



Middlesex Community College

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY CLUB

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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GOALS FOR 2011/2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Committee is to:

- Engage the Middlesex community in dialogue on environmental sustainability
- Identify best practices that focus attention on the most efficient use of college resources
- Develop fiscally responsible recommendations addressing sustainability issues on both campuses

GOALS FOR 2011/2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

- Expand college-wide recycling program, particularly paper recycling
- Work in conjunction with the student-run Sustainability Club to promote Sustainability on and off campus

JOIN Us!

If you would like to participate in our committee's activities or have any suggestions or ideas for our newsletter, please contact us at sustainability@middlesex.mass.edu.

SECTION I

FALL SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

- The Sustainability Club joined forces with the Outdoor Adventure Club for a fantastic kayaking trip on the Concord River on October 7, 2011.
- The Matter of Fact Improv Troupe put on a performance on Oct. 26th in the Lowell Café on the topic of Sustainability.
- On Thursday, November 10th the Sustainability Club hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary, “Work of 1000” on the Lowell Campus with guest speaker Writer/Director, Dorie Clark.
- The African Cultural Club held a book drive during the last two weeks of October. All donated books will be sent to Africa to promote Global literacy.
- During Finals Week, recycling containers will be placed in central locations campus-wide to collect notebooks, binders and other recyclable paper goods that students no longer need. School supplies that are found in good condition will be donated to students from both the Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School and the BRIDGE Program.

Coming This Spring...

Middlesex Celebrates Earth Month!

- Movie Screenings
 - Fashion Show
 - Clothing Swap
 - Green Business Fundraising
 - Arbor Day Celebration
 - Community Clean-Ups
- ...and more!

To find ways to get involved with these events and more,

contact sustainability@middlesex.mass.edu.

STUDENT CORNER –

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT RUN SUSTAINABILITY CLUB AT MCC

SECTION II

Club Mission:

The mission of the student-run Sustainability Club is to promote environmental sustainability on campus at Middlesex Community College and throughout the entire community!



Meet the Officers:

- President – Kerri Sullivan
- Vice President – Alex Gentile
- Treasurer – Ryan Manita
- Secretary – Ashley Cantrell

Community Garden Update

The Sustainability Club started the community garden project in the Spring of 2011. The vision of the garden was to promote community supported agriculture and to benefit our community directly by growing food to be donated to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. The food that the club has been growing goes directly to help low-income, homeless and hungry recipients in the Greater Lowell area and so far, the club has already made two trips to deliver fresh produce with plans to continue doing so in the future. Some of the fruits and vegetables include: tomatoes, onion, rosemary, thyme, parsley, basil, bell peppers, cayenne peppers, eggplant, sunflowers, strawberries and more!



“It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it.” –Ed Abbey

BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD DEPOT

SECTION III



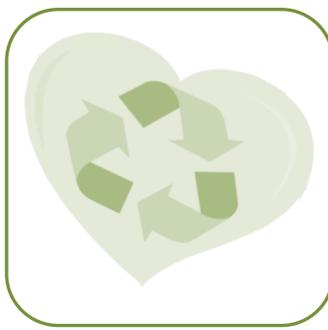
In April 2008, Middlesex Community College acquired the Boston and Maine Railroad Depot – affectionately known as the Rialto Building to Lowellians – which is situated at 240 Central Street in Lowell’s downtown area. The building is set to become home to the Middlesex Community College performing arts center, boasting a theater, classrooms, music hall, and a dance studio that can also double as a Black Box Theater for smaller student performances. As thrilling as this is for the performing arts department, students, and the entire college, there is more to be excited about. One of the most important aspects of this project, for me, is the effort that is being made to make this an environmentally sustainable conversion, mixing the historic nature of the building’s past with visions of a sustainable future.

Matt Sepe, Dean of Facilities Management, invited Sustainability Advisory Committee members to a briefing on these efforts on Friday, September 16, pointing out

that “as an ‘adaptable reuse’ venture, this is obviously a wonderful example of the college’s commitment to sustainability through this work to salvage an empty, decaying historic property and transform it into a beautiful place of teaching, learning, and community engagement.” These efforts towards energy conservation and environmental sustainability range from repurposing wood from the current building to operational measures, like temperature control.

Middlesex’s partners from both the state Division of Capital Asset Management and the architectural firm Leers Weinzapfel Associates attended the meeting to offer some insight as to some of the possibilities that can be explored for this project, including low flow water fixtures, lighting and thermal controls and improved wall and roof insulation. This project is due to take place over the next three years, so we’ll be looking forward to watching its progress.

By: Kerri Sullivan



What Can Be Recycled?

Plastic
(Numbers 1–7)

Glass

Aluminum Cans
(Soft Drinks, Soups, etc)

Plastic: Decoded

	Plastic beverage containers (soft drink, water, juice), peanut butter containers, salad dressing containers, oven-safe food trays, mouthwash containers
	Milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, butter and yogurt tubs, cereal box liners, cosmetic containers
	Window cleaner and detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, plastic toys, medical tubing
	Squeezable bottles, bread bags, frozen food packaging, paper towel/toilet paper packaging, shrink wrap
	Prescription medicine bottles, some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws, medicine bottles, some margarine (or similar) tubs
	Disposable plates and cups, egg cartons, carry-out containers, all Styrofoam
	Nalgene bottles, CDs and some food product containers, three- and five-gallon water bottles

CONSIDER THIS

- Americans consume six times more energy than the world average.
- 400 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill and 17 trees are saved for each ton of recycled paper.
- Every single day 50-100 species of animals are driven to extinction to due human influences
- The U.S. sends 500 million tons of solid hazardous waste to landfills and adds 3 million tons of toxic chemicals into the air and water.
- The average American produces 1,609 lbs. of waste each year. Up to 75% of this waste could be eliminated through efforts such as recycling, composting and reuse.

Source: New York University.

Learn more here:

<http://www.nyu.edu/sustainability/about.sustainability/fast.facts.html>

What Can I Do?

- Shave off just 3 minutes of your showering time and save an astonishing 513 lbs of CO₂ a year.
- Carpool to work or school to further reduce CO₂ emissions
- Unplug appliances when not in use. For certain devices, energy is drawn even when it is powered off.
- 85-90% of energy for laundering clothes is used to heat the water; try to use cold or warm cycles whenever possible.
- Recycle old electronics or cell phones – sometimes you can even get cash back!
- Keep blinds and curtains open during the day and close them at night to maximize cooling and heating efficiency.
- Switch to compact florescent light bulbs to save 25% less energy *and* get more use out of them: they last 8-12 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Additional Resources

- www.epa.gov - EPA's website
- <http://www.energystar.gov/> - Good resource for household energy statistics
- <http://www.aashe.org/> - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- <http://www.esdtoolkit.org/> - Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit
- www.earth911.com - Environmental website with a focus on recycling