

Sustainable Student Initiatives:
What's Working on Our Campuses

Part of The Campus Sustainability Series from PaperClip Communications

By Julie Phillips

With contributions from Laura L. Betti and Jessica Polledri

Edited by Julie Phillips and Doris McLaughlin

Designed by Joellen Collins-Cardona

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125 Paterson Avenue, Little Falls, NJ 07424

Tel 973.256.1333 Fax 973.256.8088

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INTRODUCTION

Sustainability Striking a Chord with Today's Students

We listen to students. They may not always think they are being heard, yet their voices resonate when it comes to causes they have a passion for. And, lately, creating a “green” campus with sustainable systems is a cause that is certainly striking a chord.

Sustainability refers to the ability to meet our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. With that in mind, it's no wonder that students are concerned! We're talking about their future and that of their children, along with a growing commitment to be better stewards of the earth. Students are taking action because they want to be part of a solution—a heartening response, to be sure.

Student involvement in the sustainability charge is one of the keys to buy-in and long-term change. This White Paper is full of examples, showing how student initiatives are raising awareness, changing policies, educating communities and churning up discussions. It tells stories of quiet

activism, such as the two University of Vermont students who researched paper purchasing patterns and made a proposal to the president, resulting in a school-wide switch to post-consumer recycled, chlorine-free paper. It also provides examples of all-campus awareness events, from Carleton College's (MN) “Tofu Fest” to campus displays to RecycleManiacs hitting campuses throughout North America.

So, whether you have a handful of environmental advocates on your campus or a variety of sustainability efforts going at the same time, there are ideas and inspiration within these pages. As John Brennan, the President of Green Mountain College (VT) says in the quote to the left, “if we want our students to be change agents, we better expect them to start right here and try to change us!” Here's to our change agents.

“Many of the College's sustainability programs began with prompting (and sometimes downright agitation) from students, including the installation of a wind turbine and solar panels, construction of a passive solar greenhouse for the campus farm, provision of more locally produced food in the dining hall, and composting of dining hall waste. The stark reality for all of us is that if we want our students to be change agents, we better expect them to start right here and try to change us!”

~ John Brennan, President of Green Mountain College (VT)

(From *Presidential Perspectives, 2007/2008 Series*, “Enabling Campus Growth and Optimization,” Chapter 5: Achieving Campus Sustainability in the Curriculum and Culture; www.presidentialperspectives.org/)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All Fired Up: When Students Embrace a Cause

Hundreds of college and university presidents have signed the "American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment," pledging to create and execute a plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible and to immediately take action to reduce greenhouse gas emission and improve energy efficiency. Now, what are students doing about the sustainability cause that has them all fired up?

- At Humboldt State University (CA), they fought for a sustainability coordinator to be hired.
- At Dickinson College (PA), students sewed cloth to-go bags to replace paper sacks and sold them at the Grab-and-Go food facility on campus.

- At Mt. Hood Community College (OR), work-study members of the Green Team sorted through campus recycling bins.

- At The Evergreen State College (WA), Central Oregon Community College, the University of Kentucky and other schools, students voted to pay additional fees to cover renewable energy purchases.

In the process of making their points, students often do research, make presentations and point out how going green scores image points for any institution looking to boost recruitment numbers. According to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (10/20/06), students who are lobbying administrators "often include a freshman, so that officials will be less inclined to simply wait for the agitators to graduate." What response are they getting from you?

Sources: <http://chronicle.com/free/v53/i09/09a01801.htm>; www.theoutlookonline.com/news/story.php?story_id=119744090957604800

Responding Positively When Students Get Active

It's encouraging to see students embracing a cause like sustainability. As an administrator, however, it can be tough, knowing how to respond to petitions, demonstrations and more in a positive way. You want to show students that you are *not* the enemy. So, in order to respond positively, consider:

- meeting with students quickly when they bring something to your attention—delays lead to hurt feelings and first impressions that can be hard to overcome
- taking petitions and proposals seriously—don't condescend or overreact; students put a good deal of work into their efforts and deserve consideration
- not promising them impossible things—be upfront about what you can and can't do
- keeping them in the loop—students deserve to know what's happening as a follow-up measure

Sure, your hands will be tied with certain things, yet there's likely a lot you can do, too.

ENCOURAGING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

When it comes to sustainability, many schools have initiatives in place to encourage student involvement. From in-class to work-study to first year efforts, faculty and staff can give students a nudge toward sustainability awareness and action. Here's how some are doing just that...

First Year Initiatives

The Ravaging Tide First Year Book Program and Website • University of Maryland (UMD) • www.firstyearbook.umd.edu/theravagingtide/

For 2007-2008, UMD chose local author Mike Tidwell's *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America's Coastal Cities* as their First Year Book Program pick. Students and other interested community members could pick up the book on campus. The goal of this program, according to their website, is "to provide a shared intellectual experience for all new students along with the opportunity to discuss the book from a variety of disciplines. Courses, departmental lectures, living/learning programs and student groups all sponsor events that complement a major address by the author and/or other important visitors to campus."

The accompanying website offers a wealth of information on climate change, including interactive tools, information about grassroots activism and much more.

Sustainability Welcome Packs for First Year Students • Dickinson College (PA)

This small school in Pennsylvania chose to send the sustainability message right off the bat, by welcoming students with their very own Sustainability Welcome Pack. According to Dickinson's Sustainability Specialist Steph Hair, "These packs include a nalgene type bottle, a mini garbage notebook, and a recycled pencil. These items were placed in our Grab-And-Go bags, which are reusable bags for a lunchtime favorite to-go option to replace the paper bags that are used."

Discovery Program University Dialogue on Energy • University of New Hampshire (UNH) • www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/projects.html

The Discovery Program at UNH "is designed to provide a common and unifying framework for the UNH undergraduate experience and focuses on

the first year experience, interdisciplinary learning experiences, and integration with the academic major," according to their website. In 2006-2007, the academic year theme that inspired campus-wide discussions and events (the University Dialogue) was energy or "Power to the People." The initiative included:

"The Boycott"

To learn more about "The Boycott" play UNH brought to campus, check out:

- www.kathrynblume.com/
- www.theboycottplay.com/

- A co-sponsorship with the Office of Sustainability to bring Kathryn Blume's one-woman play about global warming - "The Boycott" - to campus
- Faculty from many departments on campus authored energy-related papers for discussion sessions
- The 2007 UNH Undergraduate Research Conference – which highlighted student research from all departments and colleges – had a special focus on energy and climate related research

Employment and Internships

Green Campus Interns • Humboldt State University (CA) • www.humboldt.edu/~greenhsu/cms/

According to their website, "The Green Campus Program is a State-wide program across 12 UC and CSU campuses, under the authority of the non-profit organization The Alliance to Save Energy. The program has been made possible through grants and funding from the Public Utilities which comes from the ratepayers themselves."

Students at Humboldt State can apply to intern with the Green Campus program. They design and implement energy efficiency projects on campus, plus they educate the campus community on the relationship between energy use and the environment. Much of this happens under the tutelage of a Green Campus mentor from the non-profit Strategic Energy Innovations group. Interns receive one credit and take a class that goes toward filling internship requirements. Some of their initiatives include:

- creating an educational video about how to save energy at home, called "The Phantom Hunter"
- supplying free CFLs and power strips to the campus community
- holding energy competitions in the residence halls
- installing TED, real-time energy metering in three campus houses

- developing a song called "Green & Gold"
- performing office and building energy audits

Harvard Green Campus Initiative Student Internship Program • Harvard University (MA) •

www.greencampus.harvard.edu/greenteams/sip_projects.php

"Since the summer of 2001, Harvard Green Campus Initiative (HGCI) student interns have worked with a variety of schools and departments on campus to research a wide range of campus-greening topics," their website explains. Eighteen internships are available within the following categories:

Assessment

- ✓ Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- ✓ Energy Efficiency Services
- ✓ Longwood Energy

Transportation

- ✓ Alternative Fuel Vehicles I
- ✓ Alternative Fuel Vehicles II
- ✓ Bicycle Sharing Program

Procurement

- ✓ Cleaning Products Research
- ✓ Green Procurement
- ✓ Environmental Procurement

Buildings

- ✓ Lighting Efficiency
- ✓ Building Systems
- ✓ Building Management Resources
- ✓ High Performance Building Design
- ✓ Green Laboratories

Behavioral Change

- ✓ Computer Energy Management

Pest Management

- ✓ Pesticides Reduction

Waste Management

- ✓ Construction and Demolition Waste Management

Sustainable Dining

- ✓ Organic and Non-GMO Foods

Student Employment Program • The University of British Columbia (UBC) • www.sustain.ubc.ca/ts1.html

"The energy, vision and commitment of the student population is a vital part of the sustainability equation at UBC," says their website. The Sustainability Office at UBC employs students to do any variety of things, including:

- conducting public tours of green buildings on campus
- designing and leading outreach campaigns to raise sustainability awareness

Environmental Work Study Positions

Northland College (WI) • www.northland.edu/Northland/EnvironmentalCommitment/New+Environment+Council/Work+Study+Positions.htm

Students in these positions at Northland work with:

- ✓ Composting Toilets
- ✓ Strawbale Energy Lab
- ✓ Food Systems
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ The Community Garden
- ✓ Sunshine Community Bike Program
- ✓ Transportation

Classroom Initiatives

Students Work as Planning Company • University of New Mexico (UNM)

UNM students in a Community and Regional Planning class were employed by the Student Affairs Office and the Sustainability Task Force to research practical ways to increase campus sustainability. "They essentially were clients. There was no difference," instructor Bill Fleming told the *Daily Lobo* (12/4/07). "The task force asked us to evaluate current conditions in the study areas, and Student Affairs wanted input on how to improve it."

Some of the student propositions included:

- installing porous pavement so rainfall could penetrate through to the ground instead of running off or evaporating

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Sustainability in the Classroom

Students can learn more about different aspects of sustainability through their class work. For example:

- A “trash journal” where students record everything they throw away, is required for a course at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Interior-design students at Miami Dade College (FL) experiment with “green” materials, such as bamboo and nontoxic paint and carpeting.
- Engineering students at Rochester Institute of Technology help test methods for turning used automobile parts into new products.

Learn more about other schools incorporating sustainability into the classroom at <http://chronicle.com/free/v53/i09/09a02301.htm>.

- harvesting rainfall on rooftops to water plants
- providing locally grown, organic food in the student union

Students also held a forum to get student input.

Sustainably Themed Classes • Dickinson College (PA)

Sustainability Specialist Steph Hair tells us, “Facilities Management and the Sustainability department are occasionally asked by an instructor to teach a sustainably themed class. It has been both fun and successful to discover different ways to relate the particular course’s material and sustainability.”

Team-Based “Super Course” • Texas Christian University

The name of the new “super course” at Texas Christian University (TCU) is “Sustainability is Sexy: Social Justice and

Environmental Sustainability Across the Global Economy.” Using a team-based learning approach, experts in eight disciplines will offer students sustainability insights through their fields of study: anthropology, business, criminal justice, environmental science, history, interior design, political science and sociology.

Students will also determine TCU’s environmental footprint through research with the National Wildlife Federation, according to *The Daily Skiff* (11/28/07). Then, they’ll present their findings at the Spring Undergraduate Research Festival.

New Food Purchasing Guidelines Developed in Class • Green Mountain College (VT)

Students at Green Mountain College worked with their faculty in a course on Food, Agriculture, and Community Development in the

Northeast to develop new food purchasing guidelines for the institution. These guidelines, according to the College's *Environmental News* newsletter (Feb. 2007) are as follows:

- encourage purchase of products that foster environmental awareness, community stewardship and good health
- look for there to be a 5% increase (of the total food budget) in local food purchases for each year over the next three years
- have the college maximizing the purchase of appropriately-certified products when possible; ensuring the prominent, seasonal and regular display of sustainable food products; and assessing progress annually
- place purchasing priorities on seasonality, locality and on-farm reality

These guidelines now help the college handle their food purchasing practices in a sustainable manner.

