

# Current Sustainability Initiatives at Gettysburg College

## Spring 2008

As compiled by Miriam Parson and G.R.A.S.S. on behalf of the Sustainability Committee  
(Programs in italics, regular practices or one time events in plain text.)

### Institutional Initiatives

#### BOOKSTORE

- *GC Travel Coffee Mug Program* to discourage paper cup use in Commons Café
- Packaging reuse

#### CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

- *Sustainability Project Coordinator*
- *Green Goodies* summer environmental/nutritional education program
- *Campus Kitchens Project* food recycling and food security, community service

#### DINING

- Support Painted Turtle Farm
- Support Compost Program
- *Corn Cups* in Bullet Hole instead of plastic
- *Potato Starch* drinking straws
- *Pulper* in the Dining dish room to reduce tonnage in waste stream from water
- *Napkins* from 100% post consumer recycled material
- *Local Produce* when available, especially Adams County apples
- Fry oil is sent to Dickinson for Biodiesel

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- *First Year Seminars*
- *Painted Turtle Farm*
- *Student Research* projects
- Co-sponsor educational speakers

#### FACILITIES

##### Campaigns.

- *Give It Up for Good Sale* in partnership with United Way of Adams County
- *RecycleMania*
- *Used Furniture Distribution* to local agencies and families instead of dumping

##### Energy

- *Purchase Energy Star* rated appliances for student rooms.
- Management - use our Trane System to control energy when building is not being occupied.
- Winter Break Curtailment - take advantage of the College holidays by reducing the heat to campus buildings, while still protecting the college's property investment.
- Switched campus from t12 lamps to t8 or t5 to reduce electric consumption.
- Switched from incandescent to compact fluorescent lights, where possible.
- *Wind Power* - 5% purchased in past
- *Biomass* - 20% purchasing contract underway 2008
- Fossil Fuels only 53% in 2006, down from 61% in 1996

##### Grounds

- Oversees recycling program
- Support for recycling projects, such as the Fraternity competition
- *Focus on biological and mechanical pest management*
  - o Use of a purple martin colony for mosquitoes, lady bird beetles for aphids, and praying mantis for spider mites
- Use least toxic pesticides when necessary
- *Increasing tree population* to sequester carbon

#### Housekeeping

- *Green Cleaning Chemicals* are 90% of the cleaning supplies
- Purchase recycled cloths for cleaning purposes and wash these internally to reduce waste

#### Recycling

- Paper, aluminum, glass, plastics #1-3, corrugated cardboard, batteries, printer cartridges, phone books, hardback books, florescent light bulbs, car batteries and oil, wood skids, scrap metal, and computers
- Furniture stored in Knouse until it can be reused or donated
- *Trash cans placed in dorm rooms* to increase recycling behavior
- Building materials are selected with energy efficiency, green products and recycled materials, when possible.
- Look for opportunities to recycle or reuse items from buildings we are renovating:
  - o Metal from demolition
  - o Furniture
  - o Old ceiling tiles

#### Transportation

- 2001 Instituted shuttle program to mass transit areas to reduce our carbon impact on the environment.
- 2001 Purchased a 29 passenger bus to reduce the amount of vehicles traveling at one time on larger trips.
- *Fleet* - purchase fuel efficient vehicles when replacing the fleet. Larger vans have gone to diesel vehicles.
- *Shuttle Program* in conjunction with reduced campus parking for 08-09
- LEED parking lot in planning

#### Water

- Toilets and urinals are low flow everywhere on campus. Initiative began in 1996.
- Conservation successful as consumption is down 36.4% since '96
- *Pulper* in Dining dish room recently reduced usage greatly

#### IKON PRINT SHOP

- *Domtar* paper
- Ship boxes are reused for finished products
- Packaging materials reused

#### INSTITUTION WIDE

- *Presidents Climate Commitment*
- Convocation Committee searching for sustainability speaker for Fall 08
- Greening campus events such as Get Acquainted Day is in planning

- New Athletics Center will be LEED certified

## IT

- *Videoconferencing* to reduce need for travel:
  - o Dec. 2007: Installed Lifesize High Definition videoconferencing suite in PA Hall Large Boardroom and Eisenhower Institute in DC. This system replaces travel to and from weekly and monthly meetings which would otherwise require more than 5,000 highway miles per year.
  - o This service is now open to the campus community and we expect it to replace significant amounts of travel by road and air.
- *Automatically switching off classroom equipment:*
  - o March 2008: Installed Roomview software to manage projectors and audio-visual equipment in 100 Enhanced Classrooms. This will enable us to prevent projectors being left on overnight and over weekends.
- *Use of Electric Vehicle:*
  - o A service vehicle was required to support growing needs of Enhanced Classrooms. We chose an electric vehicle to cut down on emissions from gasoline engines which are at their most inefficient for the short distances we would be using the vehicle.
    - Note: we would welcome the opportunity to build a solar array and take this vehicle's operation entirely off the grid.
- *Running multiple database Instances on same server*, rather than separate servers:
  - o Summer of 2007: began to cut down on the number of servers we have running by "multitasking" them (called server virtualization). We now have fewer servers on campus even though we have added to the number of systems we support
- Move from multiple network storage devices to a *Storage Area Network:*
  - o The move to a SAN reduces the number of power vaults and uninterruptible power supplies we have running

