

## Sustainability lab:

We will be participating in the annual Sustainability Festival [Ecology Festival] on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The festival will start at 9 am and end around 3 pm. There will be no official class on this day, but that does not mean you get a day off, free from the toil and moil of chemistry. To get credit for the day, you can either "volunteer" at the festival, or write a paper.

### **I think I want to write a paper and forgo the festival altogether. What are the rules?**

Write a 10-page (it can be longer, think 7,000-10,000 words if that helps) paper about some aspect of sustainable practices as it relates to chemistry and your community. Gate keeping for the paper: typed, 12 point, 1-inch margins, double space, standard fonts, spell and grammar check, cite sources, standard footnotes and bibliography when warranted. If pictures are included, each count as a word. In the paper: describe your experience, why you chose your topic, the relationship to chemistry (even an oblique one is okay); bring about a change in your community; discuss a hot topic;. The paper counts as two labs. Oh and I use turn it in to check for plagiarism. Plagiarize? No points!

Ideas:

- Volunteer at Lake Merritt clean up day (you need to call the Lake Merritt Institute for the days): In the paper: describe your experience, why you chose your topic, the relationship to chemistry (even an oblique one is okay).
- Host a dinner party (Vegan, Raw, whatever strikes your fancy) using only food locally grown: Include the menu choice, calculations based on calories, water use, and land use, what pesticides do etc.
- Wind as an energy source compared to fossil fuels. [I so want a turbine at my house]
- The acidification of the oceans due to green houses gases; how partial pressure and Henry's law contributes to the acidification.
- Growing air using plants that absorb VOC
- Cheese (I love it! chemistry me so cheese!)
- Fracking what is it good for, absolutely nothing. Say it again!
- Resiliency and chemistry for our future.
- Engineering better concrete for city streets and our water sources

Not sure, run an idea by me.

### **I want to come to the festival, but I have other responsibilities. How can I participate?**

During the festival, guests (that would be YOU) will receive a "Passport". You need to go to each Exhibitors on the passport and talk to the Exhibitors. The passport has some leading questions if you are unsure how to get started. Take notes. Write a shorter (5000 word-about 4-5 page) essay about your experience; include information about two or three (or more) of the Exhibitors you visited and how they affected your point of view about sustainable practices. The paper follows the same guidelines as above.

### **I want to participate in the festival. How can I help?**

First of all, thank you-I need a lot of help. Technically, you are supposed to be in class for 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours, but because I am a benevolent dictator, I am asking for 3 hours of your time (67% of the time). Three hours volunteering buys you a B (80%). You will also need to complete the passport, **BUT NO PAPER!!** I will have a sign up sheet in class.

I need: cashiers and ambassadors. I also need help breaking down the festival.

- Cashiers: You must be experienced with money handling and counting change. We need cashiers from about 9-closing of the festival
- Ambassadors: Greet exhibitors and visitors to the festival, make sure that people are not tossing garbage around, supervise compost areas, take care of designated exhibitors, etc. putting up signs, pointing (a lot of pointing) other ideas are welcome (face painters and garden gnomes are welcome too). The exhibitors in your area will contribute to your grade- so look alive and get to know them.
- Factotum: I need a few students as factotums-think right hand man-to help me stamp out forest fires, gathering exhibitors information, stuff like that.
- Breakdown: Setup is covered with the football team (I hope), but I need help with breaking down. This means, collecting signs, pulling down canopies, folding chairs and tables, and placing them in a stack, general clean-up.

### **A "B"? I WANT an "A"! How do I make that happen?**

- 1) Give me more hours as a volunteer or a factotum.
- 2) Volunteer the four hours and collect a passport full of stickers (no paper!!!)
- 3) Do more than four hours, work like a dog, and collect 50% of the passport.
- 4) Write a paper

**REALITY CHECK:** I know that some of you can't do the whole festival, or have other responsibilities or festivals and crowds are not your thing-I'm not a crowd person. I am giving you options so you have a similar experience as a festival visitor. Students who participated last year want to volunteer this year, and they are not in the class. The festival was fun and informative. It fostered civic responsibility and team work.