

DENISON THE GREENSHEET

GO GREEN BIG RED

Volume 3, Issue 3

Jeremy King—Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Editor

October, 2011

Important Dates

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER

Spectrum Series Presentation: Seyla Benhabib Burton Morgan Lecture Hall—7:00pm	Oct 31
Global Studies Seminar: Elsadig Elsheikh—Slayter Hall Shepardson Room 7:30pm	Nov 7
Education Lecture: Kate Rousmaniere Burton Morgan Lecture Hall—7:15pm	Nov 10
Empty Bowls Soup Sale—Burton Morgan Welsh Hills Room 10:30am—2:30pm	Nov 17
Campus Forum on Energy Audits and Energy Conservation Burton Morgan Lecture Hall—12:00pm	Nov 17
Thanksgiving Break!!!	Nov 19-27

They Said it First...

"Dig a trench through a landfill and you will see layers of phone books like geographical strata or layers of cake.... During a recent landfill dig in Phoenix, I found newspapers dating from 1952 that looked so fresh you might read one over breakfast."

- William Rathje—*The Economist*

"What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

- Henry David Thoreau

Denison Participates in Billion \$ Green Challenge

By Ginny Sharkey

Denison University announces its participation in the Billion Dollar Green Challenge initiative, which encourages colleges, universities and nonprofits to establish funds that finance energy efficiency upgrades. Denison has established the Green Hill Fund, which will set aside one million dollars over a four-year period for a self-managed revolving fund specifically for use in energy efficiency projects. The fund will use the proceeds from the energy savings practices of these projects as further resources for continued upgrades, thus creating a self-funded capital asset dedicated to energy efficiency projects.

The Billion Dollar Challenge was launched on Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Conference in Pittsburgh. Denison is a member of the Challenge's Founding

Circle, one of 32 leading institutions committed to investing a cumulative total of more than \$65 million in green revolving funds. In addition to Harvard, Stanford and Dartmouth, other Founding Circle institutions include Caltech, George Washington and Middlebury.

"This is a huge step forward for how Denison thinks about and addresses energy efficiency on campus," said Jeremy King, Denison University's sustainability coordinator. "By creating this revolving green fund we are ensuring that college will continue to make positive investments in our campus infrastructure that will lead to lower utility costs and a smaller environmental footprint."

The Billion Dollar Green Challenge is inspired by the performance of existing green revolving funds, which have a median annual return on

investment of 32%, as documented by [Greening The Bottom Line](#), a report published by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. The Billion Dollar Green Challenge has received financial support from the David Rockefeller Fund, HOK, John Merck Fund, Kresge Foundation, Merck Family Fund, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Roy A. Hunt Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership, and the Wallace Global Fund.

Visit www.GreenBillion.org for more information.



The Arboretum is Here



The Denison Tree & Landscape Advisory Committee is proud to announce the opening of Denison's very first campus [arboretum](#). While still in its infancy, the arboretum boasts 34 species of trees scattered along the Chapel Walk, A-Quad, and the West Quad.

Perhaps you've noticed the new arboretum markers in front of the trees as you've dodged falling leaves. These markers not only have the scientific and common names of the trees, but also have QR codes that any smart phone or iPad can read that will take you to a website specific to that tree.

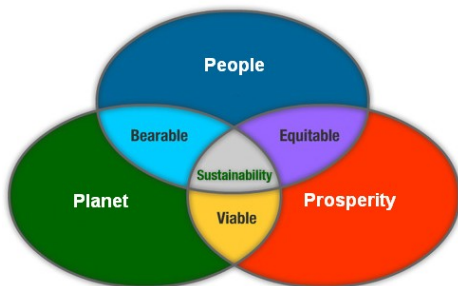
The plan is to increase the arboretum to include representatives of all of Ohio's native tree species. If you would like to learn more visit the arboretum on the web and check out the online [campus map of the arboretum](#). If you are interested in serving on the Committee contact Warren Hauk, Jamie Hale, Aaron Fuleki and/or Jeremy King.

What is Sustainability?

From the desk of the Coordinator:

I think we all connect sustainability at Denison with being green. We think of it in terms of energy-efficiency, recycling, water conservation, and reducing waste. These all fit very nicely within the framework of sustainability. However, sustainability is something much bigger than just being green or making good decisions about what you purchase and use on a day-to-day basis.

The conversation around sustainability is growing to include what many describe as the triple bottom line—people, planet, and prosperity.

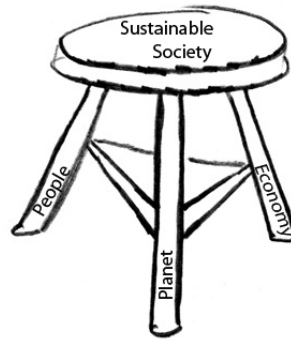


Over the coming months, I plan to engage the Denison community on what sustainability means to us and how we might

address the broader issues of sustainability on our campus and in our community.

