LASELL COLLEGE
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Green Campus Initiative

Lasell College
2009-2010
LASELL COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

The Green Campus Initiative at Lasell College grew in impact and structure this past year. We added the position of Assistant Director for Plant Operations & Sustainability, which has been a tremendous boost to our sustainability efforts. Marc Fournier was hired in the fall for this position and has implemented many innovative initiatives including consolidating our single stream recycling system, orchestrating the deconstruction of the B&G Barn, and organizing a Bail Out Program during student move-out.

A new dishwasher was installed in Valentine Dining Hall, which will reduce electricity and water consumption. In addition, the Dining Hall now recycles used cooking oil, which is collected and used to heat homeless shelters in the Boston area. Environmental Services has also made efforts to green their practices. They now have a chemical free floor cleaner and stripper. In addition, they have been working to use more Green Seal Certified chemicals.

Lasell College was awarded a grant from the Tomfohrde Foundation to install a set of energy meters to log electricity consumption in four dormitories. Data from the meters can be viewed by students in real-time on the internet and will be used for research and connected learning projects in many departments including Environmental Studies and Psychology.

The green culture at Lasell continues to change. We saw in increase in the number of sustainability related activities and participation. Earth Day was a highlight this year with music, a fashion show, activity tables, and vendors. Over 150 students, faculty, and staff participated.

The Environmental Studies Program continues to expand efforts to engage more of the Lasell community in courses related to the Environment. The program saw an increase in the number of majors and minors. Students in the program continue to use the College as a learning lab to study issues such as building heat loss and urban ecology.
Dear Lasell Community,

The Green Campus Initiative continues to gain momentum on the campus of Lasell College. This past year was filled with exciting and innovative sustainability projects, events, classes, and programs.

For me, the highlight this year was the Earth Day Celebration. The celebration included music, a fashion show, activities, and vendors sharing green products. Amy Greene did an outstanding job organizing the day. Student enthusiasm for the event, held on a sunny day in the East/West Quad, was palpable.

Lasell welcomed Marc Fournier to campus this fall. In his role as the Assistant Director for Plant Operations & Sustainability, Marc has had an immediate impact. Marc’s most notable accomplishment was to consolidate the single stream recycling program on campus.

This report is intended to provide an overview of the many sustainability efforts happening at Lasell College. It is by no means complete. The sustainability discussion is spreading at Lasell and finding its way into many different classes, departments, and offices. The diversity of initiatives is exciting but challenging to completely document.

I look forward to engaging with the Lasell community as we strive to make our campus a sustainable place to live, work, and study.

Sincerely,

Michael Daley, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Environmental Science
Chair of the 2009-2010 Environmental Sustainability Committee
Lasell College Sustainability Report

Last year, the Environmental Sustainability Committee set sustainability goals based on recommendations from the Green Campus Task Force. These goals include:

Goal 1: Reduce energy consumption.

- In fiscal year 2014, the carbon footprint of Lasell College will be reduced compared to fiscal year 2009 by meeting the following measures:
  - 10% reduction in electricity consumption
  - 3% of our electricity will come from on-site or off-site renewable sources
  - 5% reduction in natural gas consumption
  - 10% reduction in CO₂ emissions from faculty/staff commuting

Goal 2: Reducing waste

- In fiscal year 2014, Lasell College will realize a recycling rate (lbs recycling/lbs total waste) of 25%
- In fiscal year 2014, water consumption at Lasell College will be 2% lower than in fiscal year 2009

Goal 3: Changing the culture of the Lasell community

- In fiscal year 2014, Lasell College will realize the following objectives:
  - 50% of graduating seniors will have taken an ENV course
  - the Environmental Studies major will have 25 declared students
  - the Environmental Studies minor will have 50 declared students
  - 100% of first-year students will participate in a Green Campus Initiative Workshop

On the following pages we report on our progress towards meeting these goals. In addition, we share the many programs and efforts carried out on campus to make Lasell College a more sustainable place to live, work, and study.
Goal: Reduce Energy Consumption
Delamping efforts are being tested in spaces such as Wass Hall to reduce energy consumption in over-lit areas.
Lasell College Sustainability Report

Goal 1: Reduce energy consumption.

Electricity consumption has been increasing at a rate of about 130,000 kWh per year. We expect electricity consumption and natural gas consumption to continue to increase for the next few years as the College continues to expand the student body and the size of our facilities. We hope our sustainability efforts will minimize this increase.