***Fresh Gatherings Restaurant Run by Academic Department •
Saint Louis University (MO)***

The department of nutrition and dietetics operates this restaurant in the lower level of the School of Allied Health Professions. It provides an example of how sustainability can be integrated into university operations, curriculum, policy and resource planning. It also provides a site for students working toward culinary arts credentials to do internships. "Incorporating the Fresh Gatherings cafeteria into our classroom experience allows us to give life to our sustainable food system curricular thread," Mildred Mattfeldt-Beman, Ph.D., department chair of nutrition and dietetics, told the *SLU Newslink* (8/24/05).

Other features of this initiative include:

- Fresh Gatherings purchases foods from local suppliers and farmers who use environmentally sound growing practices, including women in North St. Louis who raise organic chickens. They also serve vegetables grown in the department's own organic garden.
- Food waste is put back into the garden's soil.
- Offer dinners to go that can be pre-ordered for pick-up. Individual and family-sized portions are available. A different entrée is available daily, which, with side dishes, costs \$6. And students often prepare the dinners during cooking classes!

Other Initiatives

Campus Sustainability Grants • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • www.envIRON.uiuc.edu/blue/blue.html

“Each fall, Facilities and Services and the Environmental Council seek proposals from faculty-students teams to design solutions to campus sustainability challenges.” Check out the website to see their RFP (request for proposal).

Transformative Projects • University of Vermont • www.uvm.edu/~sstnbly/?Page=TPI.html

Ideas for “Transformative Projects” are sought from faculty, staff and students at UVM. According to their website, “These projects will be highly visible transformations of curriculum, pedagogy, buildings, economics, physical plant operations, landscapes and more.” Individuals can submit ideas but they are not necessarily responsible for implementing them. They can also review, discuss, strengthen and build upon ideas that have already been submitted by others.

ENERGY STAR Discounts for Students • University of New Hampshire • www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/projects.html

An ENERGY STAR initiative called UNH WildCAP (Climate Action Plan) is in place at the University of New Hampshire. It is part of their overall Climate Education Initiative. WildCAP works in conjunction with the local Ace Hardware store to offer students the opportunity to purchase certified ENERGY STAR products for their rooms/apartments at discounted prices. This helps to educate students about energy efficiency.

Using Meal Plans at the Farmers Market • Boston College (MA)

Dining Services sponsors a series of farmers markets, selling everything from garlic to tomatoes to very popular blueberries. Students can use their mandatory meal plans, Optional Dining bucks and Eagle bucks to purchase items. “Buying local means that you're really supporting a person or a family,” Helen Wechsler, director of BC Dining told *The Heights* (9/20/07). “BC students have such a great impact on social justice issues at home and abroad, and now they have the opportunity to do that with their dining choices.”

WHAT'S WORKING ON TODAY'S CAMPUSES

In terms of what students are doing to promote sustainability, the sky's the limit! Their efforts range from one-time programs to ongoing initiatives. Here is just a sampling of the possibilities...

Creative Ventures

Green Radio Programming at Princeton University

The Student Environmental Communication Network at Princeton is tapping into the media to spread the sustainability message. By producing solution-oriented radio pieces about environmental topics, these students are making green radio programming available to other radio stations. And they'd eventually like to include other universities, thus creating a national network of student-produced radio programs.

"We've all had our fill of doom and gloom when it comes to environmental reporting," Princeton's sustainability manager Shana Weber told *Plenty Magazine* (1/9/08). "And there is reason for that—there are some grave concerns. But I believe the way to foster a cultural shift is to inspire people. Get people to a place where they're seeing the possibility, rather than the possible destruction." And now, to make the radio programming sustainable, the task has been interwoven into an environmental communications course.

Learn more about it at www.plentymag.com/features/2008/01/princeton_radio.php.

"Caught Green Handed" & Garbage Notebooks at Dickinson College (PA)

Here is just one of the many sustainable efforts happening at Dickinson. According to Sustainability Specialist Steph Hair, "Dickinson College's mascot is the Red Devil which was inspiration for the creation of a Sustainability mascot, the Green Devil. Student interns in the Sustainability Office dress in the Green Devil costume and walk around campus (we usually send a helper along with them). The duo has wooden nickels that are used as tokens for a free cookie from Dining Services that are given when someone is 'caught green handed.' They look for fellow students who are doing something to benefit the environment and promote sustainability on campus. If a student is seen recycling or turning off a light when leaving a room, etc., they are rewarded with the cookie token. We use this as a way to encourage people to be more environmentally conscious."

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She also told us about Dickinson's Garbage Notebooks. Using empty cereal boxes or old admissions folders with paper that is either printed on one side or is very old and people do not want to run it through their printers, they use binding that the Print Center no longer wants. Large notebooks are sold for \$2 and small notebooks for \$1 in the College Bookstore with the proceeds going towards sustainability initiatives.

Find out about the other sustainable initiatives happening at Dickinson at www.dickinson.edu/departments/sustainability/ and www.dickinson.edu/departments/saves/.

"Greening" the University of Arizona Visitors Center

University of Arizona (UA) students are working with other campus constituents to green the Visitors Center. According to their website, "Members of ECOalition, a UA student organization, are working with the Visitors Center administration, UA Facilities Management, West University neighborhood, Tucson Electric Power (TEP), Technicians for Sustainability, and UA faculty to transform this building into one which exemplifies environmental stewardship and serves as a model for sustainable campus facilities in the future."

What are they working on? Plans include:

- runoff from the roof will be collected and stored in cisterns for use in outside irrigation
- passive rainwater harvesting techniques such as microbasins will supply water to native plants
- photovoltaic panels donated by TEP will be installed
- educational signs to explain these sustainable improvements will be affixed to tables where visitors can see them

Learn more at www.sustainability.arizona.edu/studentinvolvement/projects/.

Drury University (MO) Fraternity Taps Into LED Technology

Energy saving light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights are showing up everywhere, from New York's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to the Drury University Sigma Pi fraternity house in Springfield, Missouri. Members received a financial boost from the campus Sustainability

Haiku Hikes

The Ecofoot organization at Michigan State University sponsored a Walking Week that included a "Haiku Hike" with an English professor. Check out some of the resulting creations within *footprints* (Dec. 2007), the official newsletter of the MSU Office of Campus Sustainability, at www.ecofoot.msu.edu/newsletters/footprints.12.07.pdf.

Initiatives Fund to outfit their house with the energy-saving bulbs. "We chose to subsidize this cost to recognize and reward progressing leadership on the part of the Sigma Pi and to demonstrate to the rest of the campus that investment in sustainable technologies does pay for itself," Drury's director of campus sustainability, Wendy Anderson, told *The Mirror* (12/5/07). The bulbs are expected to pay for themselves within two to three years.

The Polar Bear Splash at St. Mary's College of Maryland

Approximately 50-60 students dove into the freezing waters of the St. Mary's River on February 2, 2007. Did we say freezing? It was! The air temperature was almost exactly the same as the water temperature – 38 and 39 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. Their goal was to draw attention to climate change and to demand immediate action to end our addiction to fossil fuels. According to *Southern Maryland Online*, the "Polar Bear Splash" was specifically designed "to draw attention to the plight of all species threatened by global warming."

More than 100 fellow students and faculty were present to cheer on these students—including one dressed like a polar bear. The "splash" was part of a weeklong series of actions coordinated by the Campus Climate Challenge. During this weeklong event, the St. Mary's students joined students on over 575 U.S. and Canadian college and high school campuses to urge administrators to enact clean energy policies.

Western Washington Students Sell "Zero Waste" Products

Turning trash into treasure was on the agenda for a group of Western Washington University Industrial Design students. They took recycled materials and turned them into eco-friendly products. Then, they collaborated with a local museum to sell the items, with 60% of the proceeds going to the students and 40% going back to the museum.

Some of their creations included:

- bottle openers made from recycled keys
- wall storage units made from discarded planter flats
- car windshield ice scrapers made from broken snowboards
- durable household dish scrubbers made from discarded, broken garden hoses

Now, that's creative!

Dump and Run

Learn more about this multi-campus initiative at www.dumpandrun.org.

Recycling & Energy Saving Efforts

Dump and Run at Bowdoin College (ME)

What was once known as “dumpster diving” has evolved into the annual Dump and Run initiative held on many college campuses. At Bowdoin College (ME), the program is held in the hockey arena. It involves a variety of campus and community players – and works very well. 1225 pounds of food and 895 pounds of toiletries were donated to local organizations in 2006! The event is held during the summer, after Reunion Weekend, when there is parking and folding tables available. Community agencies send volunteers who wind up being paid per hour, based on Dump and Run sales. In 2002, there were 624 volunteer hours and the event made \$11,785. Four years later, there were 1,880 volunteer hours and the sale made over \$30,000. Organizations use the money they make through Dump and Run for things like scholarships, mentor/mentee programs and more. Talk about putting potential trash to good use!

Learn more about Bowdoin’s Dump and Run at www.bowdoin.edu/sustainablebowdoin/dumpnrun.shtml.

Oberlin College’s (OH) Big Swap and Free Store

At the end of each semester, College Recycling Assistants hold the campus-wide “Big Swap.” They collect items from residence halls, clothes, books and more, and then place them in the student union for a week. People can come take anything they can use and the rest is given to local charities. “This greatly reduces the number of useful items entering the waste stream when students clean out their dorm rooms and off-campus houses at the end of each semester,” their website explains.

Now Oberlin has obtained permanent space for a “Free Store” where reusable items of all kinds can be donated or taken for reuse.

Learn more at www.oberlin.edu/sustainability/portfolio/recycling.html.

Reuse-a-Shoe Collection at the University of Chicago (IL)

The Green Campus Initiative and the University of Chicago Religion and Environment Initiative co-sponsored an athletic shoe recycling program. Campus community members could dispose of athletic shoes in designated receptacles for the “Reuse-a-Shoe” program. The whole shoe is

Paper-saving, Please

An "I [Heart] Slutty Paper" campaign at the New School in New York City helped convince the college to switch from virgin paper (thus, the effort's name) to 100% recycled stock in all campus computer labs.

Source:
www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200711/coolsschool

Little Things

Incoming students at Sewanee: The University of the South, find CFLs on their "What to Bring" list. A simple concept that could have a big impact!

reused, from the outsole to the midsole to the upper, and ground into Nike Grind. This substance is used to make different parts of sports surfaces in communities around the world.

Learn more about how to bring this program to your campus at www.letmeplay.com/reuseashoe/program.

Ways to Distribute CFLs

Many schools have discovered that replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) is a simple yet very effective way to cut energy use drastically. Here is how some institutions are going about making the swap:

- Macalester College (MN) handed incoming freshmen energy-saving CFLs along with their campus IDs.
- Student volunteers at Vassar College (NY) worked with the director of facilities operations to knock on doors and convince students to change their light bulbs (facilities provided the bulbs). In one year, 5,500 bulbs – all of the bulbs in senior housing – were changed through this grass-roots effort!
- Williams College (MA) students walked around campus with sacks of CFLs and distributed 1,000 of them, while also having discussions with students about global warming and energy consumption.

Media Magic

Spreading the word got easier at a few schools that committed to regular media columns. For instance...

- The "Sustainable YouNH" column is now featured in the school paper at the University of New Hampshire.
- "The Green Scene" can be scoped out weekly within the official information newsletter at the Savannah College of Art & Design (GA).

