



WOOOFING
YOUR WAY
AROUND THE
WORLD...

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Foothill College Center for a Sustainable Future

CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

ACCREDITATION. Foothill receives a commendation in its Accreditation Report for sustainability programs and co-curricular activities!

GOING PLACES. The Center hosted a field trip last May for faculty/staff to the Stanford d.school.

SUSTAINABLE LEARNING. Still going strong, the Sustainable Learning Community tackles ENERGY in 2012-13.

EMERALD CAMPUS LECTURE SERIES has begun its second year, featuring Mikhail Davis of Interface, Inc.



OUR MISSION

Foster ecoliteracy across the curriculum

Revitalize & re-envision general education through the lens of sustainability

Cultivate sustainable values and practices on campus

Collaborate with the greater community toward a sustainable future

POSTCARDS FROM PARIS by Scott Lankford

Americans these days think of Paris as the Capitol of the Past: a living museum; a EuroDisney for adults. But prior to the 21st Century, the whole world typically looked to Paris as the inspiring Capital of the Future (with the Eiffel Tower as its futuristic symbol).

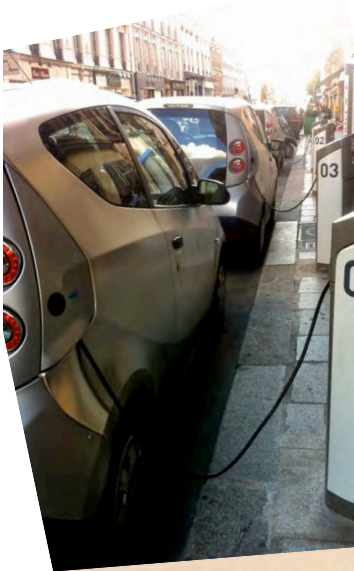
Living and working in Paris in summer 2012, I realized that Paris is *still* the Capital of the

Future—especially when it comes to Green Technology.

So here comes a Foothill College "wishlist for the future" in the form of five Parisian postcards:



more on 2

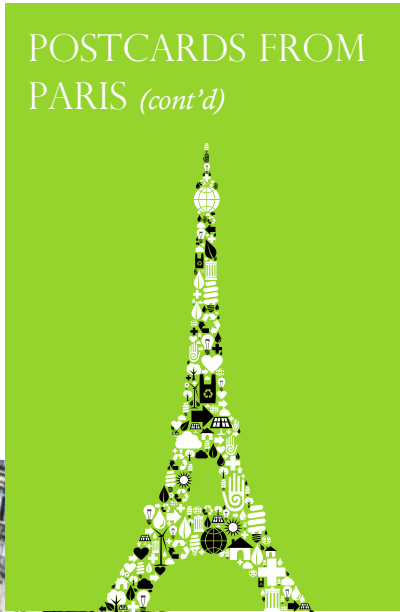


Right outside my apartment door in Paris stood a row of publicly available Electric Cars (complete with streetstand chargers), ready and waiting for rental by anyone--including me--who signed up for a rental account.

Just think of it as ZipCars with batteries -- but provided as a public service by the City of Paris, "free as the air" in order to "free the air" as the French advertisements trumpeted. Better yet, unlike ZipCars, the Parisian could be picked up at one part of the city and dropped off at another (one way trips encouraged)! Someday I'd love to see a row of public rentals just like this parked here at Foothill.

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-Scott



Paris has literally thousands of bicycles available for rental at hundreds of public kiosks scattered across the city. Cyclists pay just one euro for a 30 minute ride -- and bikes can be dropped off anywhere in Paris (making quick one way trips the norm).

This makes cycles absolutely the cheapest, fastest, and by far the most scenic form of transportation available in a city with an already-world-class network of public transportation systems. So why not make free bikes like this available all across the South Bay region?

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We're finally starting to see Euro-style SmartCars in our Foothill Parking lots -- long a familiar sight on Paris streets. But this year Paris was full of even smaller vehicles, like this teeny-weeny Renault model.

Trust me, these cars are cute enough to draw a smile even from the most hardened Parisians. And everyone would benefit, not just the drivers. Put two min-cars into each "regular-sized" campus parking space, and Foothill's notorious parking lot gridlock would vanish like the morning mist over the Eiffel Tower!

