



## **PLANNING OUR FUTURE: TAG! YOU'RE IT!**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego Green Students Youth Forum was designed to help students prepare for a future in which they will be the decision-makers. "Planning Our Future: Tag! You're It!" was a resounding success, with 60 students in attendance. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, this popular topic highlighted academic and career opportunities in the environmental field for today's youth as they begin to think about their role as adults. High school students throughout San Diego County gathered for the event at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9:45am – 4:00pm. Students received valuable first-hand information about what a "Green" career is really like from a panel of 4 experienced professionals, heard about unique programs available for environmentally-conscious students at UCSD, watched a presentation about "green practices" implemented at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, and had the singular chance to discuss sustainability with San Diego Councilmembers Sherri Lightner and Todd Gloria.

### **Highlights from the Forum:**

- San Diego Councilmembers Sherri Lightner and Todd Gloria discussed their priorities and the actions taken in their respective districts to "Go Green." They engaged in a lively discussion with students about some of the challenges and successes in the San Diego region.
- David McGrew, Director of Engineering for the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, highlighted the Green Practices in place at the Science Center.
- 6 students from Kearny High School of Digital Media and Design gave a presentation. Shaquille Garner, Susy Morales, Alex Steel, Imani Miller, Ebony Chusac, and Victor Martinez gave the presentation "Making WAVES" which stands for *We Advocate Volunteer and Educate San Diego*.
- Kristin Blackler, Project Manager, Sustainability Solutions Institute at UCSD, described her position at the Institute and discussed its mission. She identified a wealth of options available to students, such as "greening" college campuses, internship opportunities, and discussed how the talents of many disparate fields of study can be combined to create environmentally-friendly products, technology and policy.

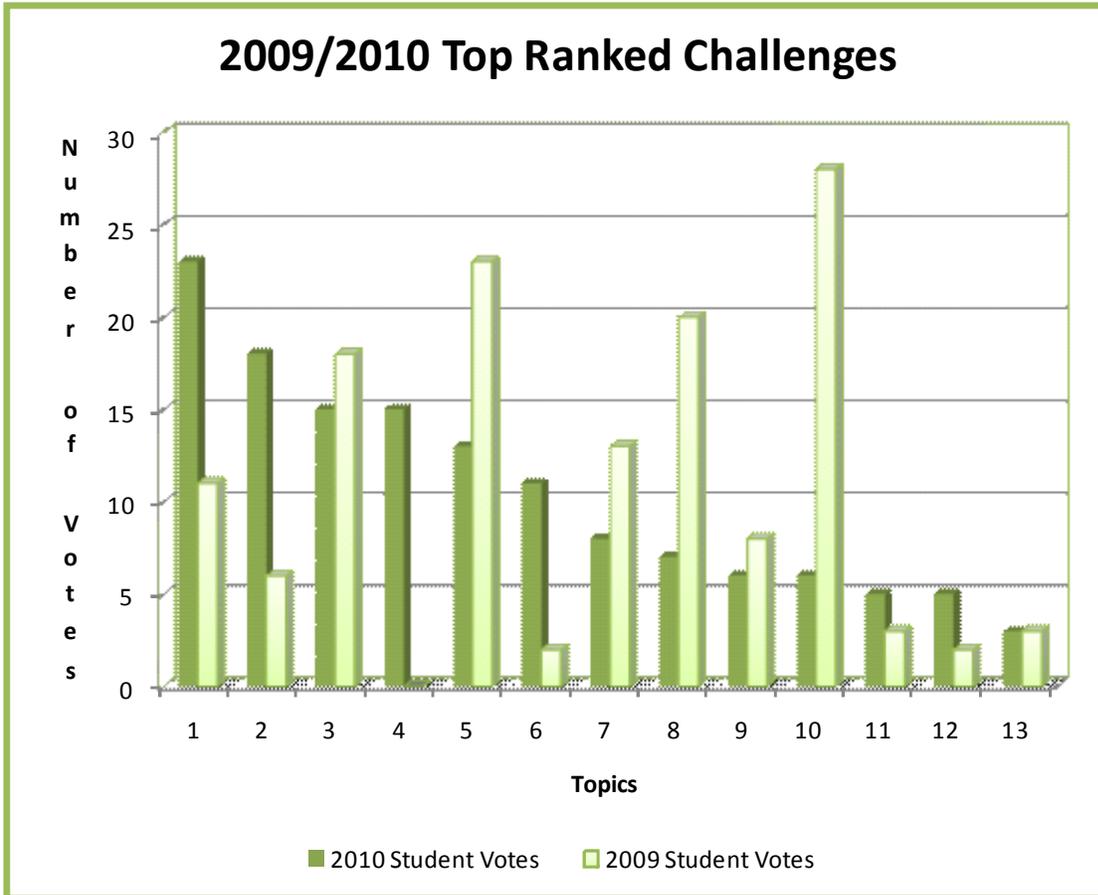
- Lucretria Holloway, Senior Environmental Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest, explained the environmental goals and responsibilities of the Navy and Marine Corps installations locally and how she plays a role in implementing them. She also described the interesting, hands-on internship opportunities offered through her program.
- Mike Bigelow, Energy Engineer, California Center for Sustainable Energy, discussed the mission of the center, and highlighted the importance of energy efficiency.
- Linda Giannelli Pratt, Program Manager, City of San Diego described the opportunities and rewards of public service, and the many cutting-edge programs in the City that have increased energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and climate protection.
- Students watched the IMAX film “The Greatest Places” and visited all the exhibits at the Science Center, including “So WATT! An Illuminating Look at Energy.”

