



## Starting Your Campus Greens Chapter

By Mark D. Barney

The first thing to remember when beginning a new Campus Greens organization, or when assessing an existing one, is that your school and your student body is unique, and you must give that uniqueness serious consideration. Is your school very conservative? Are there other active progressive organizations? Have other progressive organizations failed there? How involved is your faculty in student organizing, etc?

In order to assess how to go about organizing students at your particular school, you should first consult with faculty, alumni, and other students who have formed progressive organizations there. Find out what has worked and what has failed.

The second thing to remember is that you are not alone! You are one of hundreds of student activists working to put a Green presence on campus. Go to our website, [www.campusgreens.org](http://www.campusgreens.org), and look at other Campus Greens groups' stories of success and failure. Don't let yourself become disconnected from the national organization--we are all here to support each other!

### A. Building and Activating your Initial Volunteer Base

Initially you must recruit a core group of passionate volunteers. Focus on where support is likely to be strongest--for example, the membership of other progressive groups, or your classmates in courses that address issues like poverty, labor history, racial justice, or environmental activism.

Secondly, even while focusing significant outreach effort towards targeted progressive populations, you should also take advantage of the many "new student" events or stu-

dent activities' fairs frequently held at the beginning of the school year to reach out to the wider school population.

The more human and personal the interaction with fellow students, the better chance you have that someone will join your organization. You will want to use all of these techniques, but keep in mind their order of effectiveness (high impact outreach techniques on top; lower impact techniques are on the bottom):

- ◆ Personal conversation
- ◆ Personal phone call
- ◆ Announcement in class
- ◆ Personal email
- ◆ Handouts
- ◆ Group email
- ◆ Poster

Have regular meetings at a regular location and regular time, each with a specific pre-planned agenda that ensures that at every meeting something solid is decided and some action is organized. Your group should always be in the process of researching, planning, carrying out, or wrapping up some campaign or event. You cannot recruit people to an inactive organization, and you cannot improve your campus and community just by talking about it.

When you see a new face at a meeting or event, make sure that person is immediately incorporated into whatever is happening. And don't forget a sign-up sheet! Call new volunteers within 24 to 48 hours. While e-mail is an excellent way to maintain communication between already active group members, it isn't an effective initial outreach tool. The effectiveness of a

personal phone call to a potential new Campus Greens member cannot be overly emphasized.

As soon as your group gets going, you should begin distributing tasks. Everyone should have certain projects assigned to them. Each person should know their role and should know how it fits into the group's larger plans and goals.

Find out what each volunteer's goals and talents are and how much they can do, and assign tasks accordingly.

A good way of delegating tasks is to form several working groups on your chapter's many projects /campaigns/issues.

### B. Organizing your First Campus-Wide Meeting

Your first campus-wide meeting should be planned far enough in advance to send an announcement to all available campus media. Furthermore, the agenda should be planned out to the minute. Kick-off meetings are also a great time to bring in a guest speaker that will bring more people to an event as well as keeping it interesting.

It is very, very important that at your first meeting you quickly explain the role of the Greens on your campus, briefly discuss that role, and then accomplish something tangible. Do NOT spend your whole first meeting arguing/talking about politics.

Some key things to do at the first meeting:

Ensure that every new member leaves with a specific assignment or task to work on before the next meeting.

Establish Working Groups on key projects [e.g., further

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## The End of Oil

By Nancy M. Broyles

The mere mention of the topic sends chills through the spines of most thinking people.

When I think back to my parents' childhoods, I can't imagine how they coped. They survived because they were largely self-sufficient, and did not even imagine what it would be like to be dependent on others for the essentials of life. Yet no matter how frightened we may feel, the world-wide depletion of natural gas, oil, and soil are very real, serious, and imminent concerns.

The first thing that comes to mind is the loss of electrical power, which is produced by coal, natural gas, nuclear, and hydro-electricity and which all deplete non replaceable resources.

The second loss would be travel and transportation of goods. Perhaps the most important use of transportation is the distribution of food. Farming and food production are heavily dependent on petrochemicals, which are used for planting, fertilizers, irrigation, pesticides, harvesting, processing, packaging and transportation. Travel as we know it with cars, trains and planes for the average person would be a decided problem. It is obvious; we are completely dependent on oil for our current life styles.