Plus, a group of University of Maryland grad students from the College of Information Studies developed the "Go Green" wiki, available at <http://gogreenaresourceguide.wetpaint.com/?t=anon>.

Food Initiatives

UC Berkeley Students Run On-campus Produce Stand

Students looking for local, organic, sustainable food at UC Berkeley can find it weekly at "The Local," a produce stand run by the Sustainability Team (STEAM) student group. STEAM is trying to raise awareness among students about where their food comes from. Students who work on "The Local" purchase \$600-worth of fruits and veggies the day before at a local farmers' market and then sell them on campus at wholesale prices, just striving to break even.

Learn more about this initiative

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/01/BAIFTJC30.DTL>

The Voice of Students at UC Berkeley

The University of California, Berkeley Residential Student Services Program works with Cal Dining to support a peer program called "Eat the World, Save the Earth." Peer-to-peer educators hold discussions in the cafeteria to help educate students on food waste. Kim LaPean, marketing coordinator for the Residential and Student Service Programs at UC Berkeley, mentioned during a PaperClip Communications audio conference that, "Dining programs don't want to be the voice for food waste, because it doesn't seem as sincere to students. So the peer-to-peer education was really crucial in the beginning and really just focused on food waste entirely."

Another Farmers Market at Princeton University (NJ)

Another campus farmers market can be found at Princeton University (NJ). Greening Princeton, a student organization, and Dining Services, along with other campus co-sponsors, debuted the Greening Princeton Farmers Market in fall 2007 where local vendors came to campus to sell organic produce, fresh coffee, free-range eggs, fresh honey, newly baked bread and more. While campus community members shopped, chefs from Dining Services held cooking demonstrations, showing how to use locally grown, sustainable food items.

Participants, recipes, "why buy local?" information and more can be found at the market's website: www.princeton.edu/greening/market.

Community Gardens

Many campuses have community garden projects. Check out a few different ones here:

- √ University of Alberta's Campus Community Garden • www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/ecopage/Projects/Campus_Community_Garden
- √ University of Wisconsin-Madison's Eagle Heights Community Gardens • www.eagleheightsgardens.org/index.shtml
- √ The Community Garden at the Evergreen State College (WA) • www.evergreen.edu/cell/communitygarden.htm

The Community Garden at Hamilton College (NY)

Students, who envisioned an entirely student-run space, drew up the plans for the garden. This is a new project, and the students have finished plowing and the process of getting the ground ready for planting. Here are some specs:

- The garden is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre, and one quarter of it will be devoted to the "1812 Heritage Garden." This garden is being planted in honor of the college's 200th anniversary in 2012. It will be the recreation of a kitchen garden typical of 19th century upstate New York.
- The rest of the garden will be devoted to row crops, individual student plots, and common spaces. There are plans for large quantities of fresh herbs, garlic, and several varieties of squash, beans, and root vegetables for use in the dining halls.
- The student developers received a \$20,000 grant from the college to cover the startup costs of the garden. \$13,000 is going towards a water line and \$18,000 is being used to pay a local farmer for advice and plowing.
- Campus food service provider Bon Appetit donated seeds and \$200 towards the purchase of other seeds.

Students hope that within five years they can make a profit and put money back into the garden by selling produce to Bon Appetit and a local farmers market.

Learn more about it at www.hamilton.edu/Spectator/102607/News/Campus_Community_Garden.html.

Students "Worm" Their Way into Vermiculture: Composting with Worms

Once you get over the idea of sharing space with worms, you can keep vermiculture, or worm composting, bins almost anywhere. Worm compost is nutrient-rich and the bins are fairly easy to care for.

Here's how several schools are doing the worm thing:

- At the University of Michigan, vermicompost is used to fertilize their student garden. The 6 by 8 foot unit houses over 50,000 red worms. Check it out at www.recycle.umich.edu/grounds/recycle/food_composting.html
- North Carolina State University holds an Annual Earthworm Farming Conference. Spring 2007 marked the 7th annual conference, with the 8th in the works. For more information, see www.bae.ncsu.edu/people/faculty/sherman/
- Humboldt State University's (CA) "Worm Wig-Wam" is operated and maintained by students and staff from the Campus Recycling Program. The 16 foot long unit can produce as much as 50-100lbs of compost per day! Learn more at www.humboldt.edu/~ccat/wastereduction/vermiculture/aaron.SP2002/worm_wigwam.htm

Groups in Action

The Campus Environmental Center at the University of Texas

As the main organization for UT students interested in the environment, the Campus Environmental Center's (CEC) mission is "to reduce the University's environmental impact and promote environmental stewardship within the student body."

As an agency of student government, the CEC educates students, develops leaders, provides resources, builds long-term partnerships and implements campus projects such as:

- aluminum, plastic and ink cartridge recycling
- the Trash to Treasure move-out donation drive and subsequent campus-wide garage sale in August (they raised \$14,000 in 2006!)
- running a veggie garden, planting trees on campus and maintaining several campus landscape gardens
- overseeing the Eco-Reps program
- planning events for America Recycles Day and Earth Day
- working with the Division of Housing and Food Service to purchase more local food for use in the dining halls
- running the Adopt-an-Acre program where student groups volunteer to clean up campus
- fixing up old bikes and lending them to students for the semester through the Orange Bike Project
- helping staff and faculty reduce their environmental footprint through the Green Horns organization

How-to Tips

If you're wondering how to start an Environmental Center at your school, the good folks at the University of Texas have put together a website to share their wisdom with you. You'll find everything from training materials to publications, with how-to tips and resources.

www.utenvironment.org/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=192&Itemid=128

Check it out at www.utenvironment.org/.

The Duke University (NC) Environmental Alliance

This is one several student organizations working to reduce the University's environmental impact (see www.duke.edu/web/ESC/student.html for others). The Environmental Alliance is "an undergraduate

student organization committed to promoting the implementation of sustainable practices at Duke University." They work on projects such as:

- initiating and pursuing discussions that led to the development of a green purchasing program on campus
- asking the university to put up \$25,000 in savings generated by energy conservation measures to match student, faculty and staff purchases of wind power—the Duke Green Power Challenge
- co-hosting the first annual Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University
- running the annual Eco-Olympics between residence halls, a energy, waste and water reduction competition
- winning a grant to run campus buses on a 20% blend of biodiesel

Learn more at www.duke.edu/web/ESC/ea.html.

Social Marketing Efforts at Duke

The grassroots group Students for Sustainable Living (SSL) is a big part of the sustainable change happening at Duke University (NC). Students are compensated for their work through funding from the Office of the Executive Vice President. They work with various Duke departments, such as Parking and Transportation, and the Office of Technology, to implement environmentally friendly change.

Group members use community-based social marketing (CBSM) – a social science research method – to identify sustainability barriers and to institute practical change. "I think a lot of the initiatives that students have undertaken have been designed to raise people's awareness, but SSL is incorporating CBSM to change people's habits," SSL member Bradford Harris told *The Chronicle Online* (4/6/07). He pointed to one example: the perception that low-flow showerheads in residence hall bathrooms are less comfortable than others. "We've found that the people who have never experienced a low-flow showerhead have a worse impression than those who have experienced [it]," Harris said.

Source: *The Chronicle Online* (4/6/07)

**Sustainability
Efforts Get
Face Time on
Facebook**

Several institutions, such as the University of Kansas, take their sustainability efforts online with Facebook. You can view their Center for Sustainability's Facebook group at www2.ku.edu/~sustain/.

The GreenToppers at Western Kentucky University

Western Kentucky's GreenToppers are "A project oriented student led group that is working to improve the sustainability of our campus, community, and world," according to their website. Some of their initiatives include:

- the availability of 10 collapsible recycling bins to be used at events on campus and to raise awareness about recycling
- a campus-wide bike lending program called Big Red's Bikes
- a bike brigade during the Homecoming Parade
- participation in the Focus the Nation National Teach-in (Jan. 2008)
- an Earth Day Festival
- recognizing National Environment Education Week (in April)
- an online newsletter called *The SCENEic Route*

Learn more at www.wku.edu/green.

Live Green Team at Colorado State

Each year the Live Green Team co-sponsors the Rock Away with Earth Day celebration with the Residence Hall Association and Association for Student Activity Programming. Booths, live entertainment, games and more are featured to enhance sustainability awareness. Information is shared on waste reduction, energy conservation, alternative transportation, renewable energy, green products, composting, and recycling.

Learn more at www.housing.colostate.edu/green/events.htm.

Pledge to Live Green

Several campuses encourage campus community members to sign a "live green" pledge. When you do so at the University of Colorado at Boulder, you receive a monthly email newsletter filled with Live Green campaign tips, tools and resources. Check it out at <http://ecenter.colorado.edu/livegreen/#pledge>.

Residence Hall Initiatives

Hall Wars Save Energy

Residence hall staffs and environmental student organizations are empowering students to take responsibility for reducing their ecological footprint through energy usage hall competitions. Here are some examples:

- **At the University of Iowa**, the Sturrier Environmental Challenge is a student-led initiative to reduce their building's eco-footprint. The competition took place between two residence halls housing approximately 1,000 students total. Each floor tried to accumulate points by attending events, completing energy room audits, making environmental pledges and recycling to earn rewards and recognition for their floor. Each month had a theme: September was energy, October was recycling, and November was heat and water. During the event "Do it in the DARK" occurred where students were challenged not to turn on their lights for a whole week in September. Students were rewarded with a "Do it in the DARK" Bash, a glow-in-the-dark dance party, as a "fun way to reduce the juice." Learn more at <http://energy.uiowa.edu/ResHallChallenge.htm>.
- **At Pacific Lutheran University (WA)**, the student environmental group, Grassroots Environmental Action Now (GREAN), teamed up with residence life and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) to sponsor an "All Hall Energy Challenge." The challenge pitted residence halls against one another to reduce their energy consumption throughout March. Electricity meter readings were recorded and posted in the residence halls and on the university's website twice a week. The winning hall celebrated with a pizza and ice cream party. Learn more at www.plu.edu/~grean/all-hall/home.html.
- **At the University of Texas at Austin**, the Campus Environmental Center challenges students to save energy by "Doing it in the Dark." According to *The Daily Texan*, this was the theme for the first month-long campus-wide Residence Hall Energy Challenge in the fall of 2007. Judges compared energy usage from each residence hall with figures from previous years. The community that reduced its usage the most received \$300 toward a hall purchase. All residents participating in the challenge were given participation cards to post on their door. The cards also had tips for saving energy. The wing with the most participation cards posted won a catered dinner party.

Sustainable Student Initiatives: What's Working on Our Campuses

- **At Duke University (NC)**, the Environmental Alliance student organization coordinates the annual Eco-Olympics, a three-week energy, waste and water reduction competition between the East Campus halls. According to their website at www.duke.edu/web/env_alliance/games/, "The competition is made up of a series of events geared

towards education and impact reduction." In addition to measuring energy consumption and the recyclables in the trash that *should* have been recycled, students are challenged to attend weekly film showings, volunteer after home football games and take part in a trivia game. Students can earn points for their hall (and prizes for themselves) by participating in events. The winning hall gets a party with Duke's president.

- **At Ithaca College (NY)**, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) sponsored their second "Hall Wars Competition" in the fall of 2007. According to *The Ithacan*, the goal was to have halls compete against each other to see which one could reduce its energy consumption the most during the two-week period. Prior to the competition, students posted flyers with ways to conserve energy. To determine the winner, the RHA measured energy consumption one week before the contest and then during the following two weeks, divided by the number of residents. The winning residence hall received a pizza party. During their first competition in the spring of 2007, the RHA determined that there was a 15 to 20 percent drop in energy use.