## MAJESTIC

- Green Roof

## MUSSELMAN LIBRARY

- *Recycling Campaign* independently
- *Greening Plan*
- *Environmental Writing* series starting Spring 09

## OFFICES

- Actively recycling normal paper and commingle materials
- Returning ink jets to company for re-use
- Shut down computers at night
- Scrap paper reuse for printing
- Increase electronic marketing to reduce paper use
- Reduce usage of paper plates and plastic utensils at events
- Ceramic rather than disposable cups

- Student Accounts Office introducing billing online rather than paper system
- *Direct deposit* payroll instead of paper
- Reuse in office materials, such as binders
- Use rechargeable batteries in office equipment

#### POST OFFICE

- *Reusable Envelopes* campus wide
- Packaging collected from students for reuse

#### RESIDENCE LIFE

- Support and promotion for RecycleMania and Give It Up for Good Sale
- Hallway lights in first year dorms dimmed at quiet hours
- *Sustainability component to RA/CL/RC training (starting Fall 08)*
- *Energy consumption awareness in FYE (starting Fall 08)*

#### **Student Initiatives**

##### DORM BUILDINGS

- Green Theme House 2007-08
- R<sup>3</sup> Theme House 2008-09
- *Sustainability Representatives* in many dorms who assist campaigns

##### FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

- *Fraternity Recycling Competition* for service hours
- Chi Omega' "Ton-of-Wishes" campaign, in which they collect aluminum cans
- ADPi collects aluminum can tabs and magazines to recycle for philanthropy

##### GECO (Gettysburg Environmental Concerns Organization)

- Bring environmental speakers to campus over the past 20 years
- Involvement with Sierra Club membership
- *Earth Day* collaborative celebration annually
- Campaigned for more environmentally friendly Bullet Hole products
- Campaigned for origination of campus' Recycling Program
- Weekly articles to the Gettysburgian for education and news
- Educational demonstrations in the CUB
- Steven's Run ("Tiber") clean-up day with El Centro
- Campaigns to conserve water and energy on campus
- Monetary and labor support to the Painted Turtle Farm
- *Environmental Films* brought to the Junction for campus showings
- Labor support to the Orange Bikes Program
- *ShopGreen Gettysburg* campaign with student garden to reduce plastic bag use
- Campaign for campus shuttle to local stores
- Light bulb recycling environmental education activity
- Focus the Nation panel and podcast event
- *RecycleMania CUB tables*
- Parking policy education CUB tables
- Student petition to support sustainable living practices among students
- Painted Turtle Farm opening day events support

##### GRASS (Gettysburg Research and Action by Students for Sustainability)

- Role and Mission

- Assist the Sustainability Committee in carrying out its project goals
- Provide educational events to the campus community that unites the knowledge and resources of member groups for a larger campus presence.
- Conduct and report research relevant to the Sustainability Committee.
- Act as liaison between student body and the Sustainability Committee.
- Past and Current Projects
  - Compact florescent light bulb exchange campaign
  - Sustainability Proposal to the Administration with student signatures
  - *Earth Day* events collaboration
  - *CUB tables* for campus education
  - Contact with student body for research and information gathering

#### PAINTED TURTLE FARM (Student Garden)

- *Compost Program* with Dining Services to reduce waste into waste stream
- Vegetables and herbs to Dining to help close the sustainability loop
- *Environmental Education*
- Research for classes
- Use organic planting methods and pest controls

#### RECYCLING/SUSTAINABILITY INTERNS

- *Green Books* to First Year Students
- Orientation session about recycling on campus
- *Fluorescent Bulbs* to First Year Students
- *Orange Bikes*

#### SENIOR PROJECTS

- Mizeski: Green House Gas Emissions Evaluation of Campus
- Parson: Environmental attitudes and behaviors on campus
- Reinneman: Biodiesel
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#### STUDENT CLUBS

- Peace Club
  - 'Peace and the Environment' educational week, Spring 2008
- Amnesty International
  - CFL Exchange in coordination with GRASS and GECO, Spring 07