While there is an upward trend, natural gas consumption patterns are more challenging to compare. Natural gas consumption can fluctuate by year in response to patterns in outside temperatures. In addition, there has been a large effort to convert all remaining oil burners to natural gas during the past three years.
GOAL 1: REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.
2009-2010 Accomplishments

- New heating zones have been installed in many college buildings and thermostat temperatures have been lowered in dorms, houses, and offices wherever possible to help reduce natural gas consumption.

- Efforts are underway to reduce energy consumption by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to turn off all electronics (computers, monitors, printers, copiers, lights, etc.) that are not in use.

- Energy efficiency is being improved by insulating buildings, reducing air infiltration, and installing energy efficient windows.

- Hoag Residence Hall was renovated during the winter of 2009-1010, and as part of the renovation, the entire shell of the building was insulated and the heating system was divided into eight zones to conserve energy and improve the comfort of the residents.

Heating zones were added to buildings to conserve energy and improve the comfort of residents.
Lasell College received a $6,500 grant from the Tomfohrde Foundation to install electricity meters in four residence halls in April 2010 that will enable students and the College to monitor electricity usage in real time.

- Environmental Studies professors Michael Daley & Aaron Toffler and other faculty will use the information as part of their coursework and ask their classes to analyze the data coming from the dorms.
- Students in Butterworth, Bragdon, Forest, and Woodland dormitories will be able to download the data in excel spreadsheets and compare their usage at various times of day.
- Data from the meters will also be used to design and coordinate educational programs and competitions for the students around shutting off lights, computers, monitors, and other devices to see how much that affects the College’s demand, costs, and carbon footprint.
- The project will also help school officials better determine what kind of rate structure it can use to take advantage of off-peak and less-expensive electricity.
Princeton Energy Systems was hired to develop a Preliminary Energy Action Plan to identify and begin prioritizing energy projects. The findings from this report, as well as research being conducted into other energy conservation strategies including vacancy sensors, occupancy sensors, daylight sensors, and delamping, will aid in the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Lasell.

- Students have online access to real-time electricity data in four dormitories with the Smart Meter Program.
Goal: Reducing Waste
Over 45 tons of material was saved for recycling or repurposing during the demolition of the B&G Barn.
Lasell College Sustainability Report

Goal 2: Reducing Waste
2009-2010 Accomplishments

- Lasell College has converted to a single stream recycling program. In January 2010, the College entered RecycleMania, a national competition for colleges and universities. The campus recycling rate has doubled to ~21%, and waste has been reduced by recycling more cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, scrap metal, electronics, rechargeable batteries, toner cartridges, mercury containing products, and other materials across campus.

Since implementing the single stream recycling system, the campus recycling rate has doubled.

- In order to reduce the amount of paper used on campus, staff from various departments including Plant Operations, the Brennan Library, the Business Office, and IT, are working together to purchase duplexing copiers and printers, and make duplex printing the default on public printers on campus.
The College has been proactive in reusing materials both on and off campus. Surplus clothing, food, furniture, office supplies, and appliances are being reused on campus or sent to various local charities, including one tractor trailer load and two box trucks full of used furniture to The Wish Project in Lowell, MA, during the winter of 2009-2010.

During May 2010, a team comprised of Plant Operations staff, students, and faculty will coordinated an aggressive “Bail Out” program in the residence halls to recover 1400 lbs of non-perishable food, 700 lbs of clothing, 250 lbs of art & office supplies, and 100 lbs of small appliances & household goods, and donate them to local charities and the Haiti relief effort.
• Campus staff and students kicked off the “Cans for Haiti” initiative in a number of College buildings to collect redeemable containers and donate the proceeds to the Haiti relief efforts.

• In order to reduce the amount of paper used on campus, staff from various departments including Plant Operations, the Brennan Library, the Business Office, and IT, are working together to purchase duplexing copiers and printers, and make duplex printing the default on public printers on campus.

• Lasell is promoting the procurement of products containing post-consumer recycled materials, including copy paper, business cards, letterhead, paper towels, toilet paper, picnic tables, park benches, and outdoor recycling & trash containers. The College is establishing programs to make the use of these products the campus standard.

• Cafeteria cooking oil is being recycled by the Valentine Dining Commons Sodexo staff, converted into heating oil by Mass Biofuel, and donated to heat local shelters. Over 600 gallons were donated this past year.

Cooking oil from Valentine Dining Commons is recycled and donated to heat local shelters.
The B & G Barn was deconstructed to repurpose and recycle over 80% of the material.

