Lessons Learned / Intern Experience

Project 1: Assessed five energy intensive homes
When home audit recommendations are utilized, a home can reduce energy use dramatically. Home Intel’s graphs allow the client to monitor their own usage by evaluating the load types in the graphs.

Project 2: Results after retrofitting:
- Different Energy Loads allow the Energy Coach and customer understand which usage is high
- Follow up occurs monthly
- Continuous support and recommendations
- Reductions compared to baseline energy usage
- Educating homeowners on tracking their own energy use in real time

Successful Strategies:
1. Asking for help when you are stuck will move you forward and promote collaboration and team cohesiveness
2. Communicating the needed efficiency changes clearly and professionally for customers with varying energy knowledge
3. Gaining more public speaking experience through the high school engagement

Recommendations for Improvement / Program Expansion:
1. Setting energy reduction goals for each home audited
2. Improving methods for outreach and program visibility
3. Keeping clients engaged and excited about the program and their own home energy savings to keep them motivated to continue their practices

Achievements / Results / Outcomes

Project 1: Energy Auditor / Energy Coach training
HEA helps PG&E customers with high energy bills find where their “Energy Hogs” are in the home. An assigned Energy Coach makes low to no cost recommendations for high energy areas. These are some examples of high energy users in the home.

Project 2: Low to no cost recommendations for “Energy Hogs”
Smart-strip, Digital Timer, Smart Outlet (Wemo), new appliances or eliminating all together are some recommendations. Devices used during a home audit include the Rainforest monitor and a kill-a-watt meter.

Project 3: “College and Careers” ESTM presentation
Sequoia Union High School District
Explained different ESTM classes and career opportunities in the energy and solar field, taught students components of home energy kit, provided an exercise which allowed students to try using the killa-watt meters themselves.

Rebecca Gines
Intern background: Rebecca’s goals are to increase inefficiency awareness through outreach, volunteering and making energy reduction fun!

Acknowledgements:
Thank you to James and Lisa Schmidt owners of HEA, Coaches James, Chris and Patti. And thank you Energize Colleges for all of your help and guidance!