Powerdown at the University of New Hampshire (UNH)

"Hey UNH, Watch Your Waste" proclaims a creative logo with a measuring tape cinching the globe. The UNH Ecological Advocates hold this energy and water use reduction campaign for four weeks in the fall, leading up to the annual Thanksgiving break Powerdown. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to turn off and unplug all computers, TVs, printers, fax machines, cell phone chargers and other equipment to save energy, lower energy bills and prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

- Download the Powerdown flyer at www.unh.edu/etf/powerdown.html.
- Find Energy Waste Watch Challenge rules, tips and more at www.unh.edu/etf/challenge.html.

Connecticut College's "Concert from Conservation"

The college's Renewable Energy Club sponsored this initiative to reduce energy consumption in the residence halls. Instead of competing against one another, they worked together to save energy...and money for a concert. According to Amy Sullivan, assistant director of media relations, "The idea was that if students could use 10% less electricity, 25% of the dollars

saved would go toward funding a campus concert. To succeed in the competition, students encouraged their peers to:

- do bigger loads of laundry
- use CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs
- put computers in sleep mode after 15 minutes and turn them off at night
- turn lights, stereos, chargers and other electronics off when leaving a room
- not open windows to counteract heaters

In five months, between November and March, Connecticut College students decreased their energy usage in the campus residence halls by 12%. The savings, which were calculated from the five-year average usage for the months between November and March, amounted to 108,000kWh.

Twenty-five percent of the savings was used to supplement funding for the college's 'Floralia' spring music festival. After the success of last year's 'Concert from Conservation,' the club decided to make it a yearly event."

Moving Out

A HUGE source of waste is an ineffective move-out process at the end of the year. Some schools have taken great steps to reduce waste in creative ways.

- **Diversion Excursion—A Groovin Movin' Solution at Chico State (CA)**—The Associated Students Recycling Program and the University Housing and Food Service Grounds Department collaborate to divert reusable goods from the halls at the end of the year. Learn more at www.aschico.com/?Page=589.
- **Keene State's (NH) Move-Out Recycling and Waste Management**—Learn about their process at www.keene.edu/rocks/moveout.cfm. Also check out the student-designed Keene State ROCKS videos on YouTube. Visit www.youtube.com and search for "Keene State Recycles."
- **Colorado State's Leave-It-Behind Program**—Facilities Management provides bins in the residence hall lobbies to collect small items and large corrals are set up behind the residence halls to collect large items. Learn more at www.housing.colostate.edu/green/events.htm.

Little Things
At Westfield State (MA), families are encouraged to use reusable containers instead of cardboard boxes for move-in day.

Green Graduations Grab Headlines

Over the last several years, some campuses have begun to make elements of their graduation ceremonies "green." For instance...

Graduates & Guests Go Green at Oberlin College (OH)

The Office of Environmental Sustainability, Campus Dining Services and the Bon Appétit Management Company, the Green Commencement/ Reunion Committee, and the Oberlin College Alumni Association worked to establish a five-year plan to make Oberlin's Commencement/ Reunion

Weekend climate neutral. This plan began with the 2007 commencement/ reunion weekend and served as a test case for wider campus initiatives.

According to the institution's website, the environmental initiatives Oberlin experimented with included:

Plans for the Future

Oberlin's five-year plan for greening future commencement/ reunion weekends includes:

- An on-site grinder, which will allow them to compost all food waste, bio-ware and paper products without contributing to landfills
- Creating a "Ride-Share" website, so parents and alumni traveling for the festivities can organize carpools with one another
- Making bus-carpools available from local hotels to campus

- A graduation pledge, where approximately one-third of the senior class committed to taking environmental and social considerations into their careers and lifestyles and donned green ribbons on their robes during the graduation ceremony

- Printing the graduation programs on 100% post-consumer paper

- Using recyclable paper napkins printed without artificial dyes or harmful chemicals

- Using compact fluorescent lighting in outdoor fixtures, which used less power for the same

amount of lighting

- Replacing plastic serving utensils with bio-ware serving utensils, which are made from corn and are fully compostable
- Providing recycling receptacles at key points around campus
- Providing reunion guests meals that contained 20-35% local foods from area farmers
- Offering guests the opportunity to purchase carbon offsets from the Carbon Fund to negate the greenhouse gases emitted while traveling to Oberlin

“Moments before they were announced as graduates of Vassar College, the class of 2007 made a declaration. Speaking with one loud, united voice, the class announced that the age of a greener Vassar is quickly approaching.”

Source:
www.aavc.vassar.edu/vq/articles/features-winter07-green

- Composting demonstrations at select meals
- Encouraging guests to walk to events around campus, instead of driving
- Employing students to oversee and administer the various environmental efforts throughout the weekend
- Staffing an Office of Environmental Sustainability Green Education Booth at Commencement/Reunion Headquarters where folks could stop by to ask questions and learn more

Green Ribbons & a Sustainability Pledge at Dickinson College (PA)

More than 100 of the 560 graduates at Dickinson signed a sustainability pledge in May 2007, promising to recycle and conserve resources. According to *The Patriot-News*, pledge signers pinned green ribbons to their graduation gowns at the ceremony to show solidarity in the fight for a sustainable future.

Yale Graduates Commit to Fight Global Warming

The 2007 graduates of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies wanted to demonstrate their commitment to fighting global warming. To do so, they invested in projects that sequester carbon dioxide or develop renewable energy. Their goal was to offset the pollution that their families emitted as they traveled to commencement.

The class spent \$2,620—or \$20 per graduate—to offset 330 tons of carbon dioxide, the principle greenhouse gas linked to global warming. They used a travel calculator, available on the Native Energy website at www.nativeenergy.com/pages/native_energy_travel_offsets/265.php, to determine their families' emissions.

A Green Gift from Colgate University's (NY) Senior Class

Instead of “gifting” their institution with park benches or scholarships, the Class of 2008 is donating money to create Colgate's Environmental Sustainability Fund, designed to make the university more environmentally friendly. Some Board of Trustees members have committed to match these funds, too.

Learn more about it at <http://media.www.maroon-news.com/media/storage/paper742/news/2007/11/01/News/Gift-For.The.Greener.Good.Senior.Class.Gift.Sets.The.Standard-3071272.shtml>.

ECO-FRIENDLY CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

There are many campus organizations out there, ready to lend a hand and some inspiration when students dig into sustainable projects. Here's just the tip of the (ever-melting) iceberg...

- ✓ **American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment** • www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/
What hundreds of school presidents are signing to spur action on their campuses.
- ✓ **Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education** • www.aashe.org
Member organization of colleges and universities working to advance sustainability in higher education.
- ✓ **Campus Climate Challenge—from the Energy Action Coalition** • <http://climatechallenge.org/>
Leverages the power of young people to organize and win 100% clean energy policies at their schools.
- ✓ **Campus Ecology Project of the National Wildlife Federation** • www.nwf.org/campusecology/
Promotes climate leadership and sustainability among colleges and universities by providing resources and technical support, creating networking opportunities and organizing educational events.
- ✓ **Campus Progress** • <http://campusprogress.org>
Works to help young people make their voices heard through information, training and events.
- ✓ **Creation Care** • www.creationcsp.org/restoringeden.html
International grassroots Christian organization with campus chapters that allow students to connect with peers concerned with faith and environmental stewardship. Also offers a study abroad component.
- ✓ **Farm to College Program** • www.farmtocollege.org
Info about farm to college programs in the U.S. and Canada.
- ✓ **Focus the Nation—Global Warming Solutions for America** • www.focusthenation.org/
Learn about the National Teach-in (Jan. 31, 2008), Green Democracy, "The 2% Solution" webcast and more.

**Higher
Education
Sustainability
Act (HESA)**

Learn about HESA, introduced to the Senate in Dec. 2007, at www.fundee.org/pdf/S2444.pdf.

- ✓ **Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium** • www.aashe.org/heasc/
Informal network of higher education associations with a commitment to advancing sustainability within their constituencies and within the system of higher education itself.
- ✓ **RecycleMania** • www.recyclemaniacs.org/
Provides tools, resources and more for university recycling competition.
- ✓ **Second Nature** • www.secondnature.org/
Helps higher education institutions “move from good intentions to strategic action” when it comes to sustainability.
- ✓ **Southern Energy Network** • www.climateaction.net/
An inclusive student- and youth-led movement in the Southeast that empowers communities, develops leaders, and promotes a clean, just, safe, and sustainable energy future.
- ✓ **Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)** • www.seac.org/
Grassroots coalition of student and youth environmental groups translating concerns into action.
- ✓ **SustainUS: The U.S. Youth Network for Sustainable Development** • www.sustainus.org/
A nonprofit organization of young people advancing sustainable development and youth empowerment in the U.S.
- ✓ **The New Farm Student Farms Directory** • www.newfarm.org/features/0104/studentfarms/directory.shtml
Comprehensive directory of student farms that provide small-scale, hands-on farming experiences for college and university students.
- ✓ **Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability** • www.umacs.org/
Serves as a networking tool, information resource, and conference organizer for faculty, physical plant professionals, campus administrators, students, and others seeking to place their campuses on a more sustainable footing.
- ✓ **Worldwatch University** • www.worldwatch.org/node/3942
This resource for students and professors provides tools, useful facts and ideas about turning sustainability interest into action.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS EVENTS

Creating fun, educational awareness events is a specialty for many of our students. Here are some ideas from throughout North America...

Dickinson College's (PA) Step It Up Efforts

Step It Up is a national campaign with the goal of lowering carbon emissions through a day of activities and awareness. At Dickinson, according to Sustainability Specialist Steph Hair, "We advertised for this event by reusing old package pickup slips, reminding the reader that the slip should be recycled after use." Crafty!

Dickinson's Step It Up 2007 was held at the local farmers market on November 3, 2007, which was during Family Weekend. Approximately 60 students, faculty, staff, parents, and Dickinson's sustainability mascot, the Green Devil, arrived to kick off the event with a critical mass bike ride to the market. Once there, trophies made from papier-mâché, reused newspaper, and other reused materials were awarded to several important campus community members whose initiatives displayed strong effort towards a sustainable future. Entertainment was provided plus several applicants gave Soap Box Speeches on various sustainability themed topics.

RecycleMania!

RecycleMania is a national marathon 10-week recycling competition involving over 200 colleges and universities across the U.S. It's sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Recycling Coalition and the World Wildlife Federation. For the past three years, California State University at San Marcos has won the contest with a 50.9% diversion rate.

Some schools really get into this competition! At the University of Arizona, they've created a YouTube promotion video, plus they've added INK MANIA to recycle used printer cartridges. Check out their site at www.life.arizona.edu/recycling/recycle_mania.asp for more info.

RecycleMania offers a great opportunity to raise awareness and to promote in-hall or hall vs. hall competitions in working towards a greater environmental goal. Find out more at www.recyclemaniacs.org/.

Step It Up

Learn more about Step it Up, the National Day of Climate Action, at <http://stepit-up2007.org/>.

Tofu Fest at Carleton College (MN)

At Carleton College, Food Truth Week 2007 culminated with Carleton's 11th Annual Tofu Fest. This educational event that featured cooking demos and competitions also offered its share of quirky fun, from the "Tofu Toss" to the "Tofu Gobble" where participants ate a half block of raw tofu, hands-free. An a capella group sang "Tiptoe through the tofu with me" while students sculpted tofu, decorated soy-themed T-shirts and participated in the "Tofu Princess" coronation, with the winners embodying the "spirit of tofu" through performance art.

Read more about it at http://apps.carleton.edu/news/features/?story_id=307002.

UW-Green Bay Analyzes Carbon Footprint

Graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB) recently performed a carbon footprint analysis to better understand why the school's carbon emissions have increased and how an enhanced focus on green living can decrease those numbers. UWGB is one of four University of Wisconsin system schools striving to be energy independent in the next four years.