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Every summer Paris closes down the busiest expressway in the city to create an extraordinary public beach on the banks of the River Seine. Known as Paris Plage -- the "Paris Beach" -- it features truckloads of sand and even plastic palm trees stretched out along a river bank otherwise clogged with speeding cars. Tourists and locals alike adore a chance to enjoy one of the world's most beautiful waterfronts.

OK, so I'm not actually recommending that we close down Hwy. 280. But I am imagining a Foothill parking lot converted into a kind of summer-wonder playgrounds (with a skate park and slip-and-slides)!

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On several department stores and museums in Paris a new kind of vertical hydroponic garden has sprouted, creating lush green "living walls" that beautify and insulate. So how about covering those big ugly naked concrete walls at the 8000 buildings here at Foothill -- which already have sustainable green rooftops, covered with lush growing greenery!

The energy savings alone could help pay for the modest cost of installation.

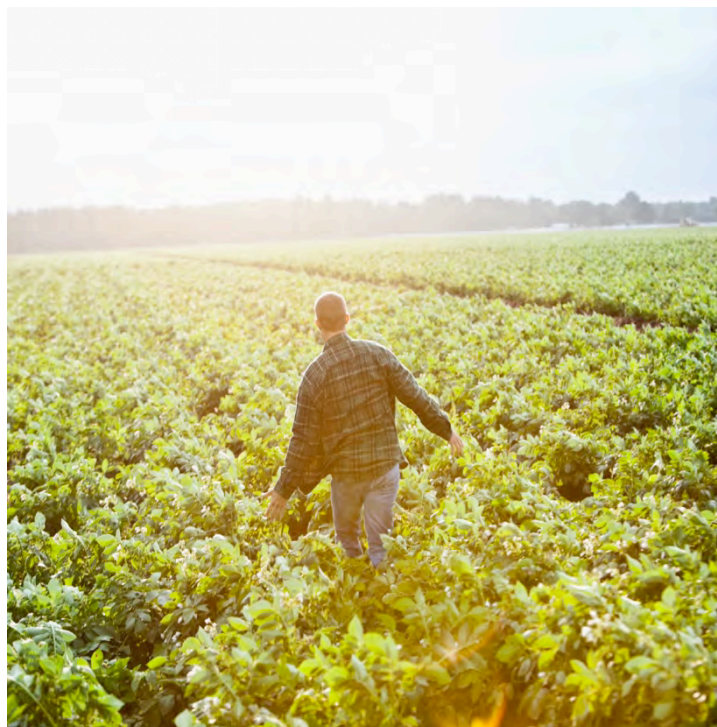
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Scott Lankford is an English Professor, and Co-Founder of the Foothill Center for a Sustainable Future.





DO YOU WWOOF?

WORLD-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES ON ORGANIC FARMS (WWOOF) by Erica Dalton

Have you ever wondered where your food comes from? My entire childhood I spent thinking that my food came from a neighborhood farm with farmers who would play music to their plants and treat the animals to an open field with as much space as they deserve. As I got older it quickly dawned on me that this was not the case as I had hoped. To this day I find it extremely strange that we do not have neighborhood farms to visit or why everyone doesn't have a garden in their backyard. I contemplated ways in which I could change this but I felt

powerless. I had no form of education on the subject matter except for a few documentaries I had seen here or there and a middle school elective class. I was fortunate to have come in contact with these opportunities but it still was not enough. I tried to read books however being a hands on learner I found this an insufficient strategy. I was upset to find that most of this information was not shared with the masses but mostly I was defeated.

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I felt defeated for a long time. I had placed my questions and ideas on the back burner. It was never eliminated from my life, but it just was not a top priority. This changed when I was seventeen and in English 1A at Cañada College. I had always enjoyed English courses, I found them a chance to read and get credit for it but I wasn't expecting much more than that. What made this class special is that my teacher had chosen all of our reading material to be about the American food system. That semester got me to start thinking again. I wanted to learn more and I wanted to experience it hands on.

My entire life I have grown up loving the outdoors. I looked forward to camping trips and hikes. As I got older this love for the outdoors continued and my curiosity about how to sustain myself began to develop. I started to talk to friends, family and co-workers about how I felt. I found out that there were quite a few people in my life who felt similar and some who even had hands on experience. As everyone shared their information with me I found one piece that really enticed me. My co-worker mentioned how her sister had done this program called "WWOOF" -- World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms -- a network where individuals can contact farms who need help in exchange for room and

board. Some farms will let you stay for as short as a week and some farms will let you stay as long as you want. It is all up to you and your host farm. No this seemed too easy. When I got home I went to the website and read all about it. I found out that there would be a membership fee for each region you decide to contact farms in. I had not decided here exactly I wanted to go so I decided to wait until it was closer to summer time and maybe by then I would have an idea. I decided to stay in North America for my first WWOOFing experience. I dreamed of traveling the world through WWOOF, but since this was my first time traveling completely alone I decided to break out somewhere I was familiar with the culture. Baby steps to realizing my dream.

