

Engineering 115: Lab 11

Memo: Schatz Energy Research Visit

To: Eileen Cashman, Leslie Miller-Robbie,

From: Marissa Woolsey

CC: Jack Rovai

Date: April 20th, 2016

Re: SERC and CCAT Site Visits

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to describe SERC and CCAT site visits. This visit was made by the Engineering 115: Intro to Environmental Engineering class. This memo will be focusing on a project at the Schatz Energy Research Center on Humboldt State University campus.

Discussion: The purpose of this trip was to get an insight on projects that the Schatz Energy Center is currently working on, and what they have worked on in the past. One project I found interesting was the research on solar energy in Kenya. What Schatz does as an on-going project is testing prototypes from different companies. This is the idea to bring in environmentally efficient as well as providing cleaner energy to third world countries. The guides provided the class with information on a town in Kenya that was using kerosene lamps to light their home, as well as cook food and charge their electronics. What Schatz aims to do is help find and critique alternative sources such as; solar panel appliances, alternative cooking methods, alternative energy sources etc. The benefit of this project is to help reduce the carbon footprint and help reduce deaths and injuries from appliances throughout the world. Environmental costs that these projects may endure are:

1. Costs of products
2. Distribution to isolated areas
3. Production process
4. Long term use and affordability (fixing and restocking)

Etc. One way I would love to get involved with SERC is implementing a salt-water energy alternative. Since SERC as well as many other organizations have started hydrogen based research; I wanted to expand the knowledge of salt water based. The most interesting thing I learned on the trip was their hydrogen fuel station. One of the ERE clubs had worked with SCHATZ to build a hydrogen fueling station on campus.

Conclusion: I found that both of these programs are great attributes to Humboldt State University. Since I want to continue furthering my focus in energy; I am very much looking forward to joining SERC and what they have to offer.