Read more about it at www.greenbay-pressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071208/GPG0101/712080667/1206/GPGnews.

Library Display at Humboldt State (CA)

For the 2006 holiday season, the Green Campus group put together a festive and informative display for the school library. The display, titled "The 12 Days of Saving," highlighted 12 easy ways for people to make their holidays more energy efficient, and featured a "sustainability tree" that rep-

Calendar of Events

- ✓ Organic Harvest Month – September • www.ota.com/news/ohmcalendar.html
- ✓ National Fair Trade Month – October • www.fairtrademonth.org/
- ✓ America Recycles Day – November 15th • <http://nrc-recycle.org/americanrecycles.aspx>
- ✓ National Nutrition Month- March • www.eatright.org
- ✓ National Ag Week – March 16-22, 2008; National Ag Day – March 20, 2008 • www.agday.org/
- ✓ Earth Day – April 22nd • www.earth-day.net
- ✓ International Compost Awareness Week – May 4-10, 2008 • www.compostingcouncil.org/section.cfm?id=25
- ✓ National Vegetarian Week – May 19-25, 2008 • www.vegsoc.org/nvw/index.html

Recycle Ideas!

Check out a past events calendar from the Harvard Green Campus Initiative's Resource Efficiency Program at www.greencampus.harvard.edu/report/calendar.php. You just might get some good ideas!

resented the campus groups working together to make Humboldt State a more sustainable campus. The 12 ways included:

1. Carpool
2. Buy Local Food
3. Make Your Gifts
4. Use LED Lights
5. Deck Your Halls in the Recycled and Reused Fashion
6. Celebrate and Start the Conversation with Friends & Family
7. CFLs Make Great Stocking Stuffers
8. Make Energy Saving Resolutions
9. Keep Warm (wear a sweater!)
10. Give Green Tags
11. Insulate Your Home and Water Heater
12. Use a Powerstrip to Turn Off Appliances (and avoid Phantom Loads)

A downloadable version of the display is available at www.humboldt.edu/%7Egreenhsu/PASTPROJECTS/12daysofsaving.pdf.

University of Iowa Students Pick Through Garbage

The search for plastics was on University of Iowa students' minds during November 2007's America Recycles Day as they participated in the school's Waste Characterization Sorting Project. As part of a "Phasing Out Plastics" exhibition, students sorted garbage, removing anything that could be recycled, and then weighed it all. The intent was to raise awareness about recycling and the larger sustainability message.

Read more about it at www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071116/NEWS01/711160323/1079.

The Future of Food at the University of Hawaii, Manoa (UHM)

Open discussions about "The Future of Food at UHM" were held during 2007's Campus Sustainability Week. Students, faculty and staff were given the opportunity to learn about a variety of food-related issues, from environmental justice issues to macrobiotic options, and then helped frame

President Digs at Dickinson

During Sustainability Week at Dickinson College (PA), the college president sorted garbage from the HUB as part of the annual Trash on the Plaza event. Way to go, President Durden!

specific RFP (request for proposals) conditions. The event included healthy food from sustainable food vendors, on-site laptops to view results of "The Future of Food" survey and a chance for students to add their own thoughts.

Read more about it at <http://sustainability.hawaii.edu/future-of-food-at-uhm-discussions>.

Local Food Promotion at UConn

The University of Connecticut held a Celebrate Connecticut Week & Chili Cook-Off in fall 2007, featuring special local food dinners in the dining units throughout the week. Members of the school's culinary staff also competed for honors in their first Local Routes Chili Cook-Off, using locally grown ingredients to feed over 200 people.

Read more about it at www.dining.uconn.edu/local_routes.html.

"Trayless Thursday" at Colby College (ME)

Colby's (ME) Dining Services co-sponsored "Trayless Thursday" with the Environmental Advisory Group "to encourage students to reduce food waste by taking only the amount of food they would eat." This experiment in awareness building worked because an average of 260 lbs of waste was saved per day.

Read more about it at www.colby.edu/green/dining.htm.

Harvest Dinners Raise Awareness

A number of schools hold Harvest Dinners to spotlight the use of local foods. Some ideas for these events include:

- tell stories about the foods' origins
- invite local farmers and producers to the event
- incorporate local entertainment, from bluegrass music to contra dancing
- consider having a keynote speaker such as a food activist, author or farmer

ECO-REPS & STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Environmental representatives, commonly referred to as “Eco-Reps,” are cropping up on numerous campuses. These friendly student activists help spread the sustainability message among their peers and work to reduce their campus’ ecological footprint. On most campuses, these student ambassadors focus their efforts within the residence halls. On others, they work to promote change campus-wide. Here’s a quick snapshot of 15 different programs:

Bard College (NY) • http://inside.bard.edu/berd/rrr_students.shtml

- Student volunteers who encourage sustainable behavior within the residence halls
- Volunteer 1-2 hours each month coordinating projects, such as setting up special recycling stations for items like cell phones and old batteries

Bowdoin College (ME) • <http://bowdoinecoreps.com/default.aspx>

- Brainstorm and plan projects and activities to get students excited about being environmentally-conscious and help to reduce the college’s ecological footprint
- Organize events such as Earth Week, energy competitions, food and trash audits, reusable mug competitions and make-your-own eco-friendly valentines
- Have a “Dan the Can” mascot who answers recycling questions and a “Kaptain Kilowatt” who answers sustainability-related questions, both in person and online

Carnegie Mellon University (PA) • www.cmu.edu/eco-reps/

- Learn about a new environmental issue each month so they can go back to their houses and teach their peers what they can do to live sustainably
- Educational topics for the 2007-08 academic year include waste management, energy, water, consumption, climate change, food, green building and transportation
- Write an “Eco-Rep” newsletter and organize awareness events such as an organic food tasting, film screenings and educational workshops

Dartmouth College (NH) • www.dartmouth.edu/%7Erwg/eco/

- Network of environmentally concerned students, faculty and staff representing residence halls, affinity houses and departments
- Promote recycling, composting, energy conservation and other environmental issues campus wide

Harvard University (MA) • www.greencampus.harvard.edu/rep/

- Paid student representatives share information within their residence halls about sustainability, comfort, health and efficiency issues
- Provide suggestions to administrators about infrastructure and policy improvements related to student conservation
- Work an average of four hours a week on awareness campaigns, attending meetings and completing other assigned tasks

Johns Hopkins University (MD) • www.sustainability.jhu.edu/ecoreps.html

- Purpose is to increase environmental awareness and sustainable actions among first-year students
- Up to 10 first-year students are selected to become Eco-Reps each year
- Reps attend weekly training sessions and meetings, develop monthly activities, create awareness materials and assist first-year students in their building in engaging in environmental competitions
- Compensated \$150/per semester

Sewanee University (TN) • <http://ers.sewanee.edu/>

- Responsibilities include educating students, role modeling sustainable living and coordinating their hall's recycling program
- Program is overseen by one or two students who report to two members of the faculty and staff
- Students are trained in environmental issues such as campus environmentalism and sustainability and global sustainable development

Stanford University (CA) • www.stanford.edu/group/enviro-reps/

- Each residence hall selects one Eco-Rep, who coordinates recycling efforts, raises awareness, attends meetings and other environmental activities, and acts as a conduit

Tufts University (MA) • www.tufts.edu/tie/tci/EcoReps.html

- Attend class for two hours every other week, participate in activities and complete homework assignments related to environmental issues
- Receive \$150/per semester
- Engage in on-campus greening activities such as recycling, conducting surveys, etc.

University of Arizona • www.life.arizona.edu/recycling/ecorespons.pdf

- Monitor in-hall recycling program, attend hall council meetings to represent the environmental perspective and serve as a role model

Public Presentations

At the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta), students can participate in a training session to become presenters for the Green Residence program, an hour-long interactive sustainability presentation designed to educate students about sustainability and what they can do to help. Most volunteers deliver 3-4 presentations each year.

Learn more at www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/ecopage/Projects/Green%20Residence

- Attend training meetings and programs twice a month
- Assist with campus-wide environmental programs and events
- Volunteers are given free recycling goodies throughout the year and invited to an end-of-the-year banquet

University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC) • www.sustain.ubc.ca/ressc.html

- Volunteers commit to three hours a week to run events and organize educational campaigns to promote awareness

University of California, Berkeley • www.ocf.berkeley.edu/%7Erecycle/ssec/programs/rsec.html

- Appointed students serve for two semesters
- Goal is to educate and inform others about living a sustainable lifestyle
- Supervised by a Unit Sustainability Educating Coordinator who serves as a liaison between administrators and student coordinators

Behavioral Change is Important for Sustainability Success

According to Julian Dautremont-Smith, associate director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, campuses sometimes overlook the importance of behavioral change in sustainability efforts. She suggests that behavioral change is a critical component of any comprehensive sustainability program – and that Eco-Reps can play a huge role in serving as role models, raising awareness and providing educational initiatives.

Source: *USA Today* (11/14/07)

University of Texas •

www.utenvironment.org/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=56&Itemid=70

■ Eco-Reps volunteer at least one hour per week by talking to their neighbors (on their floor/wing) about recycling and conservation efforts, conducting surveys and inventories, and helping to organize events

■ Students wanting to dedicate more time can apply to serve as a Residence Hall Conservation Coordinator – these students put in 3-5 volunteer hours per week and focus their efforts on educating the entire residence hall, recruiting Eco-Reps for each floor/wing and organizing events

University of Vermont • www.uvm.edu/%7Eecoreps/

- Promote environmental stewardship in residence halls by raising awareness about ecological issues and encouraging environmentally conscious behavior
- View their “Bulletin Board Hall of Fame” at www.uvm.edu/~ecoreps/?Page=halloffame.html to see examples of how they spread their message
- Joint program between residence life, the environmental council and the physical plant department

Western Washington University • www.wwu.edu/sustain/initiatives/residence

- Position has been part of hall councils
- Now part of Resource Awareness Program (see www.wwu.edu/sustain/involved/resrap/)
- Goals are to increase residents’ awareness and understanding of natural resources, and to create opportunities for them to have positive impacts on their hall/local communities

Other Creative Initiatives

■ **At Santa Clara University (CA)**, recycling directors are available to help ensure proper recycling at campus events. The directors monitor recycling and waste collection areas and help people sort their waste. Clubs, organizations, teams and individuals can volunteer to be recycling directors. Learn more at www.scu.edu/sustainability/stewardship/recyclingcalendar.cfm.

■ **At Harvard University (MA)**, they've established a peer-to-peer training and education program for graduate students living in campus housing called the "Graduate Green Living Program (GGL)." Similar to many of the Eco-Rep programs, representatives encourage residents to live with the environment in mind. Graduate residents are educated on topics such as recycling, waste reduction and electricity conservation through events and activities. The representatives also serve as a liaison to campus administrators by suggesting changes that could encourage conservation efforts in graduate housing. Find out more at <http://greencampus.harvard.edu/greenviving/index.php>.

■ **The Green Devil Team at Dickinson College (PA)** originated from their Recycling

Task Force. The Green Devil Team is similar to the nationally recognized Eco-Reps program where students from the residence halls volunteer to be a representative for recycling and sustainability issues on their floor. This group meets once a month and reports to the sustainability department regarding the state of their building from a recycling standpoint. They also submit work orders to Facilities Management to address issues such as leaking faucets.

■ **Alumni for a Sustainable Dickinson (AFSD)** is an independent group of Dickinson College Alumni formed to encourage a sustainable future for the institution. The group works directly with on-campus efforts and consults with the college about on-campus sustainability. More than 200 alumni are members of AFSD. Learn more at www.dickinson.edu/news/nrshow.cfm?1052.

