

Conservation Assistance Project Starts Strong with the Help of FSU Students

The Sustainable Sandhills **Conservation Assistance Project (CAP)** provides free energy and water conservation equipment for low income and elderly residents in the Sandhills region. This project helps retrofit local homes to conserve energy and water through replacing incandescent light bulbs with high efficiency compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), installing low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and water heater insulation blankets, and replacing heating and air conditioning filters. Just as importantly, these simple steps can save homeowners over \$50 a year in utility costs.



Sustainable Sandhills began by launching this program in four of our eight counties. So far, we have serviced over 30 homes in Cumberland County. In Hoke County, we have identified homes for the project and are currently seeking volunteers from the **Hoke/Raeford** community. Progress has also been made in **Harnett** and **Lee** counties to identify both needy recipients and willing volunteers. Upon completion of our efforts in these first four counties, Sustainable Sandhills hopes to expand the program into Richmond, Scotland, Montgomery and Moore Counties.

Funding is integral to this project and was made possible through private donations as well as partnerships with local utility providers. **Fayetteville's Public Works Commission (PWC)** donated a variety of energy and water conserving materials to be used in this project. **Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative (LREMC)** is also donating conservation kits for use in homes that they service. Donations and discounts on materials allow Sustainable Sandhills to service more homes with our limited financial resources for this project.



The work we have accomplished so far in Cumberland County is also thanks to a partnership with **Fayetteville State University's Natural Sciences 110 Class**, taught by Dr. John Mattox. This class includes a service learning component through **FSU's Center for Community Justice and Service Learning**, requiring students to participate in 10 hours of service learning during the semester. The goals of service learning are to teach civic responsibility and strengthen local communities by integrating community service into standard lecture-based learning experiences.

Sustainable Sandhills partnered with Dr. Mattox's class to provide CAP services to Cumberland County residents during the **Fayetteville Area Operation Inasmuch (FAOIAM) Blitz Day** on May 1st. Each year, FAOIAM chooses a moderate to low income neighborhood to be the recipient of home repairs for owner occupied houses, with a focus on the elderly and disabled. Sustainable Sandhills and our FSU



students partnered with Operation Inasmuch to provide these homes with energy and water conservation retrofits. With the help of 12 FSU students, and several other volunteers from the Sustainable Sandhills Community Action Team, we were able to service 23 Blitz Day homes, installing 40 HVAC filters, 7 low-flow showerheads, 29 low-flow faucet aerators, and 147 compact fluorescent lightbulbs in a single morning!

For more information on the Sustainable Sandhills Conservation Assistance Project, contact Sustainable Sandhills at info@sustainablesandhills.org.