A major problem few of us understand is that "we the people" are not in control over our resources. For instance, 1% of our population owns about half of all capital and makes all the decisions of production and /resource allocation.

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recruitment, fundraising, media stunt, campaign development, etc.]

Set a date and time for your next meeting

**C. Becoming a Recognized Student Organization**

By becoming a recognized student organization (RSO), you will gain access to campus rooms and resources for meetings and events and you may qualify for funding through campus activities funds.

In order to become an RSO, you will need to contact your school's Student Activities Coordinator. (This person is also often called the Student Life Coordinator or other similar name; she should not be difficult to locate.) Explain to her that you are forming a chapter of a nonprofit organization called Campus Greens. Ask her what you need to do to become an RSO. Most likely you will have to submit a constitution, a set of by-laws, get a Faculty Advisor, a budget, or some combination of these things. Talk to your school's Activities Coordinator before writing anything to make sure that you are covering all of the specific information that she is looking for.

If your school wants you to draft a budget because they are considering giving your group money, make sure that you are realistic, but ask for as much as you think you may need to spend. It doesn't hurt to aim high!

**Contacts in Santa Barbara County:**

**Nancy Broyles**  
**Phone: 963-2687**  
**E-mail: nbroyles@igc.org**  
**Leo Raabe**  
**Phone: 637-8463**

**Contacts in Ventura County**

**Adrienne Prince**  
**Phone: (805)218-1344**  
**E-Mail: adrienneprince@hotmail.com**  
**Stuart Bechman**  
**Phone: (805) 522-3125**  
**E-Mail: sbechman@sbcglobal.net**

**The Green Surprise**  
**By David Wass**

A small group of Greens and other interested parties has been thinking and dreaming Big Time. Going by the title of "Californians for Fair Wages", they are proposing to put on the November 2006 ballot a statewide initiative designed to dramatically increase the state minimum wage to a "fair wage", hopefully leading toward a "living wage" for all Californians. This initiative could energize and define the Green Party of California for decades to come as the party representing workers and those who are daily exploited and oppressed. To people of color and women, as well as workers of all ages, this initiative could make a major difference.

The bare facts:

Adjusted for inflation, the California minimum wage has decreased 28% since 1968. The minimum wage, as of 2004, would have to be at least \$8.98 an hour to match the purchasing power of 1968 wages. Even more for 2006.

- ◆ The majority of low wage workers are people of color.
- ◆ Many Californians are toiling for poverty wages.
- ◆ A single parent of two, working full time for the current minimum wage of \$6.75 an hour in California, earns \$2,170 less than the 2004 federal poverty level.

The decision on the final hourly rate figure for the ballot measure will be made after a series of conferences involving all of the many organizations supporting the measure. A much talked about rate is in the range of \$8.50 to \$8.90 an hour. In addition, a major provision of this initiative is annual Cost of Living Adjustment

(COLAS)

Following the consensus-building conferences, after the November election, the all-volunteer signature-gathering drive will begin. 600,000 signatures is the goal. **You can be part of this outreach, which will bring the Green Party message to millions and make possible a decent standard of living for those who have suffered so long.** This is a win-win effort. Watch for notices alerting you as to the start of this campaign and join your fellow Green Party members and supporters from other groups in this historic effort.

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Petrochemicals are controlled by vast trans-national corporations, whose main concern is short-term profits. as to how resources are used .

That's why we will not have a say as to how resources are used. And why we need to act locally to deal with the on-coming problems.

We can save ourselves by becoming as self or community reliant as possible. We must find local organic solutions to meet our basic needs: food, water, housing, health and day-care. Communities must come together in an effort to fulfill these basic needs in a sustainable way. We cannot save the "American dream", but we can save ourselves and our communities.

To return to the topic of oil, I consider oil the most important factor in feeding a growing global population of 6.5 billion and maintaining the economies of developed countries.

There is a positive side to this discussion. Many countries do not have access to oil as we do, are not as dependent, and are becoming sustainable by producing energy and electricity with solar and wind power.

Renewable sources of energy should be our focus for a sustainable future. Not only do our scientists not only have to get busy and invent other methods of energy production besides dependence on oil, "We the people" have to get to work: gardening, and baby sitting, and learning to share and cooperate, in order to take back what is ours!