Student Consultants

Three Chico State University (CA) student organizations have teamed up to provide "sustainability consultations" to campus offices, drawing upon a similar initiative at Humboldt State University (CA). Energy consumption, waste and recycling practices are examined, with offices receiving gold, silver and bronze ratings based upon their efforts.

Programs such as this one may be a new trend, as numerous campuses are beginning to take their residence hall Eco-Rep programs and expand them to provide green advising to other areas on campus.

GREEN EVENT PLANNING

"Greening" an Event

According to Harvard's Campus Green Initiative, "event greening" is about utilizing environmental best practices in the planning and implementation of an event. That means conserving resources, making sustainable food choices, arranging to manage event waste properly, and encouraging alternative transportation and accommodations.

When it comes to your campus activities, what events can you "green"? Consider...

- ✓ Coffee houses
- ✓ Concerts and other performances
- ✓ Athletic contests
- ✓ Conferences
- ✓ A Brown Bag lunch series
- ✓ Student organization or staff meetings
- ✓ Campus-wide socials
- ✓ Residence hall community builders
- ✓ Academic receptions
- ✓ Campus-wide picnics and events

Pick one and make a go of it! We'll show you some things to take into consideration, as well as give you the tools that you need.

Follow the Steps

When trying to plan a "green" event, there are sustainability concerns from the first step to the last:

Planning and Communicating

- Consider audience and budget. How can you best meet your audience's needs with an environmentally friendly approach that fits within your budget?
- Keep paper interactions to a minimum. Communicate with planning team members using email. At meetings, print agendas on recycled paper, jot them on a wipe board or screen them using an overhead.

Check out the University of Victoria Green Events Guide at <http://web.uvic.ca/sustainability/GreenEvents.htm>

- Communicate with all parties. Make sure everyone is on board and get their feedback and suggestions prior to diving in. See what your dining and facilities crews suggest regarding composting and recycling. Perhaps they know how to make this happen from experience. You never know what kind of helpful information you might uncover if you involve others from the beginning.
- Begin advertising that your event will be green. Letting people know about this commitment early on will generate enthusiasm and interest!

Promotion

- Brainstorm ways to advertise your event digitally to cut down on paper productions. Can you send out email promotions or invitations, or tap into Facebook and other online communities?
- Use recycled paper for all printing jobs. Simple.
- Make your signage reusable. Create directional signs that can be used for a variety of events. Take advantage of bulletin boards and other permanent fixtures for posting signs, rather than creating something new.
- Prepare signs that highlight your efforts and provide information at the event. Let folks know what has been “greened” during the process (see EcoReceptions later in this section).

The Event

- Consider what you'll be printing. Can you post a meeting agenda on an overhead instead? Can you put handouts for long presentations on CD instead of printing them?
- Think about food and beverages. Try to serve things currently in season; order fair trade and organic coffee and teas; purchase items from local farmers; ask for bulk containers instead of individually packaged items (for things like condiments); use re-usable or biodegradable utensils and plates, etc.
- Explore decoration options. Can you use reusable or natural items for centerpieces? Are there ways to limit the amount of energy used? Can you rent items instead of purchasing something and discarding it afterwards?
- Use reusable nametags. Ask for the plastic overlays back at the end of the meeting or have bins where folks can return them.

Offsetting Conference Travel

"This Way to Sustainability III" conference participants were encouraged to offset their carbon emissions from travel. They were given the website for TerraPass (www.terrapass.com) to learn how they could balance their impact by funding clean energy projects.

- Organize a recycling effort at the event and clearly communicate it. Make sure you consider the types of bins you'll need and how you can strategically place them around the venue.
- Consider accessibility. Can you rent a bus so folks can travel together, rather than individually? Is it possible to host the event at a location that is close enough to walk or bike to? Can you make the event dress casual, so if folks do walk or ride a bike, they don't have to worry about doing so dressed up?
- Think about giveaways. Are there ways you can make giveaways more functional? Do you really need to print t-shirts?
- Aim to have a zero-waste event. You can do this by avoiding excess packaging and thinking about your product choices.

Once It's Over

- Send thank you notes. Thank everyone for their help in hosting a green event.
- Get the word out. Write a press release or a short blurb for your campus paper that highlights your efforts and thanks everyone who contributed to making the event a success. Get University Relations involved to spread the word even further.
- Assess the event. Consider improvements that can be made for the future and ways you can add to your greening efforts.

Best Practices in Green Event Planning

Here are some case studies that show us how it's done!

A Sustainable Sustainability Conference at Chico State (CA)

In November 2007, Chico State held their "This Way to Sustainability III" conference for over 1,000 people. They did the following to make the conference as sustainable as possible:

- Asked presenters to limit their handouts during sessions
- Limited the number of printed materials and conference programs
- Posted the entire conference program on their website
- Provided online registration

The Catering Car

The University of Florida purchased a flex-fuel vehicle for use during catering functions.

- Printed on the most environmentally friendly paper possible
- Provided reusable dishware at all meals
- Distributed reusable ChicoBags to conference participants
- Consciously chose foods that were seasonal, local, and organic, when possible
- Encouraged participants to offset their carbon emissions
- Provided mass transit options for tours
- Suggested that participants stay downtown so they were within walking distance of the campus
- Recognized participants who were "Caught Being Green"
- Encouraged participants to bring nametag lanyards from previous conferences they may have attended
- Communicated with conference speakers, exhibitors and participants via email rather than printed materials

Source: www.csuchico.edu/sustainablefuture/events/2007conference/index.shtml

A "Green" Inauguration at Harvard University (MA)

When new Harvard President Drew Faust was inaugurated in October 2007, she asked for a "green event." It became Harvard's first major public function planned from start to finish as an intentionally environment-friendly event. Some of the efforts included:

- campus and outside caterers followed food sustainability guidelines for inauguration meals
- local and organic foods were served, when possible
- china, glasses and flatware were used at all invitation-only meals
- shuttles ran on biodiesel
- toxin-free cleaning products were used
- renewable energy certificates were purchased to offset energy usage

Measuring Your Event's Carbon Footprint

When planning events, you can use existing online emissions calculators such as:

- √ www.conservation.org/Pages/default.aspx
- √ www.greentagsusa.org/GreenTags/green_event.cfm
- √ www.epa.vic.gov.au/ecological-footprint/calculators/eventExpress/introduction.asp

Recycling Tools

Check out www.besmart.org / for a Public Place Recycling Toolkit and Planner's Guide for all sorts of events. You can download and print signs and other templates, get how-to resources and more.

- programs, invitations and signage were printed on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper
- much waste was avoided by carefully accounting for how much of things was needed
- paper use was minimized by distributing information electronically
- flowers came from certified organic distributors
- 75 recycling and trash containers were placed throughout the commencement space

Plus, a local sustainable dinner to celebrate the inauguration was served at all of Harvard's undergraduate houses and in the dining hall. It included haddock that was "bait-and-line caught," which is supposed to be more humane and sustainable.

Source: www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2007/10.11/01-green.html

Duke University's (NC) EcoReception

The Duke Environmental Leadership Program hosted an EcoReception in the fall of 2007. They hope to make this event a tradition. When hosting an EcoReception, the coordinators try to make sustainable decisions regarding all of the event details. It is not only a social, fun event, but also educational, as each environmentally friendly decision is highlighted with a sign, such as:

Key Features of an EcoReception

- composting
- using reusable, recyclable and recycled products
- featuring local and vegetarian products
- using organic products and native organic floral arrangements
- serving sustainably grown coffee
- purchasing items in bulk

- "In an effort to reduce our waste generation, we rented china plates, mugs and glasses from Best Rent-All, Inc., and purchased re-usable cloth napkins. One plate per person please."
- "Recycled flower arrangements from Nicholas School event earlier this week."
- "The deviled eggs, provided by Whole Foods Market, use a local egg farmer, Latta's Egg Ranch."

Consider the possibilities for your next eco-friendly event!

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES WITHIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT & ORGANIZATIONS

Many sustainability initiatives come about via student government and other organizations, as students create ballot initiatives, vote on referendums and make social change. Here are a few initiatives that have made a difference...

Increased Fees for Renewable Energy

Students sometimes vote to increase their student fee in order to finance renewable energy sources.

- **At the University of Kentucky**, about two-thirds of voters in the student government elections supported a \$6 to \$8 increase in student fees each semester to help finance renewable energy sources.
- **At Green Mountain College (VT)**, the Greening Fund was created when 93% of students polled voted for a \$30 per year increase in their student activities fee. The Fund was designed to support greening initiatives proposed and approved by students, such as local foods in the dining halls and a biomass campus heating assessment.

Green Power at Colorado State University (CSU)

According to their website, "In 2004 CSU became one of the first universities in the nation to offer on campus residents the option to purchase green power. Each student who signs up for green power offsets 930 pounds of carbon monoxide. The fee for green power is \$17 per academic year for residence hall students and \$26 per semester for apartment residents. The fee represents the cost difference between green power and standard coal-fired electricity. Green power operates just like standard electricity and is fed into CSU's power grid so students on green power experience no change in their electricity service."

Source: www.housing.colostate.edu/green/events.htm

- **At the University of Maryland**, 91% of undergraduates voted in favor of a \$4 fee that would increase by \$2 each year to a maximum of \$12. The fee, if fully implemented, would purchase clean electricity—137,000 Megawatt hours of it—per year.

- **At Cornell University (NY)**, 79% of undergraduates voted during Student Assembly elections in favor of a \$5 per semester fee toward green projects and clean energy.

- **At Northland College (WI)**, students designate \$20 of their annual activity fee to support the installation of renewable energy features on campus.

Sources: <http://media.www.kykernel.com/media/storage/paper305/news/2006/04/28/CampusNews/Uk.Begins.Renewable.Energy.Initiative-1881804.shtml?norewrite200605032353&sourcedomain=www.kykernel.com>; www.world-watch.org/node/5262; <http://cornellsun.com/node/23366>; www.northland.edu/Northland/EnvironmentalCommitment/EducatingForWholeWorld.htm

A Student Government Success Story

Chico State's (CA) Associated Students organized a sustainability conference in 2004 that has grown into the largest campus-based conference of its kind in the U.S.! They now partner with the university's Institute for Sustainable Development, along with Butte College and its Associated Students. In 2007, over 1,000 people attended the "This Way to Sustainability" conference. Students got in for free, while members of the public at large paid a nominal fee.

Plant the seed, and watch it grow!

Source: www.newsreview.com/chico/Content?oid=608957

Students' Union Sustainability Board

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) created a standing Sustainability Board in 2005 to examine issues of social and environmental sustainability within the USSU. First, they created a USSU Sustainability Policy. Then, they conducted a baseline sustainability assessment, which provided recommendations on how the organization could improve its social and environmental responsibility.

And, oh yes, they also have a vermi-composting, or worm, bin in the USSU offices!

Read more at www.ussu.ca/ and http://facilities.usask.ca/sustainability/sustainability_on_campus/.

Green Paper Policies

Several campaigns can help you cut down on paper use, as you strive to be a more sustainable organization:

Change the Margins • ***www.changethemargins.org***

This campaign encourages the adoption of narrower printing margins as a way to save paper. It currently has three goals outlined on its website:

"1. Convince Microsoft to change the default margin settings in Microsoft Word to .75 on all sides. The more convenient it is for people to change their habits, the better chance there is

that they will actually do so.

2. Persuade five corporations to officially sanction narrower margins for all company documents. In this way, people will get used to seeing documents with this formatting as the standard, as opposed to the exception. Never underestimate the power of peer pressure.
3. Challenge five universities to adopt narrower margin settings as the standard for their students and faculty, and include this information in their course guidelines."

