

DENISON THE GREENSHEET

GO GREEN BIG RED

Volume 3, Issue 4

Jeremy King—Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Editor

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Important Dates

DECEMBER

Spectrum Series Lecture: Don Johanson—Slayter Auditorium—7:00pm	Dec 6
Lecture: Senator Sherrod Brown and Ms. Connie Schultz on the occasion of 100 years of Phi Beta Kappa at Denison University Herrick Hall—2:00pm	Dec 11
Winter Break	Dec 20 Jan 16



They Said it First...

"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it."

- Mark Twain

"In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace."

- Wangari Maathai

Campus Saves Water—Who's Responsible?



The Denison Green Team recently completed its annual Water Wars competition. With the goal to reduce consumption by 10% or more in every residence hall, the Green Team encouraged students to take shorter showers, be mindful of wasting water while brushing teeth and washing hands, and to use those dual flush toilets correctly— up for #1, down for #2.

Unfortunately, the campus fell short of its goal. Students living in residence halls used 0.04% more water during the competition than they did prior to the competition. The good

news is that nine of the halls reduced water usage and we tip our shower caps to their water-wise ways.

Below are the results for Water Wars 2011:

Kappa Sigma reduced its water use by 12% with a per capita daily use of 24.6 gallons.

Shorney Hall had the second lowest per capita water use at 25.7 gallons/day and an overall reduction of 3%.

Beta House reduced its water use by 8% but had a daily per capita usage of 41.4 gallons.

The water hog award goes to Gilpatrick House. Normally a perennial water-saver, Gilpatrick increased its usage by a whopping 17% coming in a per capita use of 56.1/day.

Deserving some notoriety is Sunset D whose occupants used

an astonishing 59.3 gallons a day per person—an increase of 2%.

How did we save water? Compared to last year, water use is down in our residence halls by nearly 15% as compared to this time last year.

The installation of low-flow showerheads and faucets is making a big impact on the amount of water being used, as is the installation of dual flush toilets in some halls.

The college spends over \$300,000/year on water—which means when it comes to saving money, every drop does count.

If you have suggestions for reducing water use email them to: kingje@denison.edu



Venture Fund Deadline Extended

Got a great idea to make campus more sustainable? Want to turn that green idea into reality? Ever wonder what you could accomplish with a few hundred dollars of seed money? Well, you've got more time to think about it. The deadline for Hunting Environmental Venture Fund proposals has been extended to December 16—so you have plenty of time to develop that project idea.



Last year's projects included: *Soles 4 Souls*, the campus bike-share program, a green model dorm room, water bottle refilling stations in three campus buildings, and dual flush toilets in Crawford Hall.

All students, faculty, and staff are eligible and encouraged to apply. Grants range from \$100 up to \$2,000. Applications and more information about the Venture Fund can be downloaded at:

<http://www.denison.edu/sustainability/venture%20fund%20application%20fall%202011.docx>

Please direct questions to kingje@denison.edu

What to do with that broken appliance?

From the desk of the Coordinator:

I've recently gotten into making fruit smoothies at home. Not because I'm into all the great health benefits of eating (drinking) fruit, but more because I get those cravings for a tasty dessert at 9:00pm. I've been employing my eleven year-old Kitchen Aid blender to do the dirty work. It has been a wonderful companion since its acquisition as a wedding gift in 2000.

A few weeks back, in the middle of making a smoothie, I heard a horrible grinding sound—not associated with the chopping of frozen strawberries and bananas. A few seconds later it was all over; the rubber blender coupling was shredded to pieces.

I salvaged what I could of my half-blended smoothie and then prepared myself to part ways with my smoothie accomplice—my expensive blender.

I spent a near sleepless night trying to figure out where one takes a blender to get recycled. Many electronics stores recycle small appliances, but a blender? Even if I did find a place to recycle it would I buy a new one or a used one? Did I really need a blender? Until my smoothie craze I think I

used the blender a total of ten times in 11 years.

Needless-to-say I was in an eco-conundrum. Surely, I am not the first to have faced this problem. I turned to the internet and discovered that many before me had faced the same distinctive grind followed by a destroyed blender coupler. The solution: spend \$4 for a new coupler and voilà, you're back in business.

So, \$4 and five minutes of time was all it took to keep me from throwing away a perfectly fine blender. Apparently, this problem happens so often that online retailers even encourage you to buy a spare coupler to prevent that embarrassing blender breakdown at parties.

The experience left me wondering how many of us treat our appliances as disposable items when they "break." Next time your tv goes out, your toaster dies, or if you're less fortunate—your blender goes kaput mid-smoothie take a few minutes to see if you can't fix it. Think of the satisfaction you'll get when you save a few bucks and the story you'll be able to tell friends and family about how handy you are.

Sustainability Star Profile:

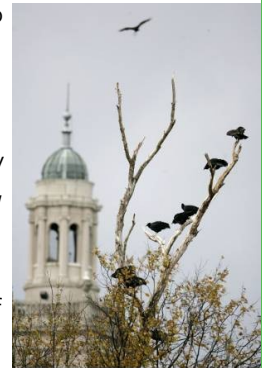
☆ The DU Vultures ☆

Yes, you read that right, our resident vultures are a true model of efficiency in recycling. While us humans on the hill chug along with recycling 30%-35% of the waste generated on campus, these vultures set the bar high as they are one of nature's best at recycling and composting.

I know, they're hard to like. After all, they eat carrion, defend their nests by regurgitating and excrete on themselves. Still, they perform an important, yet thankless job at Denison and beyond. Turkey vultures help to rid the landscape of road kill, carcasses, and disease. This is even reflected in their scientific name, *Cathartes aura*. *Cathartes* from the Greek word, *katharsis*, meaning to purge or cleanse.

