

The RecycleMania Tournament has Begun!

New Mexico State University is participating in the eight week long RecycleMania competition and will be competing against over 500 colleges. The RecycleMania competition's goal is to promote campuses all over the US and Canada to reduce, reuse and recycle the most waste possible.

The tournament began on February 4th and will continue through March 30th, 2013. During this time, New Mexico State University is seeking to recycle as much as possible in order to keep recyclables from entering the landfills. **Waste reduction is the key!**

At the end of the eight weeks, NMSU will report the amount of recycling and trash that it collected during the competition. RecycleMania will then rank NMSU along with all the other colleges on various categories based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis, as well as which schools have the best recycling rate as a percentage of total waste and which schools generate the least amount of combined trash and recycling. According to RecycleMania's 2012 results, NMSU came in at 5th place last year with a recycling rate of 78.66%.

Winners of the competition will receive national recognition through RecycleMania as well as receive an award made out of recyclable materials. So the more NMSU recycles during these eight weeks, the better ranking the university will receive and will have a better chance of becoming a RecycleMania winner!

Remember, recycling doesn't end when the competition does! Always reduce, reuse and recycle.

Help NMSU win—if you see a bin, drop it in!

During the competition, we recycle the following items on main campus:

- *Paper
- *Cardboard
- *Aluminum Cans
- *Plastic Water and Soda Bottles



In this Issue



Green Student Organizations



Go Green! Go Global!



Spring Winds and Las Cruces Soil



Green Student Organizations

Campus Sustainability Day

We are starting to plan for the October 2013 Campus Sustainability Day. We want to make 2013 CSD even more successful than last year, so come and join the fun!

Please contact joni newcomer, Manager of the Office of Sustainability at newcomer@nmsu.edu or 646-7563 if you want to volunteer on the planning committee.

FUN is our middle name!

OASIS

The Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability has great things planned for this semester. Meetings are at Corbett Center Quay Room on the 3rd floor every Monday night from 6-7 PM.

Activities include:

- 2013 Earth Day April 21
- Gomez Park organic gardening
- Night bicycle rides
- RecycleMania

President: Bryce Richard (brycer@nmsu.edu)



EARTH WEEK

April 18-22

- Harvey Stone, environmental speaker
- "Chasing Ice" movie premier
- Reuse/Recycle Fashion Show
- Earth Day at Young Park
- Earth Day at NMSU

ESSO

Environmental Science Student Organization is back in business! Come join the group in Skeen Hall, Rm. 200 Tuesdays at 5:30 PM.

Activities include:

- RecycleMania
- Fundraising raffle for \$100 certificate to De La Vega restaurant
- Compost project
- Possible Ag Day tabling
- Great American Clean Up
- Earth Day—Tie dye shirt booth
- Pursuing ideas to involve ESSO with NMSU community and its effort to GO GREEN!

President: Sativa Cruz (sativac@nmsu.edu)

Go Green! Go Global!

"Go Green! Go Global" is a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Study Abroad at NMSU. "Go Green! Go Global!" has the following events coming up:

On **Saturday, April 20**, in collaboration with "Keep Las Cruces Beautiful" there will be a "**Reuse and Recycle Fashion Show**". The Fashion Show will present new outfits made from old clothes, recyclable materials, and non-recyclable items. It will start at 12:00 pm at La Placita, in the downtown mall, next to the Rio Grande Theatre.

On **Sunday April 21**, "Go Green! Go Global!" is partnering with NMSU Organization of Aggie Students Inspiring Sustainability (OASIS) for the **Earth Day Celebration** at Young Park. This free event starts at 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Young Park, 2145 Colorado Ave, Las Cruces, NM. The Earth Day celebration includes live bands, entertainers, educational booths, vendors and children's activities, along with arts and science activities.



Spring Winds and Las Cruces Soil

With Professor Bill Lindemann

Interview and article by Brittany Breedlove, Student Assistant at OoS



Oh how we just love the Las Cruces spring winds! The wind is blowing, sand is getting in your eyes, and the sky is so dusty you can't even see the Organ Mountains. Ever wonder about our soil and what happens during those spring winds?

Dr. Bill Lindemann is just the right person to talk to about our soil. Lindemann is a Professor of Plant and Environmental Sciences at NMSU. He has been involved with the environmental field at NMSU for thirty-five years!

When asked to talk about soils and the spring winds Lindemann said, "First of all, sand storms, dust storms are common in the deserts. The reason they happen is because in desert regions the soil doesn't

have a lot of vegetation so it's easy for our big winds to pick up the soil and put it airborne."

Obviously, we can't keep Las Cruces from being a desert. Thankfully, there are environmental efforts we can take to better prevent the annoyances we experience from dust storms. Professor Lindemann provides to us three simple steps for the best way to prevent dusty winds from sending our soils to the next county:

1. Keep the soil covered whenever possible. Dr. Lindemann explains, "In agriculture we try to keep the plants on the soil. If they are dead or harvested, we try to keep the residue on the field. Whatever it takes, the key is to cover the soil!"
2. Slow down the wind speed at the soil surface. This doesn't mean that we can go out there and slow down the wind; instead it means we can slow it down by putting materials on the soil. For example, if the wind is blowing at 50 mph on a completely bare soil surface the chances are that the faster the wind picks up, the more soil will become airborne. Alternatively, if you have plants, tall trees, etc. covering the soil surface or stubble, the wind speed could be cut in half. Professor Lindemann advises that, "If you have the whole field covered with vegetation you effectively slow down the wind for the entire field."
3. Keep the soil moist if possible. If you have a bare spot in your yard and you know that a wind-storm is going to occur, you might water it that night so that it doesn't rise up the following day. Watering the soil will help keep the soil stuck to the ground.

Through his teachings at NMSU, Professor Lindemann is making a difference in how our soils are being better taken care of. "In all the courses I teach I emphasize that soil is a natural resource just like water, trees, and animals and that when we manage soils for agriculture or for our own back yard, we should conserve and improve the resource as much as possible."

Professor Lindemann strongly expresses that, "The more we keep the soil in place the more it is sustainable for future generations. This is the same of any resource. People must look at soil as a resource! If they don't look at it as a resource, then we use soil unwisely."

Green Product of the Month: Post-it® Greener Notes



- The greener choice - 100% recycled paper and a plant-based adhesive
- 3" x 3", Sunwashed Pier Collection
- Made with 67% plant-based adhesive and recycled material
- All Post it® Notes are recyclable
- Paper comes from well-managed forests, where trees are replanted

These can be purchased online at officemax.com

Pete and Re-Pete were on a boat. Pete fell off. Who was left?



If you have unused university equipment in your department that could benefit some other department, make it available to other departments by advertising on Re-Pete.



Green Tip of the Month: Turn off your computer monitor when not in use. Screensaver mode uses the same amount of energy as active mode so it is important to just turn off the monitor when you're not using it. *Thanks!*