The Sierra Youth Coalition's Paper Cut Initiative •

<http://atlanticaction.pbwiki.com/>

This action aims to cut down on paper use, according to their wiki, by:

- "Printing double-sided
- Eliminating unnecessary printing jobs
- Encouraging professors to accept assignments online
- Encouraging class documents to be distributed online"

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

How students choose to get around can say a lot about their view of sustainability. Here we examine some of their choices...

They Like Bikes!

Whether it's a Bicycle Library where campus community members "check out" a bike or a free-wheeling program with bikes left throughout campus, one thing is clear: students like their bikes!

- **At Northland College (WI)**, members of the Sunshine Community Bike Program paint used bikes in bright colors and make them readily available—for free—to students, staff and faculty. They can just pick one off a campus bike rack, ride it to their destination and leave it on another bike rack. Talk about the honor system!
- **At Dickinson College (PA)**, 12 Red Coaster-style bikes are available for anyone with a College ID to check out from Public Safety. Riders get a bike, a key and a bike lock, along with an optional helmet (they have to sign a waiver if they go helmet-less). Bikes can be taken anywhere, with students riding them to the local Wal-Mart or to Hershey, PA, 36 miles away. Yowza.
- **At Queen's University (Ontario)**, everyone is welcome to join the Critical Mass movement to show their support for alternative transportation. "Join others and bike down the streets in support of carbon-free transportation," the invitation reads. These rides take place the last Friday of every month.
- **At Stetson University (FL)**, the Student Government Association (SGA) and Bonner Scholars Program launched Stetson Green Bikes on Jan. 31, 2008 in conjunction with nationwide Focus the Nation initiatives. Students can check out bikes from the SGA office for one week at a time. The program relies on donated bikes that are repaired, painted, labeled and registered with the University and the local police.
- **At the University of Victoria (British Columbia)**, the SPOKES Bicycle Bursary has been around since 2003. Fleets of refurbished bikes are distributed to students, faculty and staff in October, January and April of each year. They must apply for them. Volunteers get the bikes

Sustainable Student Initiatives: What's Working on Our Campuses

Electric Bikes Provide "Green" Transportation at U. of Washington

A \$200,000 Department of Transportation grant awarded to the University of Washington has provided the funds necessary to offer campus community members alternative transportation – electric bikes. The "green" transportation will be available at four stations across campus, where users can rent a bike and then return it to a station following use.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/education/2004035112_uwbikes26m.html

in shape during work parties throughout the year. Over 200 bikes have been given out!

■ **At Stanford University (CA)**, community members are encouraged to hop on a bike. Parking and Transportation Services' website explains that there are 12,000 bike rack spaces on campus, making it easier to park a bike than a car. The University offers bike safety and repair classes, bike lockers, and lockers and showers for bike commuters. Public transportation options on campus, like shuttles and buses, have bike racks or allow bikes onboard.

Sources: www.dickinson.edu/news/nrshow.cfm?1052;
www.sustainablequeens.org;
www.prnewswire.com/news/index_mail.shtml?A
CCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/01-16-2008/0004737894&EDATE=WED+Jan+16+2008,+05:39+PM;
www.uvss.uvic.ca/index.php?page=spokes

Recycled Veggie Oil Reborn as Biodiesel

Institutions like Colby College (ME) and Middlebury College (VT) recycle their fryer oil so it can be turned into biodiesel fuel. Colby's oil fuels tractors on a local farm, while Middlebury's biodiesel is tested in some of the diesel-run college equipment. Students also filtered a portion of the "veggie fuel" at Middlebury so their vehicles could run on straight vegetable oil. About a dozen students used the fuel to run their Bio Bus (<http://projectbiobus.com/>) in the summer of 2003 as they traveled cross-country to educate folks about biofuels.

At Dickinson College (PA), the Biodiesel Project is run out of its own shop area, with a supervisor and student interns. It can produce 50 gallons of biodiesel at a time, using waste vegetable oil from the dining hall and local restaurants. Right now, they're experimenting with making soap from glycerin, a waste product of biodiesel production. The hope is that it can eventually be sold in the College Bookstore.

Bikes en Masse

At the University of California, Davis, biking is a big part of the campus culture, with 20-25 percent of all traveling done by bike.

Source: Transportation and Parking Services, UC Davis

The Campus Commuter Challenge

During Syracuse University/SUNY ESF's (NY) first month-long Campus Commuter Challenge in the fall of 2007, 576 people took the Challenge and left their cars home for at least one day. This saved an estimated 4-5 tons of CO₂! Read more about it at <http://enspire.syr.edu/CCC/>.

Bus Passes for Students

In April 2007, Western Washington University students passed a referendum with 80% of the student vote to provide unlimited bus passes. Students taking six or more credits will pay \$25 per quarter for the unlimited service. It will also include a late night bus program after regular service ends. The Board of Trustees approved the student-backed initiative in June 2007 in an effort to provide more sustainable transportation.

Source:

http://west.wvu.edu/ucomm_news/articles/1542.asp

KU Students Get SafeRides in Prius Hybrids

University of Kansas students calling for a SafeRide will now be transported in Prius Hybrids. The program purchased six of the vehicles when students asked for cleaner, more environmentally aware options. Read more about it at www.kansan.com/stories/2008/jan/18/hybrid/.

Rides for Reunions

At Cornell University (NY), they have an Alumni Ride Sharing Board for their reunion event. According to their website at www.alumni.cornell.edu/rideboard/, this program is designed to "help Cornellians connect and make the trip to or from Ithaca." Alums can do a search for rides needed or rides being offered.

Antioch College (OH) also has a ride share program for reunion. On their website at www.antioch-college.edu/Alumni/reunion/2007/rideshare.html, alums post their information in a blog format.

Car Sharing Programs

A trend gaining great popularity, especially on urban campuses, is car sharing. Students, faculty and staff can get a car for a certain period of time, without having to own one. Here are some schools setting the trend...

- **Largest University/Car-Sharing Program Hits Philly**—In what is being touted as the largest North American partnership between a university and a car-sharing service, Philly Car Share and the University

Vanpool & Carpool Programs

Here are a few companies that offer this service:

- ✓ Rideshare Online at www.rideshareonline.com/
- ✓ SpaceShare at www.spaceshare.com/
- ✓ VPSI, Inc. at www.vanpoolusa.com/Home/index.asp?OID=261

of Pennsylvania launched their collaboration in January 2008. Approximately 40 cars are available to students, staff and faculty who need them for university business. And one percent of proceeds will go to the University's sustainability fund.

■ **WeCar Comes to St. Louis**—Enterprise Rent-A-Car partnered with Washington University in St. Louis's Parking & Transportation Services to bring WeCar to campus. The car-sharing program makes vehicles available to students, faculty and staff 24 hours a day, just by registering online. "WeCar provides students with the freedom of having a personal automobile at their fingertips without the hassle and expense of having a car on campus," Lisa Underwood, director of Parking & Transportation Services told the *Record* (1/17/08).

Sources: <http://media.www.dailypennsylvanian.com/media/storage/paper882/news/2008/01/18/News/Penn-Goes.Green.With.Cars-3157788.shtml>; <http://record.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/10796.html>

Resource

How to Live Well Without Owning a Car: Save Money, Breathe Easier, and Get More Mileage Out of Life by Chris Balish. Learn more at www.livecar-free.com.

CAMPUS OUTREACH PROGRAMS: TAKING GREEN IDEAS INTO THE COMMUNITY

When students take their green knowledge out into the community, good things can happen. Here are some examples of what they're doing to share the sustainability message...

Diverse Initiatives

The Greenovations Team at Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)

A committed group of Queen's students heads into the off-campus student housing community to make sustainable, low-cost retrofits. According to Sustainability Coordinator Maryam Adrangi "landlords and students are sometimes reluctant to make improvements when tenants will only be in the houses for eight, sometimes twelve months. This short-lived tenancy is unique to student housing. Poor housing conditions can greatly affect student's utility bills, energy expenditures, and carbon emissions."

The volunteers provide CFLs, seal windows, install weather stripping, bleed radiators, wrap water heaters in thermal blankets and more to save energy—and to save students money. The program is funded by a campus bus service, which offsets its carbon emissions by donating a percentage of sales back into the Queen's community through the Greenovations program.

Environmental Advocates at Chico State University (CA)

Environmental Advocates are Chico State interns who work to enhance environmental practices in the surrounding community. According to their website, "We offer free legal information to community members when an issue arises that is degrading the quality of their environment." Local issues getting their attention include land use, pesticide use, water quality, proposed development, endangered species protection and environmentally sustainable management practices for the city. Advocates attend administrative hearings to represent their position and assist clients when necessary. They are expected to continue educating themselves on aspects of environmental law in order to best help their clients.

Learn more at www.aschico.com/?Page=248.

Surplus Operations

One way that some larger schools have found to deal with their excess “stuff” is through surplus operations.

- The University of Maryland Terrapin Trader manages surplus equipment for University System of Maryland schools, American University, Catholic University and other area colleges and universities. It also participates in community outreach through an adopt-a-school program to assist needy local schools. Used equipment is offered to nominated elementary, middle and high schools across the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Administrators and teachers from these schools are invited to visit the showroom and discuss their needs.

Learn more at www.purchase.umd.edu/ttrader/index.htm.

- The Michigan State University Surplus Store has been in business since 1920! It sells all university surplus property, from microscopes to residence hall furniture to books and more. It also has an eBay store.

Learn more at www.msusurplusstore.com/.

Harvest Crews & Farm Tours at Brown University (RI)

Creating relationships is key when it comes to developing local food purchasing initiatives. So, Brown Dining Services takes students and staff to visit local farms, dairies and ranches as part of their Harvest Crews & Farm Tours program. They partner with the Sustainable Food Initiative on campus to visit various farms weekly, picking fruits and vegetables for use through dining services. According to their website, “Farmers get a helping hand in harvesting their crop and we get to see the people and places that our food comes from while enjoying an afternoon on the land.”

Learn more at www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Food_Services/community/harvestcrews.php.

Recycling for a Cause at Duke University (NC)

At Duke, they recycle to benefit the Duke Children’s Hospital. All revenue generated from the recyclable items collected from the stadium during football games goes to the “Recycle for the Children” fund. The Duke Athletic Department, Duke Recycles and several volunteer groups help make this happen.

First, info tables are set up at every home football game in the fall so Duke Recycles students can provide education about recycling efforts and recyclable materials. Then, recycling igloos are placed at each stadium entrance to give spectators a chance to recycle glass, plastic and aluminum before entering the stadium. Inside, numerous bins for stadium cups and plastic bottles are available.

Before each game, Duke Recycles also sets up recycling locations in the

Commute Buddies

Duke Bike Advocates offer biking fledglings the advice and company of seasoned riders through their Commute Buddies program. Any Duke community member wanting help learning to safely share the road with cars and finding a safe route between home and campus can request a Buddy. Learn more at www.duke.edu/web/ESC/bike_advocates.html.

main tailgating parking lots. A few hours before each game, different volunteer groups, such as local Boy Scout troops and on campus organizations, assist Duke Recycles in spreading recycling information to tailgaters. Volunteers also collect and remove recyclables from the stadium after the game. All volunteers receive a Duke Recycles t-shirt and are invited to watch the game for free.

Duke Recycles also sponsors a recycling initiative at football games to try to get children involved. Children are rewarded with a free t-shirt or other prize of their choosing if they bring 100 stadium cups to the Duke Recycles information table.