Summer came around and I found myself quitting my job only a day after sending out my first round of e-mails to farms. Lucky for me I got a call from the farm I ended up visiting for a month, immediately after quitting. I took that as a sign that I had made the right decision. Later that night I skyped with the husband and wife who own the organic farm, and I immediately felt like this was a real experience. During this conversation I learned I was to be one of four WWOOFers there. It made it a lot more comfortable for me to not



YOU TOO CAN WWOOF!


Visit the WWOOF website (www.woof.org) for more information about traveling the world as a WOOFer. You can also learn about opportunities closer to home by checking out the WWOOF-USA network website at (www.woofusa.org).

be the only WWOOFer. Not to mention how cool it is meeting individuals across the country/world who have similar thinking to you. I recommend asking the farm if other people will be there with you if you think it would enhance your experience. Before I traveled to Maine I asked to contact a WWOOFer who was already on the farm. This conversation helped me feel more comfortable about traveling across the country alone and I was able to get an insider point of view. I was very impressed with how much the farm helped me feel comfortable. While I was on the farm I weeded, mended fields, harvested plants and much more. I also got a chance to work with the animals, I collected chicken eggs every morning, and I milked the

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cow every night. The homeowner Laura taught us how to cook, how to create our own condiments and even make soap. I even helped slaughter the chickens. While I was there I learned a lot about farming and even more about myself. I came back with a better idea of where I wanted to direct my life and where I needed to start. While I was disappointed to have to come back and go to school I also was confident that I would be able to work harder and be more dedicated. I also knew that this would not be my last chance to go WWOOFing.

There are so many different options when it comes to WWOOF. This first time, I spent my time learning about organic vegetables and animals. Next time I may decide to learn about beekeeping, goats, vegan farms and everything in between. WWOOFing gives me the option to figure out what I want to do through hands on experience, to travel the world and to see how other people live. I have been finding ways to integrate my education into my life at home, and I can search for more opportunities with more confidence and knowledge. World Wide

Opportunities on Organic Farms is a great program for anyone who is a hard worker, has a good attitude, or simply wants to stay open-minded to new experiences. Interested? Check out www.woof.org. Their easy-to-understand website will tell you anything you want to know. My hope is that WWOOFing is recognized as a great opportunity and that it continues to reach those who will benefit from it most—including those of us here in the Foothill College Community. 

Erica Dalton is an Environmental Horticulture student and an Intern at the Foothill Center for a Sustainable Future.

TWO NEW SUSTAINABILITY COURSES OFFERED WINTER QUARTER 2013!!

ENGINEERING 39: ENERGY, SOCIETY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Ideal for a non-technical audience, this is a great introduction to modern energy systems and technology. Transferable to UC and CSU.

ENRG40: INTRODUCTION TO CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Topics will be covered in lectures, hands-on laboratories and tours, and will include:

- Conventional Power Plants
- Renewable Energy Sources & Technologies
- Future of Fossil Fuels
- Building Efficiency
- Transportation Solutions
- Key Research and policy areas

Transferable to UC and CSU.



It is impossible to look at sustainable issues without exploring them from a global viewpoint. Even the term 'global warming' makes reference to the entire planet. However, what students discover when they begin to sift through issues around food, water and energy is that we are not just talking about the planet—we are talking about it's people, and the connections that exist between all of us.


We are so fortunate to live in the United States, but many of us who have grown up here take our lifestyle for granted. We don't think about the daily lives of others around the globe, or how our ways of living impact the rest of the world. One of the goals of the Sustainable Learning Community at Foothill is to pierce that bubble and broaden student's frame of reference, and prepare them to become responsible global citizens. This is not just a goal of the Sustainable Learning Community, but also aligns with one of the rubrics set by Foothill to evaluate Student Learning Outcomes: the Global Consciousness Rubric.

