

EcoFest brings together all things sustainable, earth friendly

By Cynthia Mendoza

On Friday, October 18 Cal State San Bernardino students and members of the community wound down from a hectic week at EcoFest, “a celebration of ideas, speakers and displays on the many facets of earth-friendly sustainable living.” The event drew about 3,400 people.

This year’s event was held entirely outdoors with lots of sunshine and fresh air, and included numerous educational and interactive booths on everything from health and physical and inner wellness, to creativity and the arts, caring for the earth and much more. The premise was that “one person can make a difference and that cooperation makes almost anything possible, especially when it’s good for the planet.” There were also numerous games, workshops, food vendors and live music and speakers.

The main stage, located on the lower patio of the commons, featured a sound system powered by solar panels. Just one of the several performances from that stage was that of Alixa and Naima, spoken word and hip hop artists and activists out of Brooklyn, New York who shared one of their poems.

At Creation Station gave attendees the opportunity to put their creative talents to good use by creating their own eco themed arts and crafts projects. There was also a henna art tent providing safe, non-toxic henna tattoos. Eco-Zone provided hands-on activities that taught recycling, starting a garden,

converting a home to solar power, composting and various other similar topics.

The Green Marketplace included local and national companies that support sustainability and the Healthy Living Space featured alternative health and therapeutic modalities and resources and participants were able to take a yoga class, learn to meditate or get a massage. There was also a booth providing information on genetically modified foods (GMOs) and which brands and foods do not use GMOs.

The CSUSB Active Minds student club put theirs together to create a labyrinth from recycled materials. There was also a demo on the impact that single use plastic bags have on the environment, including ending up on roadways, in trees and washed up on beaches and it is said that every American uses and average of 500 plastic bags per year.

While there were too many booths and activities going on to list them all, it is safe to say that if it was about protecting and improving the environment, more than likely, it was at EcoFest 2013 at CSUSB.

For more information, visit any of the following websites: Ecofest.csusb.edu, [Facebook.com/csusbecofest](https://www.facebook.com/csusbecofest) or [Twitter.com/csusbecofest](https://twitter.com/csusbecofest). The Ecofest information line is (909) 537-3935 and email address is Ecofest@csusb.edu.

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