

## Climate Exhibit

TCI and Tisch library have collaborated on a new exciting exhibit on climate change. The exhibit is on through February 2005.



“This is a wonderful opportunity for us to educate the Tufts community about climate change and also showcase the work TCI and Tufts has done over the last 5 years,” says Anja Kollmuss, outreach coordinator of TCI.

The exhibit highlights many of the projects that have been undertaken at Tufts. Graphs of the updated emissions inventory show how Tufts has been able to level electricity consumption on the Medford campus, despite an ever increasing demand for computers and other electronics. The exhibit displays renderings of the new residence hall that is expected to be certified LEED Bronze. Also showcased are several of the books on campus greening and on climate change that TCI staff have contributed to.

“There has been a flurry of research and news coverage on climate change over the last few months. Unfortunately, virtually all of the new research stresses that the impacts of climate change will be more severe than we had initially expected.

## Green Power at Tufts: A Student Initiative

Cell phones, computers, blow dryers, lamps... on average each US student has 15 electricity consuming devices in his/her dorm room. But while scrambling to squeeze one last plug into the power strip, many students forget that electricity doesn't just come from the wall.

The Tufts undergraduate student group Environmental Consciousness Outreach (ECO), which often collaborates with TCI to educate students about energy efficiency with programs like “Do-it-in-the-Dark,” is taking their advocacy a step further – to the source. ECO is advocating for the creation of a student fee to purchase a portion of Tufts electricity from wind power.



*(Climate Exhibit cont.)* “For example, a new report states that we are likely to lose polar bears and most coral reefs within the next decades and that poverty and hunger could spread to as many as 5.5 billion people by 2070 if we do not address climate change,” says Kollmuss.

The exhibit gives information about the effects of climate change but also emphasizes the solutions and actions each person can take to contribute to protecting the climate.

Over fifty US schools have already purchased some percentage of their electricity from renewable energy sources for ethical, health, and environmental reasons. We hope Tufts will join this elite group and will inspire other Boston-area universities, who have remained conspicuously absent from the list of purchasers, toward similar commitments to clean energy.

Wind power costs slightly more than conventional power, and at several schools students have led initiatives to create a fee to cover this extra cost. For example, Connecticut College's students voted to pay an additional \$25 per year to purchase wind power credits. ECO is currently proposing a yearly fee of no more than \$20 per Tufts student (charged to the Bursar's bill) to obtain at least 20% of our electricity from wind power. They are pursuing a student referendum on the issue, which will likely occur on the spring general elections ballot.

In addition to the carbon emissions reductions achieved by purchasing renewable energy, there are other benefits to buying clean energy: drastically reducing air pollution such as particulate matter and sulfur oxides and decreasing in our dependence on foreign oil.

We encourage students to vote in favor of a clean energy fee that is negotiable with the Trustees. For more information or to get involved, contact: Jennifer.Baldwin@tufts.edu

### Sustainability Week at Tufts University

March 28 - April 1, 2005

Exhibits, Talks, Workshops, Discussions

Learn more at [www.tufts.edu/tci/sustainability](http://www.tufts.edu/tci/sustainability)

## Tufts' Energy Bills Take a Winter Break

Winter break is a time for relaxing and taking a well-earned break after a hard semester. And this year, the same can be said for Tufts' resident halls.

On Dec. 22, TCI worked with representatives from Facilities, Housing, ResLife, and the Energy Manager to "shut down" the campus for nearly four weeks of winter break. The winter break gave Tufts a unique opportunity to save energy in campus buildings as well as perform much-needed maintenance while students were away.

During the shut down, staff members fanned out in teams of two to visit over 1600 residence hall rooms to turn down radiators, make sure windows were closed, look for potential fire hazards, and create work orders for maintenance issues. In addition to the action in the buildings, the facilities staff used the central energy management system to shut off bathroom exhaust fans and turn down building temperatures.

While many students had turned down their radiators and shut their windows, the team still identified a surprising number, about 18%, who had not. Unseasonably warm weather during the move-out period probably contributed to some of the open windows. "This was a lot of work but it will pay off," said Sarah Hammond Creighton, TCI Project Manager. "Only when we knew that all windows were shut, could Facilities go ahead and turn down the heat without risking freeze ups."

The team was pleasantly surprised to find very few banned energy hogging items such as space heaters and halogen torchieres. Residential Life and Facilities will continue to work to clarify the list of allowed student appliances.

Many thanks to the students and the staff teams who helped the Medford campus take a long break from high energy bills!

## Clean Energy: Making Green Power a Reality at Tufts

Every time the wind blows or the sun shines, Tufts is missing an opportunity. However, Tufts has taken a further step to capitalize on that breeze or ray of sunlight.

Tufts has joined the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Purchasers (MREP) program. MREP gives Tufts the chance to continue our long-standing tradition of environmental leadership.

MREP has been created by the Center for Resource Solutions and Think Energy, Inc. to educate large energy users in Massachusetts on the renewable energy options available to them. The goal of the program



Searsburg Wind Power Facility in Vermont

is to increase the overall amount of renewable energy that is purchased in the state. This goal is consistent with the state of Massachusetts' requirement that a certain percentage of all electricity used in the state must come from renewable sources.

A wide range of organizations have joined the program. Other Massachusetts schools and businesses ranging from department stores to hotels to manufacturers have also agreed to participate.

In addition to helping grow renewable energy, this program can help Tufts reach its goal of complying with the Kyoto Protocol. Renewable energy creates low or no

carbon emissions, so buying renewable makes a strong statement that Tufts is committed to Kyoto and working to meet that obligation.

So the next time you walk outside and notice the sun shining on a crisp winter morning, you should remember that Tufts could soon be using that sunlight to power our way to a renewable future!

## New Climate Change Course Offered

The Urban Environmental Policy Department and TCI are offering a new course on climate change policy taught by Ann Rappaport and John Larsen.

The course examines the climate change from several perspectives including scientific evidence, policy responses, media coverage and adaptation and mitigation solutions.

Sources of greenhouse gas emissions are studied, and a wide range of mitigation and adaptation measures explored and assessed.

The students learn about climate change solutions that are currently planned or implemented by governments, communities, and institutions - both for profit and non-profit - and for major systems (e.g. transportation, buildings, and energy).

The course focuses on several elements of international policy, not only with respect to negotiations among nations,

but also on select issues such as the gender, equity and development implications of climate change, and on new models such as the emissions reduction agreement between the Eastern Canadian Premiers and the New England Governors.

Students also choose a hands-on mitigation project. Many of the projects are on campus and students are supervised by TCI staff.

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