- The Building & Grounds Barn, originally scheduled to be demolished in preparation for the construction of the new Donahue Center for Creative and Applied Arts, is instead being deconstructed by The ReStore Inc., a division of the western Massachusetts non-profit Center for Ecological Technology. The siding, sheathing, wood flooring and sub flooring, framing lumber, doors, double pane windows, cabinetry, modern electrical switches, outlets and lighting, and modern plumbing fixtures will be reused. Miscellaneous materials including metal and vinyl will be recycled. The asphalt shingles will be recycled and used in road base in New Hampshire. Materials from the adjacent B&G House, which will be gutted as part of the Donahue project, will also be reused and recycled.

- The Office of Student Accounts implemented an online payment service, reducing the need for paper, envelopes and mail delivery.
• Water usage was reduced by installing low-flow toilets, sink aerators, and shower heads (262 installed in 2009) in college buildings.

• A new dishwasher was installed in Valentine Hall, saving significant amounts of water and energy.

• Two new dormitories – East and West – were built following a number of LEED green building specifications.

• The YESS (Your Employee Self Service), a paperless human resource management system, was brought on-line in April 2010. Faculty and staff can now access personal, payroll & tax, and benefits information and forms on the user friendly, paperless system.

• The College switched to a more environmentally sound (and lower priced) ice melt product called Greenscapes and required the vendor backhaul pallets for reuse.

• Additional mulched tree rings continue to be installed around campus trees to improve the health of the campus arboretum and ensure that these trees continue to absorb as much carbon dioxide as possible.

A new dishwasher was installed in Valentine Hall, saving significant amounts of water and energy.
Environmental Services introduced two new chemical free stripping and floor washing machines.

- Environmental Services introduced two new chemical free machines a Clark stripping machine and a Tennant H2O floor washing machine.

- Micro fiber flat mop system was introduced in 2009 to the Environmental Service Department.

- Over 60% of chemical use by the Environmental Services Department at Lasell College are Green Seal Certified.

- A blue bag program was implemented by Dining Services for recycling all cans and bottle in kitchen
Goal: Changing the Culture of the Lasell Community
A Sustainable Fashion Show was held as part of the Earth Day celebration.
GOAL 3: CHANGING THE CULTURE OF THE LASELL COMMUNITY
2009-2010 Accomplishments

- An Earth Day Celebration was organized in the East/West Quad. Over 150 students, faculty, and staff were in attendance. Sustainable products were advertised and distributed (including recycled paper and pens from New England Office Supply, drinks from Mix1, yogurt and drinks from Garelick Farms, and cheese from Cabot). LEAF led awareness programming. Socially responsible music was sponsored by Res Life. A highlight of the event was the original sustainable fashion show by Colleen McCleary.

- Environmental Service efforts were expanded. These efforts included:
  - Charles River Clean-up in September 2009
  - Gaining Ground Farm in September 2009 & April 2010
  - Waltham Fields Community Farm in April 2010
  - Cans for Haiti Collection Drive in Spring 2010
  - Environmental Service-Learning in Ecuador course in Fall 2009 and trip in January 2010.
  - Clothing Swaps in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 run by Fashion Service Society

Students wave from the van during the service-learning trip to Ecuador
• ENV 101 sponsored a “Reduce, Reuse and Groove” dance which was attended by about 100 people (admission was a recycleable item)

• LEAF sponsored a campus cleanup

• Lasell College screened the film “One Water” on campus (with a Q&A session with the writer/director)

• The Environmental Studies Program developed a partnership with the Needham/Newton Chamber of Commerce

• Developed a proactive tree pruning and removal program

• Implemented a tree mulching program to improve and preserve the health of the campus arboretum and ensure that these trees continue to absorb as much carbon dioxide as possible

Lauren Short (Environmental Studies) presents her GIS research on sturgeon in the Hudson River.
• An Advisory Board for the Environmental Studies program was established

• Green LEAF Pledges were collected to support participation in the President’s Climate Commitment and encourage student support of environmental initiatives at the college. Pledge promises included: reducing energy consumption, increasing recycling, donating surplus material belongings, using resources efficiently, eco-friendly travel, conserving water and spreading the word. Nearly 50 campus members signed the pledge.

• The Environmental Studies Major and Minor continued to expand. More classes were offered in 2009-2010 including:
  o Environmental Science
  o GIS and Natural Resource Management
  o Environmental Ethics
  o Introduction to Environmental Science
  o World Geography
  o Diversity of Living Organisms
  o Two FYS Seminars with Sustainability Themes