

Sustainability e-Newsletter Fall 2010

UConn a Leader in Environmental Sustainability

UConn was recognized as one of the top 50 greenest universities in the country by the Sierra Club's Cool Schools Survey. According to the Sierra Club, standings are based on a school's overall commitment to sustainability in categories such as energy efficiency, food, academics, purchasing, transportation, waste management, and administration.

UConn was also named a "2009 Campus Sustainability Leader" by the Sustainable Endowments Institute and earned a B and a B+ in 2010 and 2011 on the College Sustainability Report Card. The University was reviewed most favorably, earning an "A" for sustainability in its practices in Administration, Food, Recycling, and Green Building, and a "B" in Transportation and Student Involvement. Congrats to all the campus partners involved in creating a sustainable UConn!



Help raise our grade from a B+ to an A! Donate to the Campus Sustainability Fund today and support UConn's sustainability programs!

Thank you to our 2010 corporate donors:

Inaugural Donor: **Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc.**

Platinum Donor: **CNC Software, Inc.**

Silver Donors: **United Natural Foods and Flow-Tech**

Give to the Campus Sustainability Fund!

By donating to the Campus Sustainability Fund, you support sustainability initiatives on campus aimed at reducing our environmental footprint. UConn Cycles, the Sustainable Office program, the EcoMadness competition, and the Earth Day Spring Fling are just a few of the programs that UConn embraces to encourage environmental stewardship. Your support will better enable us to raise our grade from a B+ to an A, and will testify to your belief in our efforts to help sustain the environment for future generations.

Please give to the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) through the UConn Foundation [giving site](#) and choose CSF (#22701).

Compost Facility and Spring Valley Tours a Success

On October 28th, nearly 100 students, staff, faculty, and community members filled three shuttle buses for guided tours of the new Compost Facility and Spring Valley Farm. The three 50-minute tours were part of the EcoHusky Green Week events designed to increase campus awareness of environmental issues. Participants learned that the Compost Facility will receive approximately 8,000 yards of manure and organic materials annually and will reduce UConn's greenhouse gas footprint.

Spring Valley Farm, a ResLife Living and Learning community dedi-

cated to organic farming, enhances student learning experiences around sustainable living. The produce grown at Spring Manor Farm is used at the University's Dining Services' Chuck & Augies, a formal restaurant in the Student Union. Other produce is used as an ingredient in Spring Manor Farm salads served at five cafes around campus. Click [here](#) to see the Spring Valley Farm video featured on UConn Today.

The Eco-Tours are one of the many ways that UConn is raising environmental awareness and creating a culture of sustainability on campus.



Windrow turner in action at the Compost Facility



Matt Oricchio, Spring Valley Farm resident, talks about farm life.

Energy and Cost Savings from Building Retro-commissioning

UConn's Climate Action Plan is off to a fast start with the retro-commissioning of 34 buildings on the main campus. Eighty-five percent of UConn's carbon footprint is attributed to heating, cooling, and powering our buildings. Retro-commissioning will improve the efficiency of mechanical, electrical, and HVAC systems, saving energy and money and reducing UConn's carbon footprint. Four engineering firms are involved in the three phase retro-commissioning program. Phase 1, representing the first 12 buildings, readies for implementation in early 2011.

So far, recommendations for Phase I and II of these buildings have revealed the possibility of \$450,000 in annual energy savings. Rebates from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund defray the costs of implementing the

measures. Additionally, monies received from the sale of Class III Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are used to help fund these retro-commissioning projects. UConn generates Class III RECs through the efficient operation of the cogen facility.

The University's Climate Action Plan identifies retro-commissioning as a high priority. The 22 buildings in Phase I and II have the potential to save the same amount of CO₂ emissions as removing 620 cars from the road.



Retro-commissioning

The process of improving how existing building systems (e.g. mechanical, electrical, HVAC) operate. An engineering team investigates and makes recommendations about how the building's systems can be reprogrammed and retrofitted to best meet the occupants' needs while saving energy.

Phase I and II Buildings (partial list)

Homer Babbidge Library
Gampel Pavillion
School of Business
Student Union
McMahon Hall and Dining Facility

Pharmacy Biology Building
Chemistry Building
UConn Co-Op
Center for Undergraduate Education
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Renewable Energy partnership with CCAT

UConn has contracted with CCAT ([Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology](#)) to develop a plan for deploying various renewable/sustainable energy technologies at our main campus. This study was recommended in UConn's new Climate Action Plan. The specific types of distributed generation technologies to be considered are solar ther-

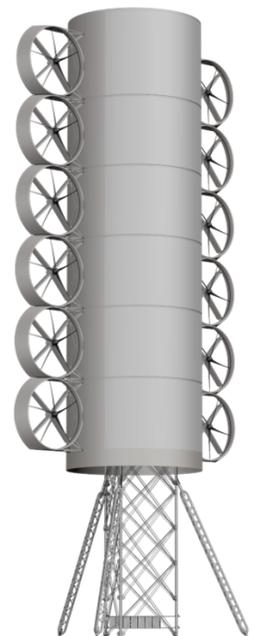
mal, solar PV, wind, fuel cells, biofuels/biomass, and geothermal. A kick-off meeting was held in December to solicit stakeholder input in order to ensure that the plan aligns with UConn's educational and operational activities. Stay tuned next semester for updates on potential renewable energy installations on campus.

"Be Bright, Turn Off the Light!"