The November '05 Proposition		#	Title	Recommendation
Recommendations by the Santa Barbara County Green Party		79	Drug Program	Advocated by Health Access YES
#	Title		Recommendation	
73	Minor's Pregnancy	NO	80	Re-regulation of Electric Service Providers YES
74	Teacher Waiting Period	*	* No recommendation	
75	Use of Union Dues	NO		
76	School Funding	NO		
77	Reapportionment	YES		
78	Drug Program Advocated by Drug Companies	NO		



## San Luis Obispo County Green Activities

By Nancy Ferraro

A few years ago the San Luis Obispo County Greens came away from our retreat with two issues that we especially wanted to pursue - Instant Runoff Voting and Challenging Corporate Personhood.

In May of 2003, after completing some background work on IRV, we invited Steven Hill, author of

### FIXING ELECTIONS -

The Failure of America's Winner-Take-All Politics, to come to San Luis Obispo to speak. Hill is the western

regional director of the Center for Voting and Democracy, a non-profit organization that educates the public about the impact of voting systems and the legislative redistricting process on political representation. Steven spent two days with us. He began the first day by speaking to a large political science class (well over one hundred students) at Cal Poly, then appeared on Dave Congaton's call-in show, and wound up the day with a talk to members of the SLO community and Green Party. The following day, after an interlude at KCBX

studios, where he was interviewed by Guy Rathbun and taped for a future "An Evening With...", he spent an hour talking with people and signing his books at Novel Experience, a local bookstore. Hill wound up his visit here by dining with, and speaking to, a joint meeting of the Paso Robles and Atascadero Democratic Clubs. While all this activity did not result in a rush to embrace IRV locally, it did educate a good many people on this voting process.

As it is with many groups, our active Greens are a minority of the registered

Greens in San Luis Obispo county, so it took us a while to begin to address our other issue - challenging corporate personhood. More on that next time.

### Contacts in

#### San Luis Obispo County

**Nancy Ferraro**

**Phone: (805)772-3475**

**E-Mail: [nancyhf2@slonet.org](mailto:nancyhf2@slonet.org)**

**Colby Concho Crotzer**

**Phone: (805)772-9253**

**E-Mail:**

**[colbyconcho@charter.net](mailto:colbyconcho@charter.net)**

## 2005 Ventura County Green Party Update

By Mark D. Barney

Hello everyone— after the winter of 2004 the GPVC was excited for the future would bring, proud of our accomplishments, and just plain exhausted. We had just finished an election season in November where we had 3 candidates running for office. Those candidates were Stuart Bechman for the 24<sup>th</sup> Ca Congressional District, Adrienne Prince for the CA Assembly 37<sup>th</sup> district, and Sean Carl for the Ventura County Community College District Board District Board of Trustees Area #4. (I know that title is ridiculously long .) I was the campaign manager for all three of these campaigns.

We also hosted a GPCA Plenary in December of 2004 in which the group had fun , learned lots of new things about putting on events as well as growing closer with each other. The GPVC also made a large profit from the event so now we aren't living from fundraiser to fundraiser anymore. Our confidence as a group also went up showing that when we worked together great things can happen.

For January we had a month of reflection finally to see what we had done in the last few months. We also appointed Kendra Gonzales, an active Green in and outside the party, to the GPVC County Council. We now have 6 people on our county council. In February we decided to put on events/forums based on the Green Party's Ten Key Values. The event would be themed off the Ten Key Value that we had selected for that month. We would bring flyers, videos and other materials to the events as well as inviting other local groups and speakers to participate in these forums. We started in March with Ecological Awareness organized by Kendra Gonzales where we had at least 5 local groups (including the local Sierra Club President) speaking to our crowd.

Since then we have done events on Feminism and Nonviolence. With Feminism we had Adrienne Prince and Ferial Masry (the 2004 Democratic Candidate for CA 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly) talking about women in politics and how our country's current "leaders" politics affects women everywhere. For Nonviolence we had a speaker on nonviolent communication as well as Sanderson Beck, a Santa Barbara teacher who is a Green who has written many books on the subject of peace.

To publicize these events we decided that along with emails we would pay for ads in Hopedance, the local tri-county magazine devoted to

progressive politics and an ecologically sustainable world for the future. We hope that like the SB and SLO parties that in the future we can set up events with Hopedance in Ventura.