Students voted on what they perceived to be the greatest challenges and opportunities that they will be encountering in 2020, when they are the key decision-makers. The outcome of this year’s voting is represented in Tables 1 and 2, where it is compared to 2009. The greatest challenges were issues pertaining to poor air quality, the cost and availability of gasoline, and the effectiveness of current energy policies. The greatest changes in voting from 2009 to 2010 were poor air quality and availability of drinking water receiving fewer votes, while cost of gasoline received more votes in 2010. The greatest opportunities in 2010 were working to improve green housing design and planning, increasing local renewable energy production, and in having a general population that is engaged, educated and involved. In 2010, the students were less hopeful about having a new generation of environmentally conscious consumers and expressed less interest in exploring a shift towards zero-waste communities. However the participants were much more interested in green housing and urban planning receiving more votes in 2010.

**Schools in Attendance:**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Bishops Academy          | La Jolla High School   |
| Bonita Vista High School | Lincoln High School    |
| Cannon Crest Academy     | University High School |
| Escondido High School    | West Hills High School |
| Kearny High School       |                        |

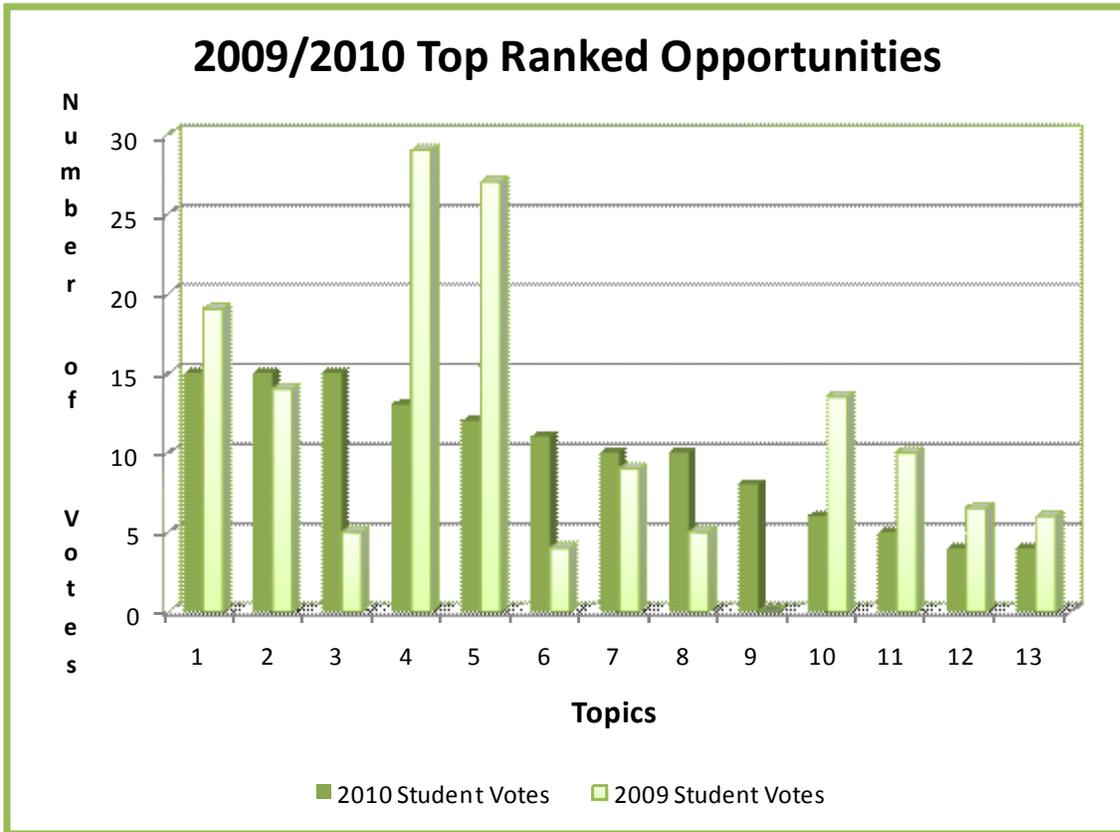
**Table 1:**



**Topics:**

	<u>2010 Votes</u>	<u>2009 Votes</u>
1. Poor air quality	23	11
2. Availability and cost of gasoline	18	6
3. Effective energy policy	15	18
4. Landfill overflow	15	N/A
5. Depletion of natural resources	13	23
6. Rise in sea level	11	2
7. Ignorance of sustainable practices	8	13
8. Apathy	7	20
9. Biodiversity loss	6	8
10. Availability and cost of drinkable water	6	28
11. Loss of farm land	5	3
12. Traffic Congestion	5	2
13. Availability of the workforce training for green jobs	3	3

**Table 2:**



**Topics:**

	<u>2010 Votes</u>	<u>2009 Votes</u>
1. Increased local renewable energy production	15	19
2. A healthy and active population	15	14
3. Green housing design and urban planning	15	5
4. Environmentally conscious consumers	13	29
5. Zero waste communities	12	27
6. Increase in community and civic participation	11	4
7. Increased availability of electric and alternative fuel vehicles	10	9
8. Abundant and accessible open spaces, parks and recreation areas	10	5
9. Increased public transportation availability and use	8	N/A
10. Reduction in per capita water use	6	13.5
11. Large growth in green jobs	5	10
12. Reduction in per capita energy use	4	6.5
13. Increase in local organic food production	4	6