
MEMORANDUM

TO: EILEEN CASHMAN
FROM: JULIETTE CORTEZ
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CERC & CCAT SITE VISITS
DATE: APRIL 18, 2016

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to review the sites SERC and CCAT that the ERE115 class visited on April 15, 2016 at 11am on the grounds of Humboldt State University.

Discussion

The purpose of these site visits were to give the ERE115 students an idea of how sustainable a group or an individual can be. Both CERC and CCAT informed the class about different ways individuals can use sustainable products to be sustainable with our production of goods.

At CERC the tour guide explained how their organization has helped developing countries by providing them with sustainable safe products as well as checking other company's products to ensure the product is working sustainably.

CCAT gave the students a more conceptual idea of how an individual can create a sustainable environment to live in and cultivate plants. At this site there were many small locations that had different ways of using old or unused material as building blocks for a garden, a shed, a cob oven and many common household items created to be sustainable. CCAT is constantly thinking of new design projects; the green house in particular is very interesting and was created solely for sustainable growing. The green house comes off the side of the CCAT house sharing one wall. This insulated wall is filled with dry invasive grass. While the rest of the green house is made of glass that which retains heat on the inside while not being affected by temperature on the outside; thus allowing saplings to grow extremely well. This green house is especially sustainable because it is sensitive to pressure. Meaning, if the pressure in the green house gets too high then two windows on the ceiling will open by themselves due to the pressure in the room. Thus, allowing for quality air flow and then the windows will close again once air flow is maximized. The CCAT community states this pressure sensitivity to be very useful since the green house accumulates a lot of pressure and people are not always there to release the pressure by opening windows. However, there may be some environmental cost. An example could be the energy and materials used to make the glass.

There are many ways individuals can become apart of CCAT or CERC. I personally am very interested in CCAT and plan to take advantage of their volunteer Fridays as well as the courses they offer to students during the school year. The tour guide mentioned that the ERE major classes often help CCAT carry out projects. Thus, id like to carry out a project mainly concerning cleaning water with fungi and other native plant species.

The most interesting thing I learned on this field trip were all the many different ways we can make our home sustainable. Specifically, I was really interested in the different types of gardening methods CCAT implemented as well as the creating a cob oven.

Conclusion

These two sites gave me a better idea of how to implement sustainable living. SERC was more focused on sustainable energy, which was extremely helpful. CCAT focused on using trash and unused items as a gateway for new sustainable home projects.