

# THE GREEN FLASH

## 2010 STUDENT CONGRESS ON SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS

On June 1-4, HPA's Energy Lab hosted the Third Annual Student Congress on Sustainability.

More than 80 high school students from 20 schools across the state of Hawai'i and Colorado attended the three-night, four-day residential conference. After registration on the first day, Dr. Kristal Blacksmith (Upper School science teacher), members of the HPA admissions team, and HPA student representatives in attendance led small group on tours of the Energy Lab.

After the official welcoming remarks by Congress organizers Dr. Bill Wiecking and Karen Yamasato, the Energy Lab's video teleconferencing capabilities were demonstrated through a guest speaker presentation by Chris Bland in Sydney, Australia.



Chris Bland works as the legal counsel for *Transfield* in Australia. He video-conferenced from Australia to our Congress students with a PowerPoint presentation to explain the details about one of their current solar energy plant projects, "Novate Biosol AG." For more information about the project, you can visit their Web site.

[www.novatec-biosol.com](http://www.novatec-biosol.com)



# FOOTPRINT FUTURES

Students at the Congress were the first to participate in an intensive Footprint Futures curriculum over three days led by Dr. Bill Wiecking. A group of students from St. Joseph's College in Sydney, Australia also participated in the lesson via video teleconference. The next phase of the program will be to develop an online version of the curriculum that will enable schools from around the world to participate and interact. The Footprint Futures project is made possible in part by a grant from *Avina Stiftung*, a European foundation.



*After the day's lesson learning about terms related to the global measurement tool used by researchers at Global Footprint Network, as well as studying the graphs of various countries' biocapacity and ecological footprint values, students collaborated and developed to*

**Andrea Dean led various social media workshops for the delegates. Their finished products, including posts, comments and blogs, can be viewed at:**

<http://hpastudentsustainabilitycongress.wordpress.com/>

## Introducing

### “The Ecological Footprint”

On the first night of the Congress, students were introduced to Global Footprint Network and the work they are doing through a DVD, **“The Ecological Footprint: Accounting for a Small Planet.”** The 30-minute video presentation featured Global Footprint Network President, *Dr. Mathis Wackernagel*, who clearly highlights the world's need to use the Ecological Footprint to help turn the vision of a sustainable future into a reality.



*Students show off their Footprint pins from by Global Footprint Network.*

HPA Upper School teacher Mike Franklin presented a hands-on workshop at the Congress. His workshop was about reducing oil consumption by re-using waste. The pictures below show students learning about the conversion of diesel engines to veggie oil for gas, and worm composting.



Students learn about energy auditing with *Alex Woodbury* of Woodbury Inspection Group Inc.



Guest speaker *Darren Kimura*, President and CEO of SOPOGY, gives an inspiring PowerPoint presentation encouraging EVERYBODY to get involved in sustainability practices!

On June 3, all students went off-campus in smaller groups for half-day excursions to various sustainability projects on the island. These included excursions to Kahalu'u Beach for *Reef Teach*, NELHA (Natural Energy Lab of Hawai'i Authority), SOPOGY solar photovoltaic project, Cellana LLC, Friendly Aquaponics Farm, and Kawamata Farms.



*Students learn about how the solar project works at SOPOGY in Kona.*



*Robbie Reed (11) reaches into the pipe at NELHA, where use of deep ocean seawater is pumped to the building to run its cooling system.*

**Students were involved in a service project for the second half of the day on June 3. These projects included beach and ocean clean ups, helping at the Waimea School garden, tree planting on HPA's campus, assisting at the Ka'upulehu Dryland Forest.**



*Weeds are a dominant invasive plant heavily present at the dryland forest. Students helped pick and remove much of this weed so native plants could continue to flourish and grow in the area.*



*Students enjoy beautiful ocean views while hiking in the forest to get to their work site.*



Hawai'i State Representative **Neil Abercrombie** made time in his busy Big Island campaign tour on June 25 to visit HPA's Energy Lab for a guided tour with Director Dr. Bill Wiecking.

## Energy Futures

Listen to "Energy Futures," the [Hawaii Public Radio](#) program featuring Dr. Bill Wiecking and two of his students from HPA, Katie Ho and Robert Reed, discussing the Energy Lab, the Third Annual Student Congress on Sustainability, and Footprint Futures (length - 1 hour).

The feature can be heard online at <http://www.hpa.edu/energylab>



## Energy Lab Calendar

### June 29-July 23

HPA Summer School Begins

### July 6

Paauiilo Middle School Students Summer Program Visit the Energy Lab

### July 8-17

St. Joseph's College (Sydney, Australia)  
Visit the Energy Lab and Big Island

## Energy Lab Tours - Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For reservations,

**CONTACT THE ENERGY LAB**

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