better prepared to carry this information forward in their future careers as energy-aware professionals. "

**Prof. Margot McDonald**  
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP  
Architecture Department  
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

**A well-prepared work force is critical to the ability of utilities and industry to achieve the state and country's energy efficiency and sustainability goals.** The percentage of the utility workforce expected to retire within the next five to ten years is estimated as high as 50% (U.S. Dept. of Energy). Energy is a rapidly growing field in both technical and professional "green collar" jobs. PowerSave Campus currently trains approximately 100 student interns per year to plan, carry out, measure, and report on energy efficiency projects. This generates interest in and prepares students for entry to the energy efficiency field, which is experiencing an increasingly serious shortage of qualified applicants.

## PROGRAM SUCCESSES

Many former PowerSave Campus interns have continued working in the energy efficiency and sustainability field through:

- **Job Placement at the companies, such as:** Pacific Gas & Electric; SCE; US Green Building Council; UCSB; Levi Strauss; Integral Group; Trane
- **Concurrent Internships** with Utility partners such as Pacific Gas & Electric and San Diego Gas & Electric
- **Advanced Degrees** in the sustainability, law, and public policy fields



Pacific Gas and Electric Company



# How Does PowerSave Campus Prepare the Next Generation of Energy Efficiency Professionals?

## Trains Students to Conduct Hands-On Energy Savings and Outreach Projects

Interns assist and work closely with Campus Facilities Managers, EH&S and Capitol Projects/Procurements to identify energy efficiency projects, research emerging energy efficiency technologies, conduct research to assess feasibility and potential locations for retrofits and facilitate implementation based on their analysis. Alliance staff train Interns to develop effective metrics, analyze data and present and market achievements. The program has also co-sponsored regional trainings at San Diego Gas & Electric's Center for Sustainable Energy and Pacific Gas & Electric's Pacific Energy Center. These activities give students who participate in the program an edge upon graduation because they have specialized technical skills that set them apart.

## Integrates Energy Efficiency into Campus Academic Offerings

By integrating energy efficiency into current course offerings and developing new for-credit courses, PowerSave Campus Interns provide technical and hands-on trainings to other students, thereby enhancing their skills and future career options. Students work with campus faculty and administrators to organize these course offerings, with Alliance staff providing guidance and oversight in lesson plan development and execution.

Examples of what PowerSave Campus does include intern-led energy courses in collaboration with professors, long-term energy-related assignments, for-credit volunteer opportunities and organized academic workshops. In addition, Alliance staff members facilitate academic working groups for faculty members at participating campuses to connect with one another and share resources.

## Forms Statewide Intern & Alumni Network

Since 2004, the program has graduated hundreds of Interns, who serve as mentors for current team members. The Interns also provide a network for potential employers to access easily and efficiently, as demonstrated by career panels at the program's 2 annual convergences and Southern California Edison's Career Information Session, designed specifically for PowerSave Campus Interns.

## Provides Professional Development & Public Speaking Opportunities

Alliance staff provides professional development counseling and opportunities which not only serve their projects as students but also prepare Interns as emerging energy efficiency professionals. These include public speaking opportunities with campus stakeholders as well as at state and national conferences. Several campuses, including Cal Poly SLO, CSU San Bernardino, Humboldt State, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara, have met with the highest level of campus administration, Chancellors and/or Presidents to discuss energy issues and/or recommend energy policies. Award winning students presented at conferences and community events such as the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference each of the last 8 years, sweeping the Best Practices in Student Energy Efficiency Award every year.

## Down the Pipeline...

The Alliance has significantly enhanced the workforce development aspect of PowerSave Campus as it adapts and improves the program. As a part of this process, we have convened a statewide committee of faculty and industry representatives since 2010 with the purpose of exploring degreed program tracks. The expanded career track also includes a job board and internships with utilities, energy service companies, consultancies, the Alliance to Save Energy, etc.; career/information fairs; and professional mentors for interns.