Reaching Out to Local Schoolchildren

Students at various institutions take their passion for sustainability and share it with local school kids in different ways. For instance:

- **The Elementary School Environmental Program**—Chico State (CA) students interested in the environment are trained to lead student field trips at the Butte Creek Outdoor Classroom. They are also given the opportunity to teach meaningful lesson plans. Learn more at www.aschico.com/?Page=280.
- **Earth Day Field Day**—Middle school students visit Keene State College (NH) to participate in Earth Day seed planting, waste weighing and recycling relay running. It's part of the events outlined at www.keene.edu/sustain/earthweekevents.cfm.
- **WOODS (Wilderness Outdoor Opportunities for Durham Students)**—Duke University (NC) students offer environmental programs and occasional field trips for local elementary and middle school students. There are five centers where these outreach efforts occur. Learn more at www.duke.edu/web/ESC/woods.html.
- **Green Thumb Lessons**—Members of the University of Kentucky's Green Thumb Environmental Club—Kentucky's largest student environmental organization—teach social and environmental lessons at local elementary schools. Learn more about the club at www.uky.edu/StudentOrgs/GreenThumb/.

**Farm to
College Night
at the
University of
California,
Davis**

Campus Sustainability Day was capped off with Farm to College Night. This dining event features organic, local ingredients in all of the featured dishes and is open to the general public at \$8 for all-you-can-eat.

Farm & Garden Outreach

Institutions that have community gardens or campus farms have built-in ways to reach out to the community. Here is what a few are doing...

California Polytechnic State University's Organic Farm

This 11-acre farm is certified organic and has grown from a two-acre Student Experimental Farm, which started in 2000. It has approximately 15 hired student workers and 20 volunteers. The farm is supported by grants, community members, and profits made from selling produce through the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program. The CSA has members that subscribe for a pre-determined amount of local, organic produce. Shares are picked up on campus or at several countywide drop sites.

Learn more at <http://calpolyorgfarm.com>.

University of Michigan's Cultivating Community Garden

Began in 2005 through the efforts of students, faculty, staff, and community members who wanted to create a student-based program to promote food system awareness. Cultivating Community was able to expand to include four gardens. All produce from the Ginsberg Garden is slated to go to Food Gatherers, Washtenaw County's food bank (www.foodgatherers.org/), which has been recognized by Charity Navigator as the top food bank in the U.S. Students use the gardens as an opportunity to educate the public about closed-loop gardening and food waste recycling.

Learn more at www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/learn/cc_about.asp.

University of Redlands' (CA) LaFourcade Community Garden

It took hundreds of volunteer hours from students and community members to complete the garden. The space is open from 8am to 6pm. It can be reserved for special events, and has become a gathering point for classes, meetings, and concerts. The garden now operates under the guidance of Gardeners in Residence, who are paid University student workers. They construct and maintain raised vegetable and flowerbeds as well as traditional garden areas, while also taking care of weeding, planting, pruning, and irrigation. Gardeners in Residence have partnered with elementary schools, senior care facilities, and other community programs to teach basic gardening skills.

Learn more at www.redlands.edu/x30409.xml.

RESOURCES

- ✓ A Tale of Two Tomatoes • www.sectionz.info/ISSUE_3/
- ✓ Blue Ocean Institute Guide to Ocean Friendly Seafood • <http://blueocean.org/seafood/>
- ✓ Clean Air-Cool Planet • www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/
- ✓ Consumer Reports Greener Choices Eco-labels Center • www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/
- ✓ E, The Environmental Magazine • www.emagazine.com
- ✓ Earth Team • www.earthteam.net
- ✓ Ecological Footprint Quiz • www.myfootprint.org/
- ✓ Energy Star • www.energystar.gov/
- ✓ Energy Star Back-to-School Shopping Checklist • www.ecofoot.msu.edu/documents/energy.star.back.to.school.pdf
- ✓ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Sustainability • www.epa.gov/sustainability
- ✓ Freecycle: Changing the World One Gift at a Time • www.freecycle.org/
- ✓ Green Corps • www.greencorps.org
- ✓ Green Meeting Industry Council • www.greenmeetings.info/
- ✓ Guide to Developing a Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy • www.SustainableFoodPolicy.org
- ✓ Harvard Green Campus Initiative • www.green-campus.harvard.edu/
- ✓ Local Harvest • www.localharvest.org/
- ✓ National Recycling Coalition • www.nrc-recycle.org/
- ✓ Sustainable Table—host a sustainability festival or dinner party • www.sustainabletable.org/get-involved/buildcommunity/
- ✓ Sustainable Table's Sustainable Dictionary • www.sustainabletable.org/intro/dictionary/

Sample Green Guides

- ✓ 25 Things Every College Student Can Do to Help the Environment • www.firstyearbook.umd.edu/theravagingtide/25things.html
- ✓ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • www.envIRON.uiuc.edu/publications/green_living_guide.pdf
- ✓ Personal Efforts at Conservation • www.greenteam.ilstu.edu/conservation/

- ✓ The National Organic Program • www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexIE.htm
- ✓ The Story of Stuff—The Underside of Consumerism • www.storyof-stuff.com/
- ✓ The U.S. Green Building Council • www.usgbc.org/
- ✓ UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development • www.uspartnership.org/

Films

- ✓ "A Crude Awakening"
- ✓ "Affluenza: Consumerism"
- ✓ "An Inconvenient Truth"
- ✓ "Another World is Possible"
- ✓ "Broken Limbs: Apples, Agriculture and the New American Farmer" - www.brokenlimbs.org/themovie.html
- ✓ "The Cost of Cool"
- ✓ "Fast Food Nation" "Fed Up! Genetic Engineering, Industrial Agriculture and Sustainable Alternatives"
- ✓ "No Logo"
- ✓ "One Water" – potable water – www.onewater.org
- ✓ "Super-Size Me"
- ✓ "The 11th Hour"
- ✓ "The Future of Foods"
- ✓ "The Meatrix" - www.themeatrix.com/
- ✓ Slow Food on Film - www.slowfoodonfilm.it/

Eating in Season

- ✓ Northeast Regional Food Guide, Cornell University — <http://nefoodguide.cce.cornell.edu/>
- ✓ Sustainable Table— www.sustainabletable.org/shop/eatseasonal/

APPENDIX

Green Event Checklist

Waste Reduction

- Make effort to reduce waste during advertising:
 - Print all advertising on used paper or post-consumer recycled paper
 - Minimize the amount of paper used in advertising by directing people to a website whenever possible. This is an easy way to relay a lot of information.
 - Print signage and posters on the blank side of previously used paper
 - Advertise your event through email and websites
- Inform participants that the meeting will have a green focus and encourage them to be supportive and active
- If your event requires pre-registration set up online registration. Contact the AMS IT office to see if it will work for your event at ito@ams.queensu.ca.
- Avoid paper use
 - Encourage participants to bring their own paper and writing utensils (you can always have a supply on hand for those who forget)
 - Use dry erase and chalk boards instead of flip chart paper
 - Encourage Power Point presentations instead of handouts
 - If handouts are required print material on the back of previously used paper or on post-consumer or recycled paper
 - Double side any handouts
- Sell or provide 'Trash Books' at the event for those people who need paper. 'Trash Books' are available at the Green Room.
- Encourage BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug)
- Use reusable cups or mugs as promotion products that participants can take home and use following the event
- Try to use the most environmentally-friendly products and services that are available
 - See what items you may need and ask the Queen's Earth Centre if they have any of the products. You can contact earthcentre@ams.queensu.ca.

- Use post-consumer paper whenever possible
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products

Managing Food Waste

- Compost food waste! This is as easy as using a garbage container and can greatly reduce the amount of waste your event produces. Contact Tim at tearoom.enviro@engsoc.queensu.ca.
- Donate excess food to the AMS Food Bank. Contact Allison Williams at Foodbank@ams.queensu.ca.

Recycling

- Learn what types of material can be recycled at Queen's. For a complete guide for what Queen's recycles please visit "Physical Plant Services Guide to Recycling" at <http://www.queensu.ca/pps/waste/recycti4.pdf>.
- Evaluate the types of waste that your event will produce and see if you can substitute the waste that may go to the garbage with waste that can be recycled or reused
- Ensure that the appropriate recycling bins are present at your event. Request additional recycling and garbage containers in the "Additional Information" section of the Room Reservation Request Form at <http://www.queensu.ca/jduc/roomres.html>.
- Make sure participants know what can be recycled and where to recycle. This can be done by making announcements, using signs on the recycling bins such as lists of what can be recycled at Queen's.
- Place recycling bins beside garbage cans. This prevents recyclable material from getting into the garbage and garbage from ending up in with the recycling.
- Remind participants to recycle. There will be a number of opportunities to promote recycling to participants: during registration, opening ceremonies, or any other announcements.

Food Services

- Use on-campus caterers, such as The Common Ground (common-ground@ams.queensu.ca) or the Tearoom (tearoom@engsoc.queensu.ca). Not only will this support student run businesses, but also reduces gasoline use for delivery.
- Serve fair trade coffee and tea (available at the Common Ground and Tearoom)
- Order cups, plates, straws, napkins and utensils from the Tearoom (tearoom@engsoc.queensu.ca). They are all biodegradable and can be composted after use.
- Eliminate excessive packaging. Try serving food in bulk (such as cheese and crackers, bagels, etc.) because one large package has less packaging materials than many different packages.
- Serve finger foods to avoid the need for utensils (especially plastic ones)
- Provide vegetarian or vegan (animal product-free) food items
- Replace bottled water with reusable containers and bulk dispensers
- Provide beverages in bulk whenever feasible, or in containers that are reusable or recyclable

Conserving Energy

- Seek out naturally lit rooms to conserve energy, such as the Goodes Hall foyer, the Mac-Correy hallway, or the Lower Caleigh (all of which have skylights)
- Make efforts to turn off overheads, projectors and lights when they are not being used
- Explore the possibility of running a Carbon Neutral Conference. This can be done by offsetting carbon emissions through the purchase of carbon credits. This has the possibility of opening new doors for potential sponsorship. For further information on Carbon Neutral Conferencing, see the Federal House in Order Web site:
<http://www.fhio.gc.ca/?lang=En&n=9076E298-1>.

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Beyond Regular Recycling

Wondering where to recycle not-so-common items? Here's the scoop!

- **Computers:** Old computers are *filled* with toxins that can contaminate food and water supplies. So, send it back to the manufacturer instead of tossing it. Many will accept nonworking computers for a nominal fee and recycle it. If your computer still works, donate it. Contact the National Cristina Foundation at www.cristina.org.
- **Cell phones:** Old cell phones contain many of the same toxins as computers, plus they can help women housed in domestic violence shelters. Contact www.collectivegood.com, drop your phone off at the *Body Shop* or visit www.calltoprotect.org for other options.
- **Other Electronics:** TVs, PDAs, cameras, MP3 players, and more can be recycled too! Visit www.recycleforbreastcancer.org. They'll send you a prepaid shipping label, recycle your goods for a profit and then donate all of the proceeds to a national breast cancer charity.
- **Printer Cartridges:** Check out www.recycleplace.com or drop them at an office supply store.
- **Batteries:** Regular batteries can be recycled at a local community recycling facility. When your rechargeable batteries wear out, drop them off at Radio Shack.
- **Formal Wear:** Contact www.fairygodmothersinc.com. This organization provides formal wear to financially challenged girls for their proms.
- **Sneakers:** Send your old ones to Nike at www.nikereuseashoe.com. Their NikeGO campaign recycles the rubber, foam, and leather to make athletic flooring for kids. Or send gently used running shoes to www.oneworldrunning.com for distribution to athletes in Latin America and Africa.
- **Eyeglasses:** Drop off your old eyeglasses at a LensCrafters Store and they'll be cleaned, repaired, and sent to developing countries. The Lions Club International collects and distributes them to folks in need, too.
- **Paint:** Find out if a local school drama department, church, or Habitat for Humanity program can use your extra paint. Find a recycling program for latex paint through www.earth911.org.

Sources: *Prevention* (April 2006); *World Ark* (Jan/Feb. 2008)