

# Annual Sustainability Report for FY2012

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This report will show the many sustainability education efforts and events, resource and energy conservation that was conducted in FY 2012 as well as the future sustainability plans.

## I. Environmental Stewardship Council

- *FY2012*- The meetings for FY 2012 were as follows: November 1, 2011, December 6, 2011, February 10, 2012, March 23, 2012, April 13, 2012 and May 4, 2012.
- *Development of Sustainability Plan*- The development of a Stonehill College Sustainability Plan was initiated in the fall of 2011 by Jeanne Finlayson, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer and Katie Conboy, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, at the request of Father Mark T. Cregan, President of the College. This document is intended to serve as a roadmap for the College in identifying:
  - Programs and projects to pursue;
  - Timelines and performance metrics to measure and track,
  - Processes to guide continuous engagement, support and decision-making
  - Defined roles and responsibilities to ensure effective and efficient implementation and accountability
- *Green Announcements*- The Environmental Stewardship Council periodically sends out "green announcements" to Stonehill students, faculty, and administrators via e-mail to highlight important sustainability efforts on and off campus and to suggest simple ways in which members of the Stonehill community can help reduce Stonehill's impact on the environment. The objective is to raise overall campus awareness of environmental issues and demonstrate how easy it can be to make a difference.
- *Stonehill Goes Green*- Stonehill Goes Green is a campus-wide initiative to promote environmental sustainability within the Stonehill community through policies and practices including recycling, efficient energy use, and waste reduction. This effort is being guided by the Environmental Stewardship Council.

## II. Sustainability Education Efforts and Events

- *Think outside the Bottle Campaign*- This campaign was implemented in September 2011 by the efforts of the Activism Club. The policy will phase out unnecessary College spending on bottled water and to increase the availability of tap water on Campus. Bottled water uses millions of oil in production and results in millions of discarded bottles to our already packed landfills. Fourteen bottle fillers were installed on existing water fountains. Another six brand new units have been purchased and will be installed in Duffy, Education Building, Clock Farm, Campus Police, the Dining Commons and the Chapel by April 2012. In March, one of the Hydroburst bottle fillers installed in Duffy Academic Building last year to help reduce the use of plastic water bottles recently registered its 25,000th refill, which translates to around 25,000 fewer plastic bottles consumed.
- *Stop the Drop Contest*- A campus-wide contest to see which residence hall area can reduce their water use the most. Conserve by taking shorter showers, doing less laundry or only full loads, and shutting off the faucet while washing your hands. Look for tips around your halls and in your emails about the importance of water reduction and what you can do to make a difference. The contest will be from March 1<sup>st</sup> –April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- *Recycling Bin Decorating Program*- In an event sponsored by SIFE and Programming Committee, students partook in a recycling bin decorating program to raise awareness about recycling in dorm rooms and res halls. Students enjoyed the program and were able to express their creativity and become

more conscious of recycling in their everyday lives through this fun, interactive activity. Over a hundred bins were decorated and taken home during this event.

- **Jamnesty-** This yearly event is where clubs and organizations raise awareness about social justice and environmental issues. Jamnesty is a music festival with some of Stonehill's very own musically talented artists including Rex Macapinlac, Chris Borelli, and many more. The event was a huge success last weekend (even though it had to be inside). We had a number of environment-related groups represented, including some of the groups from our class, S.E.A and the Eco Reps.
- **St .Francis Pledge-** The St. Francis Pledge of the Catholic Climate Covenant calls on those who study, live and work at Catholic colleges to protect God's creation and to advocate on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. The pledge consists of five areas: Prayer, Learn, Assess, Act and Advocate. The pledge was signed by Fr. Mark Cregan on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Student Sustainability Presentations-** The presentations were presented on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The presentations were from nine groups and the topic was student sustainability initiatives.
- **SIFE Furniture Fair-**
- **Sustainability Fair-** The fair took place during Earth Week on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11AM-2PM at the Roche Dining Commons. Over 20 tables will be setup representing student, department, (SEA, SIFE, Activism, Mindful Living, The Farm, IT, Facilities Management, the Bookstore, Res. Life, etc.) and vendor groups (Follett, Sodexo, Coke, Zip Car, Xerox, ConEdison (Solar Project), etc.).
- **Food Sustainability Event-** The event took place on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The event talked about feeding 9 billion people and maintaining the planet. WWF's Jason Clay explored where food production stands today, what business as usual looks like in 2050, and how we could produce enough food for all and still maintain a living planet.
- **Senior Pledge-** Melissa Amaral ('13) is getting seniors to take the senior green pledge. She has already got 80 seniors to sign the pledge. The pledge is to live life as environmentally friendly and as socially conscious as possible.
- **Awareness –** A YouTube video was made on Inconvenient Truth.
- **MA Sustainability Conference, UMass Boston-** This conference was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was to learn more about sustainability best practices and resources. It connects leading experts and peers from municipalities, college campuses and nonprofits.
- **NWF/AASHE webinar on Eco-Rep Programs-** This webinar was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm. The webinar was a guide to creating and maintaining an Eco-Rep Program on your campus. The guide highlights 18 Eco-Rep programs and shows examples demonstrating the process involved in designing, implementing and evaluating successful student Eco-Rep programs.
- **Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium-** Presentations were available online until May 11<sup>th</sup>. This conference was held in Syracuse, New York and the theme was to explore the many interconnected and inter-disciplinary sustainability issues affecting our campuses today.
- **Ecological Representatives-** This one-credit peer education course offer programming aimed at influencing the student body to increase sustainable practices. One vehicle for this effort is the Stonehill Sustainability blog.
- **Mindful Living Community-** Focuses on day-to-day sustainability actions for members of the mindful community to incorporate into daily lives. Adding a monthly sustainability challenge for all members to participate in, and outreach to the broader campus.
- **Student Government Association (SGA) Senate Focus Group-** Formed a focus group called "Sustainability at Stonehill" to look at recycling, composting, and water usage.
- **SGA Programming Eco-Rep-** Brainstorms eco-friendly ideas to bring to Campus. Work to "greenify" existing programs.
- **Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) -** The club promotes the awareness of business opportunities to address and solve problems by creating outreach projects that improve the quality of life and standard of living. SAW (Students Against Waste) is a subcommittee of SIFE and is working to reduce paper

consumption, increase donations and reuse of clothing, and recycling of cans and plastics. This club also was awarded a \$1,500 grant.