This is just one of the creative slogans that students came up with during a campus-wide contest for an energy conservation campaign this Fall. In an effort to reach out to students about energy conservation within residential buildings, the Office of Environmental Policy and Residential Life are working together to remind students to turn off the lights. Students across the

campus were asked to contribute catchy slogans that will lead the campaign to conserve energy in residential areas. Other finalist slogans include "Join the fight, turn off a light;" and "Don't leave 'em on when you're gone." One winning slogan will be featured on custom made light switch covers and it will lead the campaign for energy conservation. The

new light switch covers are intended to remind students to conserve electricity by shutting of equipment when leaving a room. Watch for a kick-off event in March introducing the new switch plates and the energy conservation campaign.



UConn recently executed a lease agreement with CT based Optiwind to install this unique 300kW wind power turbine at our Torrington campus.

Buckley, Hanks, and Hollister win EcoMadness Competition

This fall, 3,882 students in 23 residence halls participated in the 7th Annual Eco-Madness competition. This month-long water and energy conservation contest was co-sponsored by Residence Life, EcoHusky, and the Office of Environmental Policy. This year, the competition was expanded from two to four award categories: largest percentage reduction in 1) water and 2) energy consumption during the competition, and the lowest overall per person, per day usage of 1) water and 2)

energy throughout the month. In total, the 23 dorms in the residence areas of Buckley, East, Northwest, Towers, Shippee, and West Campus saved approximately 26,800 kWh or 19 metric tons of CO₂, up from 23,200 kWh or 14 metric tons of CO₂ in 2009. The dorms also saved 294,000 gallons of water up from 84,000 gallons in 2009. The large reduction in water use in 2010 may have resulted from increased awareness of the competition, the Stage 3 drought

alert, and/or better reporting. Winning dorms were awarded a carbon offset certificate and treated to two ice cream socials. Read the UConn Today article [here](#).

Congratulations to the 2010 EcoMadness Winners!

Category	Winning Dorm
Largest % Energy Reduction	Buckley Hall , 10.2% reduction
Largest % Water Reduction	Hanks Hall , 13.8% reduction
Lowest Overall Water Consumption	Hollister Hall (EcoHouse) , 30.8 gallons per student per day
Lowest Overall Energy Consumption	Hollister Hall, (EcoHouse) 3.4 kWh per student per day

Be Heard! Advocacy Coffee House

The OEP's third Be Heard! Coffeehouse was held in November 2010. At this open-mike event, student musicians played a range of original music and popular covers. Meanwhile students in the audience wrote letters to UConn chief operating officer Barry Feldman and vice president of student affairs

John Saddle mire about energy conservation on campus. When writing letters, students were asked to identify places on campus where energy is often wasted. Letters were sent to UConn administrators in an effort to unite the student body and the policymakers in a common goal: reduce wasted

electricity and greenhouse gas emissions. A great way to meet this goal would be to send out an "Energy Advisory" e-mail to everyone at UConn, similar to the water conservation advisories that are sent out, with a list of tips for conserving electricity. Nearly 60 people attended the event and wrote 17 advo-

cacy letters –more than previous years! Read the Daily Campus article [here](#).



Sign up to participate in the Sustainable Offices Program

The Sustainable Offices Program is a free sustainability assessment service offered to office staff on campus interested in reducing their department's carbon footprint. Participants fill out a survey about general office practices, and receive a customized list of recommendations for ways increase recycling, reduce waste, reduce energy and water use, and hold green meetings and events. The Sustainable Offices pro-

gram reduces Uconn's impact on the environment and saves money! For more information or to sign up visit our [website](#).

Participating Offices:

Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention
 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Office
 Center for Students with Disabilities
 History Department
 Homer Babbidge Library
 Honors Program
 Office of Audit, Compliance and Ethics
 Student Activities
 Student Affairs Information Technology
 Student Health Services
 Undergraduate Student Government
 University Communications

Looking Ahead

- > **EcoHusky 5K**
Apr 10, 2011
- > **Earth Day Spring Fling**
April 21, 2011
- > **Sneaker collection**
March-April 2011
- > **UConn Cycles kick-off**
Spring 2011
- > **Give and Go**
May 4-9, 2011

Recycle paper, bottles, and cans in any bin

This year, UConn has made the switch to single stream recycling in conjunction with Willimantic Waste's collection methods and facility changes. This means that students, staff, and faculty can place any recyclable material in any recycling container and can rest assured that the materials will be properly recycled. This summer, 100 new single stream, green outdoor recycling bins were distributed around campus and paired with black trash bins. Since UConn's \$100,000 investment in dual stream, indoor recycling bins in 2007, recycling education has focused on separating bottles and cans from mixed paper. We are now focused on educating the campus on increasing the amount of materials recycled by using any recycling bin for any ma-

terial. The recycling outreach material and guidelines will be updated and redistributed by next semester. Read the UConn Today article [here](#).

Single Stream

A recycling collection method that allows users to comingle all recyclables—paper, bottles, cans, cardboard—in one container. The waste hauler separates the recyclables at the single stream facility by material type and then processes them as usual. Single stream facilities often use fans, blowers, and magnets to sort the different material types.

Remember, you can recycle these items in any recycling bin on campus:



Partnership with Athletics Continues with Fall Green Awareness Games

Bleed Blue, Live Green.

Who says that you can't be an environmental steward and a die-hard UConn athletics fan at the same time? The EcoHusky Student Group and the EcoHouse learning community worked this semester to spread environmental awareness at athletic events. There were three green game days this semester, including the UConn football vs. Texas Southern game, the UConn Women's basketball team vs. Holy Cross, and the UConn Men's basketball team vs. New Hampshire. The events combine fun

prizes and giveaways with environmental education. At the Women's basketball game, three contestants competed in a halftime recycling trivia contest to win Southwest Airlines vouchers donated by our partners at Coke! The Men's basketball game also included an E-waste collection, where people dropped off their old electronics. Check out more information about Green Awareness Days [here](#).



Contestants participate in the recycling trivia contest at the November 14th Women v. Holy Cross game.