

# USC stays green with renewable energy

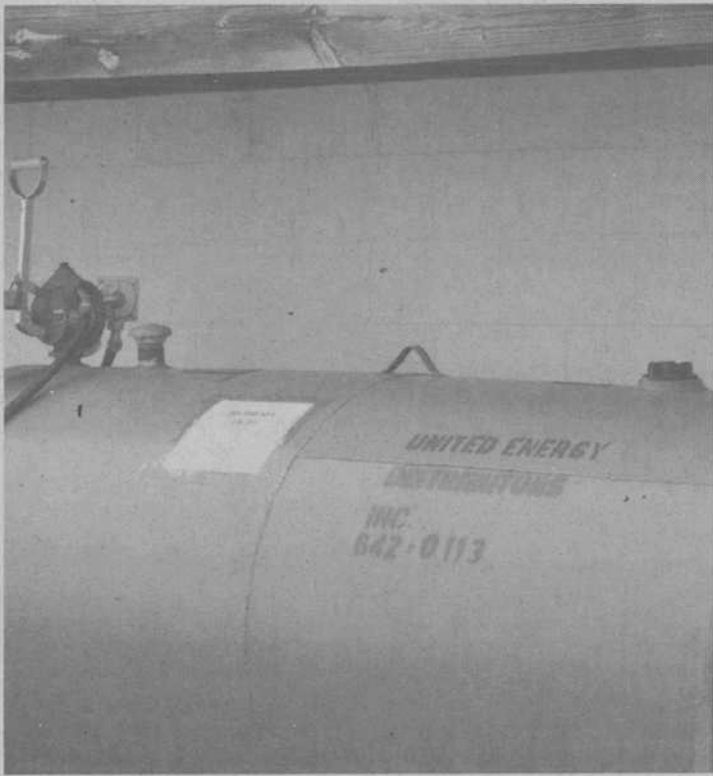


PHOTO BY TRISHA SHADWELL/THE GAMECOCK

The biodiesel fuel tanks that USC's five new shuttles will use.

BY AARYNE ELIAS  
THE GAMECOCK

USC advanced its multilayered environmental plan this summer with biodiesel buses, a tree survey, recycling and the continuing construction of green dorm West Quad. The plan began five years ago when USC joined forces with Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina to form the Sustainable Universities Initiative. They pledged to work together towards a more sustainable future through facilities management, community service, research and education. Thirteen other state-supported institutions have joined since.

## West Quad

Known as "the green residence hall," West Quad is slated for completion by fall 2004. This 500-bed facility is being constructed at Main and Wheat using environmentally safe procedures and materials.

West Quad seeks to qualify for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification given by the United States Green Building Council. Its design reduces energy consumption by 30 percent reduction in heating, cooling, water, lighting and maintenance.

"University housing and, I think, many other departments at the university are learning that these sustainability-focused initiatives are good business practices as they save money and resources. In these times of tight budgets, this is more important than ever before," said Gene Luna, USC Housing director.

## Biodiesel Buses

This fall, USC will run five shuttles with biodiesel fuel. The buses run on a formula that consists of 20 percent soybean oil and 80 percent diesel fuel. The fuel relies less on non-renewable diesel fuel while releasing fewer emissions into the environment.

## Recycling

Currently, USC recycles more than 30 types of items, ranging from worn out computers to empty beer cans.

The dining hall purchases recycled products and composts 100 pounds a day to be used on campus grounds.

This fall, housing will provide every dorm room with a blue recycling bin and each residence hall with a collection site.

## Tree Survey

The National Wildlife Federation recently awarded USC for efforts to develop environmental sustainable campus. The school was specifically recognized for its efforts in recycling and land and ground management programs.

This summer the grounds management surveyed the trees on campus. A map and database including the trees' species, condition and diameter is being created.

Though Coull said the university's large programs are impor-

tant, he said individuals should also change their daily life habits. "Stop driving those big SUV's to campus — take a bus, a bike or car pool," he said. "Just cut back on the amount of resources that you use."

## Preston Green

Most of the faculty and staff parking behind Preston College and Woodrow will disappear this September as part the Preston Green project.

The parking lots, bound by Preston, Woodrow, Rutledge and Legare, will be replaced with grass to beautify a new walkway from the Russell House to Rutledge. The \$1 million project will feature a plaza at the base of the smokestack tower, a landmark left over from the old energy plant.

Wes Wolfe contributed to this story  
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## Welcome Week

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### Cockapalooza, Hypnometalist and Magic Show

Carolina Productions will sponsor a daylong concert on Davis Field II Tuesday, Aug. 19, beginning at 10 a.m. CP will also sponsor a hypnometalist and magic show performed by Mike Anthony and Mike Super on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom. Additionally, CP will play "Bringing Down the House" in the Russell House Theater at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, Thursday, Aug. 21, Friday, Aug. 22, and Saturday, Aug. 23, at 9 p.m.

### Carolina Ya'll

It will be an evening filled with various carnival-type attractions with prizes and delicious bar-

beque. It will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19 on Davis Field I. The event is sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and is intended to "give new freshmen and returning students their first taste of the great time they've been expecting at USC," said Adam Hark, president of RHA. RHA expects to give students the opportunity to see old friends, make new ones and have a memorable day.

Welcome Week, now a tradition at USC, is meant to help students "develop a sense of belonging to the Campus Community and introduce students to campus traditions that foster a sense of community spirit and pride," said Carmella Carr, director of the Russell House University Union. Welcome week is intended to introduce students to campus and community resources as well, she said. For more Welcome Week information visit [www.sa.sc.edu/rhuu](http://www.sa.sc.edu/rhuu).

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President Andrew Sorensen helps students move in Welcome Week 2002.



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