

LEAN & GREEN

[MAKING THE CAMPUS ENERGY EFFICIENT]

BY JOANNE EGLASH

A stroll around Cal Poly is a pleasant experience for most visitors, who see a scenic campus set among rolling green foothills, with fresh-faced students scurrying to classes and labs.

Equally impressive but not noticeable to the casual observer are the retrofitted lighting, upgraded heating and cooling systems, room-occupancy sensors, and other features designed to make the campus energy efficient.

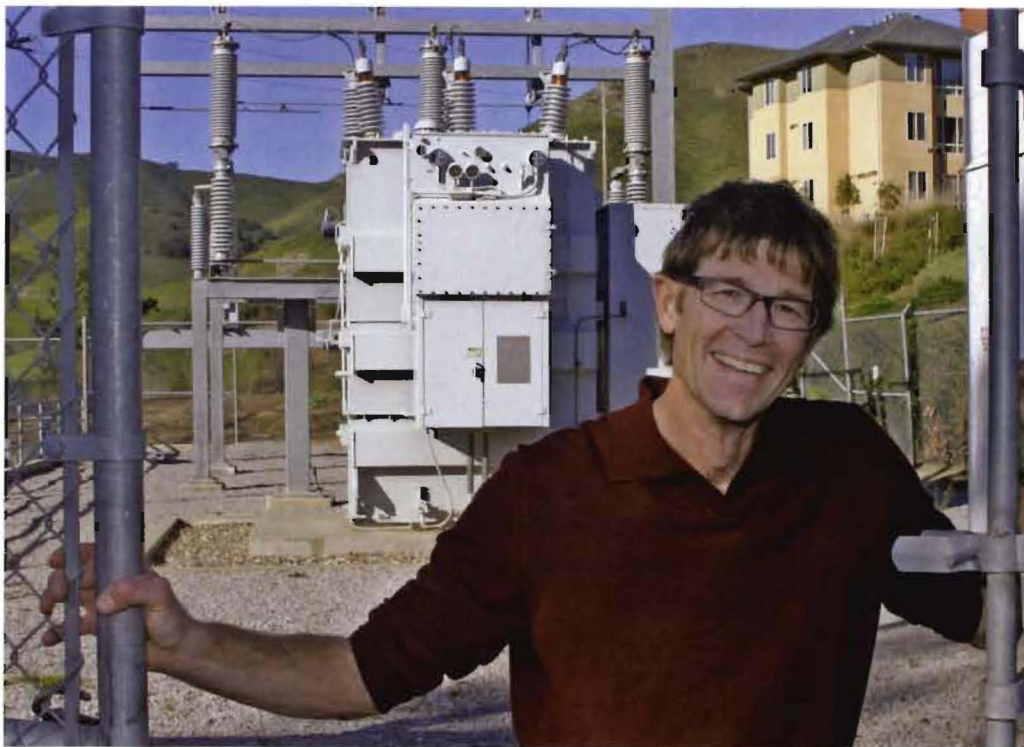
These efforts are part of the sustainability and conservation program developed by **Mark Hunter (CM '87)**, director of facility services, and his staff of about 150. The program is supported by a \$300,000 matching grant from Pacific Gas & Electric.

He and Robert "Kit" Kitamura, director of campus planning and capital projects, share an appreciation for sustainability, which they describe as "balancing environmental responsiveness, resource efficiency, and cultural and community sensitivity."

Hunter says the key is to focus on "resource efficiency" by building and maintaining a campus environment that uses resources efficiently both now and in the future. To do this, consideration is given to a wide range of factors, from the choice of products to building design and selection of sites.

For example, Hunter's group implemented an energy-management system to better control heating and cooling of each building and installed a detailed computer-based preventative-maintenance work-order system.

In fact, one project was selected for recognition at the UC/CSU Fourth Annual Sustainability Conference in the Best Practice in the Load Management category.



Mark Hunter (Photo by Tony Hertz)

Details of the project were presented at the conference at UC Santa Cruz this past summer. The project, cited for improving efficiency and saving energy, reconfigured the air conditioning system in the Performing Arts Center to cool additional campus buildings, eliminating the need to

Supporting all these improvements is a policy issued by The California State University Chancellor's Office, which covers energy conservation, sustainable building practices, and physical plant management for the entire CSU system.

In compliance with the CSU policy,

CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT CAL POLY HAS ACHIEVED AN OVERALL REDUCTION OF 16 PERCENT IN ENERGY USAGE DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

buy new equipment.

Another example that exemplifies sustainability is the Engineering III Building, now under construction. Its features include maintenance-free finishes, such as concrete with minimal finishes in working labs; natural ventilation in offices with windows; and room-occupancy sensors.

Hunter and his group have completed a campuswide audit to identify areas of possible energy savings and their relative benefits.

Their calculations show that Cal Poly has achieved an overall reduction of 16 percent in energy usage during the last four years. "We're way ahead of the game," Hunter says. ■