
MEMORANDUM

TO: EILEEN CASHMAN AND KYLE SIPES
FROM: GILBERTO SANDOVAL
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE SCHATZ ENERGY RESOURCES CENTER (SERC) AND CAMPUS CENTER FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY (CCAT) FIELD TRIP
DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to offer a description of the fieldtrip that was taken on November 18, 2016 to the Energy Resource Center and the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology at Humboldt State University.

Discussion

The fieldtrip was conducted by individuals that are knowledgeable about their respective sites. The class was given a guided tour of both sites (SERC and CCAT). Questions were answered to the best of the ability of the guides. The fieldtrip's purpose was to give the students of the Engineering 115 course a look at available resources as well as introducing possible ways to participate in and benefit from both sites.

The guide for the Center of Appropriate Technology was very welcoming and excited to show the members of the tour the projects that are happening at the CCAT house as well as discussing plans for future projects. CCAT is all about the conservation of resources, sustainability, and an education source for appropriate technology. Talk about a future plan to implement a hydroponics system inside the greenhouse located on site was discussed. The implementation of this hydroponic system would reduce the use of water through the continued reuse of nutrient solutions. One environmental cost the hydroponics project might introduce at the CCAT house would be the use of electricity to power the system. The CCAT house is working on being completely off the grid, such a system might set them back unless they find a way to implement the system and account for the use of energy and find an appropriate technology to meet their needs.

Involvement in design projects at both sites (SERC and CCAT) require the initiative to volunteer as well as apply for jobs when they are listed. CCAT offers volunteers hours on Fridays and the Schatz Energy Research Center is always looking for decent volunteers.

Conclusions

The field trip was a great experience as it opened my eyes to the many ways that we can contribute to a better and happier sustainable life. CCAT in particular really made me want to get involved in the projects they are doing and take the classes they offer to expand on my learning about a healthier more sustainable lifestyle. Both facilities really exemplify the work that can be done when engineering practices are put into effect.