Last year, I was fortunate enough to view the work of students in several general education classes that participated in the learning community on water and had a first real glimpse at some tangible results. I was both touched, and amazed by what I saw. From student term papers grappling with tough issues presented in the book *Oceana*; to persuasive group presentations on water issues as part of a communications class; and even the beautifully crafted images relating to water developed in art and design classes—it became evident that the Sustainable Learning Community is really working. In talking with instructors, I kept hearing the same thing. At first students struggled with this very broad topic, but as



ACHIEVING GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LEARNING

by Mia Casey

the quarter progressed, something clicked. They began to make the connections and see how important issues like clean water, water scarcity and privatization of water are—life and death issues in many parts of the world—and students became very engaged and enthusiastic about the subject matter. It was also noted that students who were in multiple classes participating in the learning community had started to reference and comment on what they were learning from one class to the other. We are just beginning to see how multiple exposures from various perspectives to a sustainable topic like water can broaden and deepen the learning that is going on. Students are beginning to develop a new kind of literacy, Ecoliteracy, and it will serve them well in a global future that they will face. 

Mia Casey is Sustainability Coordinator and Co-Founder of the Foothill Center for a Sustainable Future.



SOME QUICK SOLAR STATS:

- 3 PV Installations on campus totaling 1.5MW (Mega-watts)
- Generates 2 million kWh / year
- 1000 tons of CO₂ avoided yearly
- Produces 80-120% of our peak load during the day

FOOTHILL'S SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS by Scott Lam

Imagine a spring filled with dark green grass and vividly blooming flowers. A summer of velvety white clouds gliding across a dark blue sky. A fall with light winds carrying away newly fallen leaves. A winter coated in a glistening white snow.

This future we envision is slowly being wiped away by the poor choices and actions we make everyday. With fossil fuel pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on the rise, it is logical to switch to a clean alternative source of energy to achieve a sustainable future. Creating a sustainable future is not just about efficiently producing economical needs, but protecting and improving the well being of our environment as well.

A major challenge that a college faces is producing the amount of energy demanded by the campus in a cost-effective, yet clean and energy efficient way.

One very effective solution for Foothill has been the addition of our solar parking system. This system uses solar panels to generate energy from the sun, while providing protection and shade for vehicles. In addition, the incorporation of microturbines with a heat recovery system further helps decrease our consumption of outside energy.

With its energy efficiency and self-generation capacity, Foothill has been able to effectively reduce its environmental footprint. The college

now uses approximately the same amount of energy per square-foot used in the 1990s, but with a smaller GHG footprint.


Robert Cormia, nanotechnology instructor at Foothill College, explains how these systems help achieve this, but also emphasizes the importance of energy efficiency, an often overlooked piece of the green puzzle. Professor Cormia explains that energy management systems really deserve much of the credit.

According to Cormia, right now planet earth is out of 'energy balance' with an extra 1.2 watts per square meter of energy being absorbed as a result of added Green House Gases

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS KEY

in the atmosphere. The planet must warm up to at least 0.6 C to reach equilibrium. If we do not reduce our consumption of energy and lessen our GHG emissions, the planet will continue to be out of energy balance and as a result continue to get warmer. Cormia states that there are two important steps to become more sustainable: increasing energy efficiency and decreasing the carbon intensity of that energy (through the use of low and near zero carbon intensive energy such as natural gas and solar PV).

Reducing energy usage may be key to creating a sustainable future, but, it is equally important to produce energy as cleanly and efficiently as possible. As Cormia has explained, without these measures, earth will constantly be chasing an unattainable equilibrium point, and literally 'cooking the biosphere'. Foothill has made some great strides towards generating its own renewable energy, and is working on improving and more effectively managing that energy. 

Scott Lam is a student and Intern for the Foothill College Center for a Sustainable Future

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.foothill.edu/sustainability

GET INVOLVED!!

There are many ways to help the environment by just volunteering a few hours of your time. Here are a few possibilities:



Foothill Teaching & Learning Garden Work Day!

Come help with a garden cleanup on November 30 (weather permitting) 1:30-3:00 p.m. For more info: www.foothill.edu/sustainability

Beach Clean Up! Surfrider Foundation, Santa Cruz Chapter has a group cleanup the first Saturday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. To find out more and register, visit www.surfridersantacruz.org

Habitat/Watershed Restoration! Acterra hosts Saturday workdays in the Redwood Grove, Arastradero Preserve, or in creeks along the lower peninsula. To learn more: http://www.acterra.org/programs/stewardship/get_involved.html