

A HEIF Documentary

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Abstract

Today while on campus a friend of mine threw a plastic Starbucks cup into the trash. I ran over and picked the cup out of the garbage and put it into the recycling bin. I looked at her with wide eyes and exclaimed “Why did you not recycle that!?” She glared at me with a straight face and almost whispered under her breath “You know recycling is bad too.” She had walked away and that was the end of the discussion. There is a very strong disconnect between the students consciousness and the student’s consumption. We all have some background of recycling and why you should turn off the lights, but I can assure you a majority of Humboldt State Students and faculty do not understand how much the school actually consumes. Even deeper than that, we do not understand the process that undergoes after putting that plastic cup into the recycling bin, we do not understand how much energy the campus uses a day, and most troublesome of all we do not know what the road to a 100% renewable university looks like. Today I offer you a solution to this disconnect. What we need is a visual, tangible, understanding of actual consumption. We we need is a HEIF documentary. We need a documentary because it is a way to communicate the actual reality of Humboldt State’s consumption. There will be a section dedicated to process from the throwing the cup away to what local plant it goes to and highlighting the impacts along the way. There will be a section dedicated to how and where Humboldt State gets their power from and what are the current limitations to achieving a completely renewable campus. The last section of the documentary will be giving the roadmap to what it will take for Humboldt State to be a 100% renewable campus. This project will be educational, low cost, and will not only fulfill almost all of HEIF’s goals, but it will skyrocket a movement towards a completion of your mission. This project will highlight problems and give ideas for solutions that will inevitably spark future students with HIEF projects ideas. Current and future HEIF projects will be highlighted and described in the film. We will use Professors, Clubs, and local organizations as resources to feature in the film to create a vision of a collective effort in addressing a completely sustainable campus. This film will be on Humboldt State's website, HEIF’s homepage, shown at local theaters like the Minor or the ATL, and even potentially a hit on YouTube. There will be a showing on campus and it can be submitted to Humboldt’s Film Festival. The process of producing this film will be low cost because all a project like this really takes is a couple of inspired driven students.

Project Description

This documentary has a high potential to succeed with relatively low costs. The access to equipment is the biggest hurdle, however Humboldt State has an immense amount of resources for students and video production. This documentary fulfills the goal of a connection to HEIF's prior work that you have been looking for. It will display, show, and explain many of the projects and the effects that they have had. It is an original idea with a very high educational value. Further benefits are it will increase public awareness of HEIF and its legitimacy, it will give a model to both CSU and other Universities around the World, and it will promote Humboldt State in a positive way to both future students and alumni.

Need Statement

HEIF's mission is to reduce the environmental impact of energy on campus. This documentary will help fulfill HEIF's mission in the following ways. This will inspire students, faculty, even community members to get involved with the countless great organizations on campus working towards a renewable future. While a film in itself is not a solar panel, it is however the spark, the kindle, the way to ignite people, ideas, and a vision for the future. This will fulfill the goal of publicizing HEIF's accomplishments, the goal of supporting dissemination of HEIF's projects, the goal of being connected to the curriculum of the university, and it will be deployed, monitored, and maintained with a strong student involvement. I can assure you that after this film, next year you will get many more idea papers.

Outcome

What is your favorite book? How much has it shaped your life? Such questions are hard to determine for art is not quantitative and qualitative like we might want it to be. We can track views, likes, use Google Analytics to gather data, give out surveys, but we must remember, what was so powerful about Martin Luther King Jr or Gandhi was that they painted visions of the future. They said this is the world we are in, this is the world we could be in, and here is the road to get there. This film will not only teach and inspire our own students, this film will educate other universities what Humboldt is doing and inspire their students to do the same. The student learning outcomes will be immense and immeasurable.

Partners

The idea struck me not too long before the deadline of the paper so I did not get to speak to specific staff or entities, however I believe we can all imagine how much the community would love to get behind this idea. Wrrap, CCAT, Y.E.S House, Environment & Community, ERESA, Powersave Green Campus, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, and countless others will be key figures in our film. Many clubs, professors, and students will be involved and be apart of the film. Much like how the solution to our energy problem, this will be an isolated event, instead it will be a community effort.