

THE ENVIRONMENT

Students make personal effort to preserve the Earth's health

USC club tries to save Earth from disaster

By APRIL HUFFMAN
Staff Writer

Of the 10 tons of garbage USC makes every day, less than one percent is recycled, and Carolina students pay to haul out this garbage with part of their tuition, according to a member of Students Allied for a Greener Earth.

If one is interested in joining a relatively new, highly active environmental group on campus, they might consider SAGE.

"There's just so many environmental problems and not much time left. The Earth is threatened like never before," SAGE Chairman Beth McKay, an interdisciplinary peace studies sophomore, said. "These are very important issues. I realize that it takes a lot of individuals, and I'm trying to do my part."

SAGE was founded two years ago by USC graduate Helen Hudson and senior Melodie Moody. The two women met while doing volunteer work for Greenpeace and decided that USC needed a group like it.

SAGE began at USC under the Greenpeace name; but after several months, the members decided they wanted to be a more diversified, versatile organization, Moody said.

The first meeting of SAGE this semester had a large turnout, with over 60 people. People picked up environmental periodicals and articles that would put them on their way to getting allied for a greener Earth. "We like to leave them with something like these materials to make them more informed," McKay said.

McKay started off the meeting with environmental statistics. As the facts got everyone's attention, she began to describe SAGE.

SAGE is a non-hierarchical organization with no dues, which means that anyone can join and head committees — they do not have to be elected. "It makes people feel like it's not a popularity contest. People don't have to wait to become involved," McKay said.

SAGE's goals are to educate, motivate, initiate and accentuate, McKay said: educate the campus and community of what problems are going on around them, motivate people to get involved, initiate people to change their lifestyles to



SAGE members Melody Moody (far left), Kiera Brooke (front) and Beth McKay discuss plans at a SAGE meeting.



Beautiful trees at the Congaree Swamp Memorial are a pleasant sight to environmentalist and city-weary eyes.



A smokestack discharges fumes into the air at the Colprovia Asphalts on Airport Boulevard in Cayce.

Tips that can help the Earth survive

By The Gamecock Staff

First, there were 50 simple things people can do to save the Earth. Then, there were 50 simple things kids can do to save the Earth.

Now, the staff of *The Gamecock* brings you 50 simple ways students at USC can help save the Earth.

Environmentalism is something everyone can get involved in, and, with *The Gamecock's* tips, you can help the environment without having to get involved in Greenpeace or being accused of being a tree-hugger. And it's so easy you won't have to inconvenience yourself in any way.

In the dorm room

1. Use air-conditioning/heating sparingly.
2. Make sure the room is sealed tightly for efficient use of air conditioning.
3. Take shorter showers.
4. Shut off water when shaving or brushing teeth.
5. Turn off lights, television, etc. when leaving the room.
6. Use hairsprays, deodorants, and cleaning products in pumps or solids to avoid chlorofluorocarbons.
7. Share newspaper subscriptions.
8. Clip plastic six-pack rings to keep animals from strangling on them.
9. Use natural bath, make-up re-

moval and cleaning sponges rather than synthetic sponges.

10. Use toothpaste tubes instead of pumps. Pumps cannot be recycled.

In the dining hall

1. Use paper cups instead of plastic foam cups.
2. Use metal silverware instead of plastic.
3. Do not use plastic lids and straws.
4. Eat in the dining halls as often as possible to avoid plastic foam boxes with carry-out orders. On carry-out orders, request cardboard containers.
5. Use aluminum foil instead of plastic wrap.
6. Get salads in a re-usable plastic bowl instead of premade salads in styrofoam containers.
7. At Gamecock Park, order two cheeseburgers instead of a double cheeseburger to avoid a plastic foam box.
8. Ask that all food be put on the same plate to cut down on plastic foam serving bowls.
9. Avoid foods and products that cause cruelty to animals (such as veal).

In the classroom

1. Use pencils or refillable pens

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See SAGE page 5

Experts to live in model Earth

By The Associated Press

ORACLE, Ariz. — Eight environmental pioneers were named to spend two years with just each other — and 3,800 varieties of plants and animals — inside a glass-and-steel dome trying to duplicate Earth's ecosystem.

Among the crew are a gerontologist, an electrical engineer, a marine biologist and a botanist. They are two Britons, a Belgian, a German and four Americans.

All the biospherians have worked together for at least three years on the Biosphere II project,

an attempt to copy the planet's natural environment inside a 72-acre closed, self-sustaining system. The planet's natural environment is designated Biosphere I.

"I'm working five years toward this aim of a two-year closure, and the closer the day comes, the more excited I get," said crew leader Bernd Zabel, a 41-year-old German.

As a laboratory for showing ways to solve environmental problems such as pollution, the privately funded Biosphere could become a moneymaking venture, scientists have said. It also is a prototype for sustaining life in space.

Inside the sealed geodesic frame, all air, water, food and wastes will be regenerated and recycled.

Only electricity will link its ecological system with the outside. Computers and telephones will provide communications with mission control and the rest of the world.

Crew members will be able to leave via airlocks in event of emergency.

Plans call for the venture to begin Dec. 5.

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