

White House vows to reduce energy consumption

By Alex McCracken
Staff Writer

The White House has released a comprehensive plan to reduce our nation's energy consumption.

As U.S. citizens, we do not need to be told our way of life is now functioning on slivers of borrowed time. The White house press secretary wants us to know that they are not asleep at the wheel and have shown that they not only know where our problems are coming from, but where we need to go from here.

According to the press release, "In 2008, America imported 11 million barrels of oil a day. By 2025—a little over a decade from now—we will have cut that by one-third." Obama continues to back it up with sensible actions such as keeping a closer eye on refinery companies as well as implementing safety reforms. Incentives for oil companies to expedite production are also mentioned.

But more important issues are explained in

detail. Oil security is next on his list as well as a new frame work for international relationships on the basis of energy efficiency and not just energy production.

Alternative energy is given an introductory paragraph and several detailed explanations and strategies follow. And while the secretary's rose colored view on ethanol fuel, a fuel with a reputation of being an economic dead end, are worrisome. But the Obama administration is not putting all its eggs in one basket; and is actively funding research into other fuels, as well as finding ways to sell those fuels in a global market, and plans on building several bio fuel refineries.

The release ends on a note of efficiency about efforts to hybridize the federal fleet, of which 600,000 are currently in service, and by 2015, the president hopes, will be fully integrated. This in addition to recovery act investments to make modern construction of homes, places of business, and government housing projects to

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be built under much more stringent efficiency standards curbing the gob smacking 70 percent of our national energy that these structures consume.

Whether these ideas and promises are acted on remains firmly up in the air. But this writer appreciates the gesture and feels it's been a quite a while since we've been given a straight answer on the administration's green aspirations.

Special topics seminar classes for fall 2011

Special topics seminar classes are classes that have a specific theme to analyze that provides students with a variety of perspectives.

Two of the classes will be put together in a LINC course that explores the connection between art and nature.

"I will be tracing broadly the theme of nature-inspired music with prof. Ken Chamlee, whose English 290 class will be doing the same theme by both poets and composers," said music professor Laura McDowell. Their class will focus on how nature has been portrayed through music, poems, stories, novels, and even art.

"We will be looking at the different ways nature is presented using not only our eyes, but our ears," said prof. Ken Chamlee. "I hope students will gain an appreciation for a broader connection on how all of the arts integrate." The class will feature guest speakers, have classes outside, and will examine how people have depicted nature throughout the centuries. McDowell hopes that students who take the class receive "an abiding love and appreciation of music's power to evoke images and emotions, and the close connection we have with the Earth."

Four other special topics seminar classes will be offered in the departments of Criminal Justice, Mathematics, Organizational Leadership, and Theater. The classes are filling up fast, so register soon.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

Fellowship of Christian

Athletes(FCA): Meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center.

Student Government Association: Meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Reserve Dining Room.

Team - Mobilizing Opportunities for Volunteer Engagement (T-M.O.V.E.): Meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. in the AEC Conference Room.

BC Greens: Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in MG 113.

BC Spiritual Life Presents

Common Grounds: Monday night at 8 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Have questions? Contact Brian Burgess at burgesda@brevard.edu.

Campus Activities Board:

Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Underground.

Expressive Arts Group: Meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. Come if you are feeling the need for some change in your routine, if you are looking for an opportunity to have fun, and to be creative and express yourself. Meets upstairs in Stamey Wellness Center.

Zumba for Japan: Sunday, April 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Auxiliary Gym. Tickets are \$15 at the door. All of the proceeds will go to The American Red Cross' relief efforts in Japan. Also, bid on silent auction items. Cosponsored by the Center for Multicultural & Service Initiatives and Hiro Martin, a local Zumba instructor.

Poetry/Music Performance: Keith Flynn and The Holy Men, Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Porter Center. Keith Flynn is an award-winning poet, singer, and editor who has published five books of poetry and essays. The reading is free and open to the public.

'Betrothal and Betrayal,' An Evening of Opera Scenes: Brevard College's Music Department will present a program of opera scenes at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday April 9 at the Porter Center for Performing Arts. The program, which is free and open to the public, will feature scenes from Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd," Gilbert and Sullivan's "Mikado" as well as the famous Flower Duet from "Lakmé."