- *Students for Environmental Action (SEA)* - SEA has undertaken many campus sustainability initiatives since its inception in 1989, including beginning the recycling program on campus. SEA's current focus is starting a bike sharing program.
- *Activism*- This club led the campaign to end college spending on bottled water, and is currently focusing on increasing the number of Fair Trade items sold on campus. This initiative combats unfair working conditions and trade practices, while promoting sustainable development in communities and the environment.
- *Composting Team*- To educate the students about composting. Implement the Composting Plan during the first week of April.

### III. Green Campus Initiatives

- *Stonehill College Recycling Program*- The commitment to the Colleges "Stonehill Goes Green" program has amounted to 86.29 tons of materials recycled so far this fiscal year. That's a savings of 1,466 trees. Currently we recycle the following items cans, plastic & glass bottles, Paper & Co-mingled Containers (tin food cans from the Dining Commons & non-redeemable plastic bottles), batteries, glass, cell phones, computer/electronic equipment, fluorescent tubes (light bulbs), inkjet & laserjet ink cartridges, waste oil, old college furniture, and mattresses.
- *Zip Cars*- Stonehill has two Zipcars available for use, one of which is a hybrid Zipcars are a "green" way to travel. It is estimated that each Zipcar takes about 15 cars off the road resulting in less air pollution.
- *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)*- Stonehill College joined AASHE in October 2011 and plans on participating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) survey.
- *The Farm*- The Farm at Stonehill uses organic and sustainable methods, which grows and distributes produce to local organizations to feed the needy and local families who lack access to affordable fruits and vegetables. The Farm at Stonehill and its manager Bridget Meigs won a 2012 Green Difference Award from Project Green Schools, a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to creating greener and healthier learning environments through education and awareness.
- *Composting*- The College began composting pre-production waste from the Dining Commons in 2011, and through student action, has added coffee grounds to its composting which is then used by The Farm at Stonehill. Post-production collection of food from the Dining Commons is set to begin in April of 2012.
- *Dining Commons*- Stonehill recycles over 90% all of cardboard, metal, and cooking oil from the Dining Commons. Local sources provide about 30% of food during season. Reusable containers for to-go orders were introduced in 2011, along with other initiatives to reduce to-go packaging.
- *Document Center*- All copiers/printers are Energy-Star Certified. The College standardizes on high-yield, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified paper. All Xerox toners and drums are collected and recycled.
- *Residence Hall Furniture*- The College standardizes on New England Woodcraft furniture which uses wood from sustained yield growth forests, uses non-solvent based finishes, and meets ANSI Formaldehyde Emission Requirements. Almost all old furniture is donated to local agencies for re-use in the community.
- *Cleaning Products*- Eighty percent of our cleaning products are Green Seal certified. This year we invited representatives from Clean Green Solutions and Rochester Midland Corporation to train our custodians on green cleaning. They all successfully completed training and testing in "Rochester Midland's Certified Green Housekeeping Program" which is a recognized LEED program. So now all of our custodians are registered LEED certified in green cleaning.

- *Irrigation*- Wells are used to water the Campus grounds. Rain sensors have been installed with our sprinklers which prevents watering while it is raining.
- *Lighting Retrofits*- In every one of our older buildings lighting retrofits have been installed. It is estimated that 90% or more of the interior lighting has undergone some type of lighting retrofits (reducing wattages).
- *Exploring Solar Power*- Three presentations were presented on February 1<sup>st</sup>. ConEdison Solutions was selected by the Stonehill team based on price, flexibility, ability to work with NGRID, and the ability to commit to the project. A non-binding contract was signed to move forward with the 2.7MW solar farm project. If everything is approved the project would be started on October 1<sup>st</sup> and be substantial completed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The solar panels would be located behind the Clock Farm.
- *Paint "Green Initiatives"*- From day one of starting the paint shop here at Stonehill, environmental responsibility has been considered in every decision. Many of what could be called "green initiatives" have simply become our standard operating procedure. The first significant decision was to partner up with Glidden Professional Paint Centers. From the regional operations manager to the van driver they have embraced what we are trying to accomplish with our paint shop.

The most obvious change was in our basic standard paints. We streamlined coatings and branded our own colors which greatly reduced the number of products used on campus. Our standard paints are water based and low voc or zero voc. This, in and of itself has tremendous impact, but we've taken it further by controlling purchasing and working with the Architectural Rep from Glidden and the Brevoort Coating Expectancy Report.

#### **IV. Future Sustainability Plans/ Opportunities**

- *Complete the Sustainability Plan*
- *Continued Water Savings*- A second water contest is planned for the fall semester. Explore the water usage in the Dining Commons and reduce our laundry counts.
- *Bike Sharing Program*
- *Curricular Initiatives*- Two courses have been added to the fall semester curriculum they are ENV350 Climate Science and ENV300 Geographic Information Systems.
- *Green Fund*- The Green Fund will provide funds to improve sustainability and also to educate the college about sustainability and environmental issues.
- *Solar Energy*