Who knew that the vultures were so GREEN?

Photo: Ed Matthews—The Columbus Dispatch



News from Sodexo

The Truth Behind Trayless

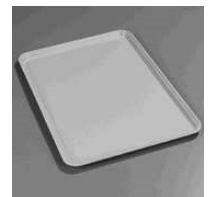
By Kristin Busch – Dining Services Marketing Specialist

Ever wonder what happened to all of the trays in the Dining Halls?? In the fall of 2010, Dining Services, in collaboration with a Sodexo sponsored initiative, decided to go "trayless" as part of the company's commitment to reduce the negative impact on the environment; going trayless saves thousands of gallons of water each day and reduces electricity and chemical use. Trayless dining has many benefits directly associated to it. Most importantly it significantly reduces food waste by encouraging guests to take only what they can carry. Since implementing this initiative, Dining Services has seen a decrease in food waste by one to two thirds. It is also shown that there is an average savings of one ounce of food waste per plate. Trayless dining also provides an overall positive impact on student health by discouraging over eating and it requires guests to get up and walk to get more food. Not only is there a reduction

in food waste but we also reduce electricity, water, and chemical use because there are fewer dishes and trays to wash. This saves thousands of gallons of water every day and generates hundreds of dollars in detergent and electricity savings. Cutting out detergents, solid waste and grease that goes down the drain also improves the Granville community water supply. Food materials discharged by local waste water treatment plants contribute to increased levels of BOD (biological oxygen demand), COD (chemical oxygen demand), TSS (total suspended solids), and O/G (oil and grease). Food materials discarded into the solid waste stream contribute to odor and methane generation at disposal facilities. Not only does trayless dining have many unexpected environmental benefits but it also has benefits that can be seen in our dining halls such as increasing the speed of service and reducing customer lines.

By going trayless, Curtis will be able to reduce to one dish machine. This will result in

802,032 gallons of water saved annually and \$22,000 a year in utility savings. Dining Services has replaced all of its dish machines within the past three years with Energy Star certified models which use significantly less water and energy than older versions. More than 150 other Sodexo's Campus Dining campuses have already opted out of using trays on a daily basis. The environmental impact of trayless dining can be calculated to be a savings of about 200 gallons of water a day per 1,000 meals served. Sodexo serves one million meals on campuses each day, which means that if every campus went completely trayless we would be able to save 200,000 gallons of water a day with this initiative! Thanks Denison, for being a part of this initiative and working together to reduce our environmental impact!



Be Like the Grinch this Holiday Season... **BE GREEN!!!**

By Lia Crosby '13

The holiday season usually means lots of buying and lots of consumption for the typical American. Here are some ways you can save green—and I'm not just talking about money. There are lots of ways to cut back on your impact this season, while also doing something good for the earth and for your community. Here are a few suggestions:

Purchases:

Buy local- Consider purchasing food and gifts for the holidays from local businesses, both to stimulate your local economy and to cut down on emissions and costs of the transportation of goods.



Buy ethical- Fair Trade products are becoming increasingly trendy. Some examples of such items are coffee, chocolate, and clothing. Fair Trade also allows you to support life-long benefits for a person in a less developed country,

including paying for a mother's prenatal care or providing a farmer with an alternative to clear cutting or using harmful fertilizers. Check out more gift ideas at the Fair Trade Holiday Gift Guide website: <http://fairtradeusa.org/blog/fair-trade-holiday-gift-guide>.

Buy services- Purchasing tickets to a play or services such as a spa treatment or a manicure for a loved one will reduce the amount of



material items you buy, and therefore also reduce the amount of things which will ultimately end up in a landfill.

Buy a gift that helps the environment- Sponsor a Wild Place allows you to choose a denomination and donate in someone's name to help preserve a wildlife refuge of your choice. Visit <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=wildplaces> for more details.

Practices:

Carpool- Whether traveling to visit family or just going holiday shopping, riding with a friend will save on carbon emissions from travel this holiday season—and allow you to split the cost of gas.

Make your own wrapping paper- You can use maps, newspaper, or cloth such as scarves or old (but pretty) clothing to wrap holiday gifts. If every family wrapped just three gifts this way, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

Switch to LED- LED holiday lights use a tenth of the energy of regular incandescent light bulbs and have many other practicalities. LED bulbs will last much longer, are less expensive, and will cost you less money on your electricity bill than your old bulbs. They also come in a variety of colors and shapes, are virtually unbreakable, and do not pose a fire hazard because they never get hot.

Recycle your Christmas tree- Each year, 10 million Christmas trees end up in the landfill. Your tree won't fit in your recycling bin, but you can recycle your tree. Granville offers free tree recycling as do many other communities. Not sure about your area? You can check out www.earth911.org to find a tree-recycling program near you that will turn your tree into mulch.



Sources: Fair Trade Alliance and Sierra Club

Opportunities Abound: A Call for Papers and Projects

The emerging higher education field of sustainability is becoming a good opportunity for research and best practices. The [Journal of Sustainability Education](#) invites submissions for its March 2012 special issue on the Geography of Sustainability. Preference will be given to authors who address emerging binaries that are guiding sustainability education including North vs. South; natural vs. cultural; carbon-based vs. electron-based; urban vs. rural; and traditional vs. modern. Submissions are due by Jan. 1, 2012.

**JOURNAL OF
SUSTAINABILITY
EDUCATION**



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites higher education students and faculty to apply for its [P3: People, Prosperity and the Planet](#) competition to design solutions for a sustainable future. Winners of the first phase of the competition will receive a \$15,000 grant to develop their idea. Designs will then compete at the National Sustainable Design Expo in April 2012 for the P3 Award and a \$90,000 grant for real world application. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 22, 2011.



**a student
design competition
for sustainability**