

Environmental Stewardship: Next Steps

prepared for university executive vice president robert kasdin,
the environmental stewardship coordinator and task force,
and the columbia university community

The following recommendations are the product of many hours of deliberation and dialogue between administrators, faculty, staff, and students interested in supporting and participating in the University's efforts to strengthen its commitment to environmental stewardship. We hope they will serve as next steps on the University's path to becoming a leader on these issues of critical global importance.

The recommendations are divided into two lists. The first list is for administrators; the second is for students. We believe that all of the steps enumerated below can and should be completed by the end of the 2006-07 academic year, and that they will serve as useful next steps on the university community's efforts to dramatically reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

Recommendations for Administrators

- **Refine climate control in all buildings to avoid overheating and overcooling.**
Work with Facilities and other constituents to devise and install a temperature monitoring and control system to avoid inefficient energy use for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).
- **Give each incoming student an energy-conserving compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb.**
Make CFL bulbs available for free at the Hartley Hospitality Desk for anyone who wishes to replace an incandescent bulb.
- **Create an online community designed to reduce paper waste caused by flyering.**
An initiative is pending in the University Senate to make use of open software to foster more interaction in the greater Columbia community by facilitating effective electronic communication about activities, events, and initiatives. It should be expedited and integrated into existing university web applications like Cubmail.
- **Install low-flow shower heads and toilets in all buildings.**
Toilets should have dual-flush action and colored, disinfectant handles. A pilot program is currently being considered by University Housing and Dining. It should be evaluated and, if successful, considered for expansion to the entire university community.
- **Participate in the EPA 2006 College and University Green Power Challenge** by purchasing electric power from certified renewable sources (see www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/hi_ed_challenge.htm).

Recommendations for Students

- **Participate in the dorm energy use reduction competition.**

Students (including the Green Umbrella and the Group for Environmental Opportunities) will work with Facilities and other constituents to devise and install energy and water use monitoring systems with real-time information availability (see www.oberlin.edu/dormenergy for an example), and will work to raise participation in the competition.
- **Reduce paper waste by printing all documents double-sided.**

Students will work with CUIT and the administration to ensure that all computers have double-sided printing enabled as the default option.
- **Know your environmental footprint.**

Students will work to make online resources like the Carbon Footprint Calculator (www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.html) more widely known and used among students, and will work with administrators to ensure that the Environmental Stewardship website (www.columbia.edu/cu/environment) is up-to-date and contains links to relevant tools and information.
- **Reduce waste by using university recycling facilities correctly.**

Students will work to enhance peer-to-peer education by collaborating with the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP) and student Residential Advisors; promoting awareness of the Environmental Stewardship website; publicizing the availability of battery, computer, and other electronics disposal resources; raising awareness and understanding of the university's paper, glass, metal, and plastic recycling system; and participating in the EPA's RecycleMania program (recyclemaniacs.org).
- **Invest in environmentally sound energy technology.**

A nominal fee—as little as a few dollars per student to start—will demonstrate student interest in strengthening the university's commitment to environmental stewardship, and could fund the purchasing of renewable energy or carbon credits to offset the university's emissions.

About the Green Umbrella

The Columbia University Green Umbrella is a group of administrators, faculty, staff, and students dedicated to the design and implementation of sustainability-raising initiatives in the Columbia community. The 2006-07 academic year Green Umbrella will consist of at least the following collaborators:

Students

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Administrators

Robert Kasdin	University Executive Vice President
Wil McKoy	Office of Administrative Planning & Financial Management
Scott Wright	Student Auxiliary Services
Herman Matte	Dining Services
Lawrence Levitas	Dining Services
Scott Helfrich	Student Affairs

The Green Umbrella would also like to recognize the outstanding contributions made by graduating seniors Anjana Sharma, Davida Schiff, and Kate Lundberg, and to thank Vanessa Carr '05 for her extraordinary dedication and vision.

More information about the Green Umbrella, our initiatives, and other active groups and individuals can be found on the Green Umbrella wiki at cugreen.pbwiki.com.

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