We also have some news to report on some of our non council members. Michael Cervantes, a Ventura Green, is the Ventura County Veterans for Peace Chapter President. He has been giving lots of interviews over the past year with his help in organizing the Arlington West Memorial (Hundreds of White Crosses on the beach by Stearn's Wharf representing all of the American Dead from the Iraq War) in Santa Barbara. Norm and Betty Eagle, who are Greens living in Oxnard have been involved in helping starting up local organizations to deal with issues such as protecting social security and vigils and protests against the war. We have had two great people join our group this year, Margaret Morris and Hal Chiprin. Margaret has been a very ecologically aware Democrat for years and after the 2004 election she decided to switch over and is now helping contact the local Ventura County media for our group. Hal was for the last few years the Libertarian Party of Ventura County Vice Chair and volunteer and outreach coordinator. He has always been a left wing libertarian and after the election he felt that the Greens represented him more and he registered Green. He is now involved with local groups trying to reform our draconian drug laws and ending the racist "War on Drugs".

As for our on campus presence in Ventura County I formed the Moorpark College Campus Greens in September of 2004 and the club is continuing with me at the helm. The club has 25 members (5-6 active) as well as 3 faculty advisors! They are John Gray, a local green who is a photography professor at Moorpark College, Gillian Dale, a very progressive Canadian citizen teaching at Moorpark, and our own Stuart Bechman who is now teaching sociology at Moorpark! The Moorpark Campus Greens will be showing documentary movies monthly at Moorpark College. By the end of the year I hope to get a banner and a website for the Moorpark Greens.

For the future we hope to elect some greens to some local offices in 2006 as well as set up a dues paying / sustainer system for our county to help us raise more money for our local campaigns and projects. Although the outside world at times can seem bleak and beyond repair I find comfort in knowing that I have a lot of great people around me to work with to build the future of our dreams.

For more info on the GPVC go to our website at <http://ventura.cagreens.org>



## Housing: A Green Action Plan

John Foran

**I**t's no secret that living almost anywhere in Santa Barbara County, and especially in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area, means paying too much of your income on housing. With relatively modest homes selling for a million dollars on the open market, and rents that are equally difficult to pay, thousands of the people who work in the city of Santa Barbara commute from as far away as Oxnard to the south and Santa Maria to the north, creating another major problem – the environmental and human costs of transportation. Our homes – which ideally should be a source of pleasure, relaxation, and enjoyment with family and friends – have become the opposite: a source of financial stress, overcrowding and discomfort, and a major cause of poverty and racial inequality.

The local Green Party has named housing as one of the most important issues before us as a community. Our goal is affordable housing for all who live and work in this county, close enough to places of work, schools, and public space that commuting by car is not inevitable. How do we turn this dream into a reality? Given the magnitude of the problem and the trends around it, there is no simple, single, or quick solution. We are exploring many alternatives, on many levels, and in an integrated fashion that takes the environment and the natural beauty of the Central Coast into account. Among these are such pieces as housing that is affordable to the workforce to buy; controls on rent; better use of existing housing and potential space for housing; a comprehensive network of shelter for the homeless,

unemployed, retired, and low income residents of the community (each with its own needs); a more realistic policy on recreational vehicles in the city; exciting new forms of cooperative housing; and more!

We will be convening a town hall meeting on the housing crisis and its possible solutions on Wednesday, October 25, at 7 p.m. in the Faulkner Gallery of the downtown Santa Barbara library. We will be inviting local activists, experts, and political office holders and candidates to attend and to work together with us toward a comprehensive housing plan for Santa Barbara – a “Plan de Santa Barbara” that will see us through this crisis and move us toward a Greener, more socially just community built on the bedrock of shelter being a human right for all. Join us as we embark upon this project of hope – without your involvement, it is not possible; with it, another world just may be possible.

### **GREEN PARTY ALERT!**

**YOUR LOCAL GREEN PARTY NEEDS  
YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION!  
COUNTY CONTACTS ARE LISTED  
ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER .  
CALL OR E-MAIL AND GET INVOLVED!**

## **GREEN SCENE**

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P. O. Box 92141

Santa Barbara CA 93190-2141

(805)884-9259

Email: [santabarbara@cagreens.org](mailto:santabarbara@cagreens.org)

[Http://www.cagreens.org/santabarbara](http://www.cagreens.org/santabarbara)

Editor: Nancy Broyles

Production Director: Sandy Stites

Green Party of Santa Barbara County

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