

## Bill Nye the Science Guy to talk at environmental forum

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

University Park, Pa. -- Bill Nye the Science Guy is bringing his concerns for the environment to Penn State.

Nye, who hosted the Emmy Award-winning educational television program, "Bill Nye the Science Guy," will speak at an environmental forum at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, in Recreation Building on the University Park campus.

The forum, which will focus on student life, is the third in a series presented by the Division of Business and Finance's Environmental Key Initiative.

"It's exciting to have Bill Nye as the keynote speaker for our student environmental forum, which is aimed at promoting a change in student lifestyle to make it more sustainable," said Steve Maruszewski, deputy associate vice president of Physical Plant and Initiative chair. "By their sheer numbers, students have an opportunity to make a greater impact on the University community environment. They also have a greater opportunity to have an impact not only as students at the University but after they graduate.

Prior to Nye's talk, student groups will present practical demonstrations of sustainability in action, including one featuring the Nittany Lion Mascot. Students active in environmental activities, including the STATERS (Students Taking Action to Encourage Recycling) and students participating in the Friday Night Lights Out campaign, will be introduced.

Nye, who holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Cornell University, got his television start performing on a Seattle-area sketch comedy show, "Almost Live!" It was on this show that "Bill Nye the Science Guy" was born. In addition to hosting the "Science Guy" show from 1993 to 1997, he was a writer and producer for it. He also has written several books as "The Science Guy."

Nye has remained interested in science education through entertainment and currently hosts "Stuff Happens," a show on the new Planet Green channel, on which he explains to viewers what happens when we use stuff, where it goes when we're through with it, and what impact it all has on the environment and the entire planet. Since July 2007, he and his neighbor, actor Ed Begley Jr., an environmental activist, have been engaged in a friendly competition "to see who could have the lowest carbon footprint."

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