Denison is and will continue to address the environmental (*Planet*) aspects of sustainability and we are finding out that by doing this we are also having some positive effects on the economic components (*Prosperity*). The question ahead of us is whether, if at all, we take into consideration the social justice (*People*) issues that are intertwined in the complexities of sustainability.

I invite all of you to engage in the conversation by taking a look at the two diagrams in this editorial and then providing your views about sustainability on the: [Go Green Big Red Facebook](#) page.



Venture Fund Open

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?

The Campus Sustainability Committee is accepting proposals for the [Hunting Environmental Venture Fund](#) Grants. 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 \$2000. Applications and more information about the Venture Fund can be downloaded at:

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

Proposals are due Dec. 2. Please direct questions to kingje@denison.edu



Are you ready for WATER WARS

November 1-18

By Lia Crosby '13

Water consumption accounts for approximately twelve percent of Denison's utility bill. Last year we consumed 41,142,000 gallons of water at a cost of \$329,740. This means that each of the 2,257 students at Denison uses about 82.9 gallons of water every day during the academic year. To put that into perspective, the American Water Works Association says that the average American uses 69.3 gallons of water each day. This means we could easily cut back on our water usage without even dropping below the already high national standard!

It is nearing time for the Green Team's annual Water Wars competition to begin, which encourages students to help reduce overall water consumption on Denison's campus. Water Wars engages every residence hall on campus **during the month of November**. Water usage for each

building will be checked at the beginning and at the end of the contest, and any hall whose water consumption has dropped by ten percent or more will receive free Whit's! Here are some ways you can help cut down your personal water usage to help out Denison's effort to reduce water consumption:

- Cut your shower by two minutes every day and save 105 gallons of water a month (The U.S. Geological Survey states that the average shower releases 2.5 gallons every minute—thankfully, our showers use 1.75 gallons/minute). On the same note, try to reuse your dishes in the dining halls.
- Only use one glass each day to drink out of, that way you won't have to use water to wash as many dishes as if you used a new glass every time you got a drink.
- Turn off the water while you brush your

teeth—it can save 75 gallons a month.

- Wash your face and brush your teeth in the shower to save both water and time.
- Be sure to use dual flush toilets correctly—up for #1 down for #2. This saves over a gallon/flush.



★ Sustainability Star Profile: Mike Eltringham ★



Most of the progress Denison has made towards sustainability is due to behind the scenes work done by typical Denisonians. Denison plumber, Mike Eltringham, certainly finds himself working behind

the scenes, but let's make no mistake—he is not your typical Denisonian.

In short, Mike is a dedicated employee of the college that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make Denison a better place. Whether its taking the initiative on installing low flow showerheads in all of our residence halls or writing grants to get water bottle filling stations in Doane Dance, Mitchell, and Barney-Davis, Mike has shown that anyone on this campus can make a big difference— even when operating behind the scenes.

Mike you've spearheaded a number of water and energy saving initiatives on campus— why are you so interested in doing this?

I was looking into ways within my job as a plumber that could both save the university money and follow our sustainability plans. I was aware of the dual flush system in Shorney Hall and its success. That prompted me to contact the manufacturer regarding a retro fit for old model toilets in our other dorms. Upon finding out the part availability, I installed them



One of the three water-bottle filling stations installed on campus—This one has eliminated the use of 752 water bottles.

in Crawford Hall. That building alone saw approximately \$850.00 a month savings. In addition we installed sustainable water fountains and water bottle filling stations in Barney Davis, Doane Dance, and the Mitchell Center. This step will save electricity and reduce the amount of plastic bottles going into landfills.

Why are these projects important to Denison?

Denison is always looking for ways to reduce cost and save resources.

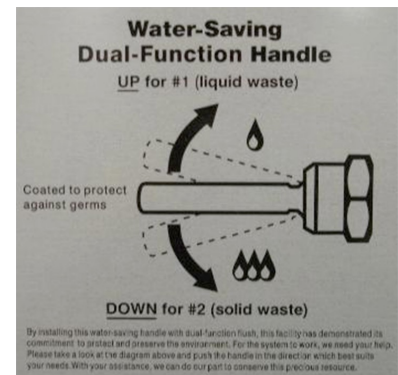
You've been a big ally in campus sustainability—what makes you so interested in the work we are doing at Denison?

I like to know my work can expand beyond my basic job description. Denison is open to suggestions from all sources. It allows me to be involved in the bigger picture of sustainability goals at Denison.

Speaking of expanding beyond your basic job description, I understand you are in school right now.

I am currently working on an associate's degree in construction management. I wanted to stay within my trade area and further my knowledge of current practices in the construction field. After completing this I will be transferring to Ohio State to finish my BS in construction management.

Next time you see Mike thank him for the great work he is doing on our campus.



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**