

## **UPCOMING STUDENT FEE REFERENDUM INFORMATION**

The Auraria Board of Directors, at the request of the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB), has approved a referendum to support the continuation of the existing Sustainable Campus Program Fee. The Sustainable Campus Program Fee will continue to be a supplemental student fee in the amount of \$5.00 per student per semester (including the established institutional collection fee) for the Spring, Summer and Fall Semester of 2012-2015 and the Spring Semester of 2016 for the purpose of funding the continued operations and staffing of a Sustainable Campus Program. The campus-wide referendum will take place on April 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### **WHAT DOES THE CURRENT SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM FEE PAY FOR?**

The current Sustainable Campus Program (SCP) has the goal of reducing Auraria's dependence on fossil fuels and to reduce the ecological impact of this campus overall while improving campus life for all students, faculty, and staff. This goal would be achieved by implementing fiscally sound sustainable development principles throughout the management of campus life. Another goal of the SCP is to institutionalize the principles and practices of sustainability on campus. As a result of the current SCP the Auraria Campus: 1) now offsets 100% of its electrical use with renewable energy credits, 2) has diverted over 40% of campus waste from the landfill through a single-stream recycling program, 3) has initiated a number of lighting and water retrofit projects that will reduce campus electricity and water use, 3) has launched a composting program in the Tivoli, 4) will bring a 35kw solar power system to campus in the summer of 2011.

### **WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM?**

The proposed Sustainable Campus Program would build upon the programs provided by the current SCP and would focus upon the following program goals: 1) *furthering the current campus renewable energy program*, 2) *supporting alternative means of transportation*, 3) *increasing the overall energy efficiency of campus buildings*, 4) *increasing current recycling and integrated waste management programs*, 5) *reducing per-capita water use on campus*, 6) *supporting sustainable food and agriculture system on campus*, 7) *supporting other similar initiatives designed to reduce the Auraria Campus' dependency on fossil fuels and the ecological impact of the Auraria Campus overall*; and, *to support educational and outreach in regards to these programs.*

The proposed Sustainable Campus Program would be governed by the Sustainable Campus Program Subcommittee, a standing subcommittee defined within SACAB's bylaws. The membership of this committee would include students from each institution, administrative representatives from each institution, a representative from the Facilities Management Division, a full-time Sustainability Officer, and a representative from the Student & Auxiliary Services Division. This subcommittee would make programmatic and purchasing recommendations to SACAB for their approval.

### **REFERENDUM QUESTION:**

*"Shall the students of the Auraria Campus (the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver at the Downtown Denver Auraria Campus) authorize the Board of Directors of the Auraria Higher Education Center to collect from each institution a supplemental student fee in the amount of \$5.00 per student per semester (including the established institutional collection fee) for the Spring, Summer and Fall Semester of 2012-2015 and the Spring Semester of 2016 for the purpose of extending the funding of the further operations and staffing of a Sustainable Campus Program, including such projects as:*

- *furthering the current campus renewable energy program;*
- *supporting alternative means of transportation;*
- *increasing the overall energy efficiency of campus buildings;*
- *increasing current recycling and integrated waste management programs;*
- *reducing per-capita water use on campus;*
- *supporting sustainable food and agriculture system on campus;*
- *supporting other similar initiatives designed to reduce the Auraria Campus' dependency on fossil fuels and the ecological impact of the Auraria Campus overall; and, to support educational and outreach in regards to these programs."*

### **VOTING INFO:**

Polling places will be open from 7:30am to 7:00pm. Students need a current Auraria Campus Student ID in order to vote.

Community College of Denver Students will vote at South Classroom  
Metropolitan State College of Denver Students will vote at Central Classroom  
University of Colorado Denver Students will vote at North Classroom

### **HISTORY OF THE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM FEE:**

In the Spring of 2004 the Clean Energy Fee was passed by the Auraria Campus student body and was successful in making the Auraria Campus a leader across the state and the nation in the use of renewable energy. This success with the Clean Energy Program was the impetus of student support for a more comprehensive program. Working together with faculty, staff, and campus administrators SACAB seeks to expand and integrate the Clean Energy Fee program to create a more comprehensive and durable Sustainable Campus Program.

In the Spring of 2007 the students of the Auraria Campus voted to expand the Clean Energy Fee into the current version of the Sustainable Campus Program. As a result of the current SCP, the Auraria Campus: 1) now offsets 100% of its electrical use with renewable energy credits (placing the campus 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 1<sup>st</sup> on the EPA's Green Power Partnership), 2) has diverted almost 40% of campus waste from the landfill through a campus-wide single-stream recycling program and a pilot composting program in the Tivoli Student Union, 3) has initiated a number of lighting and water retrofit projects that will reduce campus electricity and water use and reduce utility bills, and 4) will bring a 35kw solar power system to campus as well as enhanced building energy management data collection capacity both in the summer of 2011.

The referendum vote on April 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, will ask students if they wish to **renew** the fee to support the Sustainable Campus Program through 2016.

### **ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM:**

- The current Sustainable Campus program has brought local and national recognition to the Auraria Campus. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green Power Partnership currently ranks Auraria #1 in the state and #13 nationally in the purchase of green power by higher education institutions and the campus was listed in Sierra Club's 100 "Coolest Schools" list nationally.
- The Sustainable Campus Program has created monetary savings for the Auraria Campus, through energy and water efficiency upgrades,
- In addition to a reduction in building energy use (due to the upgrades mentioned above) which reduces Auraria's dependence on fossil fuels, the Sustainable Campus Program has allowed for an increase in recycling collection and decrease in solid waste levels which also help reduce the ecological footprint of the campus.
- The Sustainable Campus Program is created by students, funded by students, and managed by students through the proposed Sustainable Campus Program Subcommittee of the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB).

### **ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM:**

- The new Sustainable Campus Program will maintain the current \$5 per student per semester fee until 2016
- Many of the projects covered by the Sustainable Campus Program, such as recycling, could potentially be taken care of by the campus; if alternative funding sources become available.
- While energy efficiency upgrades can save the campus money in utility bills those savings will most likely not lead to a reduction in student bond fees
- Renewable energy purchases such as wind-power renewable energy certificates are purchased in addition to the campuses current electric bills.

**For more information, please contact SACAB @ 303.556.4589 or in Tivoli 314**

