



Middlesex Community College

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010

NEWSLETTER

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SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

GOALS FOR 2009/2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

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 2009/2010 ACADEMIC YEAR

- Provide readily accessible paper recycling receptacles for Middlesex students and staff
- Involve students in sustainability efforts through special events throughout the academic year
- Promote Middlesex sustainability initiatives across the college community through the implementation of a wide-range of communication strategies

JOIN US!

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

SECTION I

UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS AT MCC



Time to Clean the Shelves Again!

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is conducting a paper and hard cover textbook recycling initiative. March 22-26. Recycling bins will be in the following locations March 22 -26:

Lowell

- Talbot Building Lobby
- Derby Building Lobby
- City Building - Cube 32B
- Federal Building - Library

Bedford

- Henderson Hall – 1st floor near Dark Room
- North Academic Building - Next to the Copy Center
- Academic Resources Building - Near the ramp to library
- Enrollment Center Building - Near the Honors area

If someone has a large quantity, you can notify the Facilities department directly. If you have any additional questions, please contact Jessie Klein at 781-280-3862 or kleinj@middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC's First Zero Waste Event!

In an effort to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility at MCC, the Student Activities Department is planning a large-scale student leadership awards ceremony for spring 2010, with a main goal of creating a zero-waste event. The awards ceremony is an annual event with roughly 200 guests, a full meal, printed programs, and decorations/props, so the challenge of minimizing waste is significant. In collaboration with the MCC Sustainability Advisory Committee, the Student Activities Department hopes to minimize event-related waste by using materials that are biodegradable, compostable, and reusable. This will require an intentional, collaborative, creative effort, but will also result in a successful large-scale, zero-waste event - the first of its kind at MCC!

STUDENT CORNER

AN INTERVIEW WITH VINCENT DISANZO, WINNER OF THE SUSTAINABILITY POSTER CONTEST

By Donna Gray

By now, you have probably seen the colorful signage and posters in several locations around campus reminding MCC students and staff to **Reduce-Reuse-Recycle**. This simple message has been adopted as the motto of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Recently, I had the opportunity to interview the first-place winner of the poster contest, Vincent DiSanzo, a spring 2008 graduate in Graphic Design at MCC. The poster was created as part of a real-world, resume building class project in February 2008 in Professor Joe Eiler's Graphic Design course. Despite impressive competition of approximately 30 students, a team of judges from the Sustainability Advisory Committee ultimately determined Vincent's poster to be the most effective at representing this message.

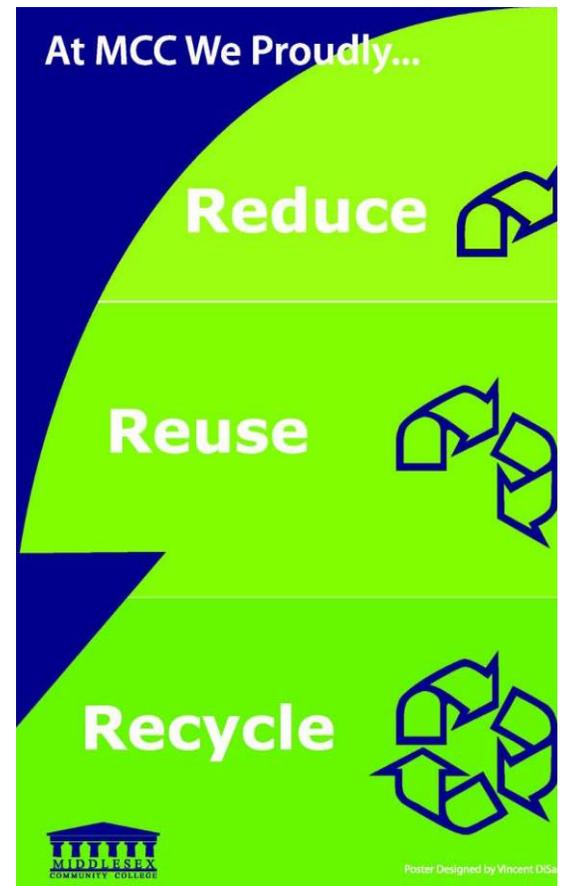
When asked about his inspiration for the poster, he stated, "My inspiration was taken from the 3 arrows in the recycling symbol. Each arrow works perfectly to convey the three part reduce-reuse-recycle Lorraine DeSouza, proudly exclaiming, "They are the best!"

Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn, Vincent was recently laid-off from his work as a graphic designer, yet is currently busy assisting a friend with building a new restaurant and freelancing. He is continuing his studies by taking night courses to learn more about web-based and digital media design at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, ultimately hoping to earn a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree. Vincent also spoke of his lifelong interest of working with hands-on art, particularly painting indoor and outdoor murals. Most of his murals are located in New York City, but until recently, one was on display at the Sun Electric Building on Jackson Street until the building was razed. He also completed painting a skate course at the Boston Garden for the "Dew Tour" tournament this winter. His works can be viewed in several publications, including, "Broken Windows - Graffiti NYC" by James and Karla Murray.

Finally, I asked about ways in which he uses sustainability in his daily life. He practices recycling of his used materials whenever possible, including computers, paint containers, paper and glass. "I also practice sustainability by staying focused, being a go-getter, networking as much as possible, and, most importantly, maintaining a positive mental attitude."

His website is presently under construction: www.vincentdisanzo.com.

We congratulate Vincent and wish him all the best in his present and future pursuits!



STUDENT CORNER – CONTINUED

MASSPIRG UPDATE

BY VANESSA WRIGHT

SECTION III

Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) is a statewide, student-directed, organization working to solve real social problems from protecting our environment to making college more affordable. It was started by students who saw a lot of problems like their natural environment being threatened or consumers being ripped off and they wanted to do something about it. Over the years MASSPIRG has had a lot of victories. In 1979 MASSPIRG passed a Solar Tax Credit giving homeowners an incentive to use solar energy, in 1983 they passed the Bottle Bill the most successful recycling program in the state. And just this past December they worked to convince the House of Representatives to secure \$40 billion for the Pell grant, the largest need based financial aid program in the state.

The reason MASSPIRG has been able to do all this great work is that students at Middlesex Community College and their chapters across the state have voted to fund a chapter on campus through an \$9 dollar per student waivable fee. This allows students to hire professional staff to work with students to investigate the problems, research and craft campaigns around solutions, and lobby decision makers in Boston and in Washington DC.

This semester their top priority is to increase and expand recycling.

Clearly recycling is an important issue that college students have been hearing about since kindergarten. It is good for the environment, protects public health and saves money and natural resources. Because of the work that MASSPIRG did in the 1980's to pass the Bottle Bill, Massachusetts already does a pretty good job of recycling.

The Bottle Bill is the \$0.05 deposit on soda cans that gives people an extra incentive to recycle, in fact bottles covered under the bottle bill are 70% more likely to be recycled. Unfortunately it has not been updated since 1983 and in the almost 30 years there are a lot of containers that aren't covered by the bill, like Gatorade and water bottles. So every year we throw away enough bottles and cans to fill Fenway Park to the monster seats, about 1 billion bottles. These containers turn into toxic waste in landfills, pollution in incinerators, and pollute our water ways.

So this semester MASSPIRG is going back to their roots to update the bottle bill. To do this they are building a lot of public support on and off campus to show the Massachusetts legislature that 2010 is the year to update the bottle bill despite pressure from special interest lobbyist. Students at Middlesex CC have already been organizing. Their main focus is getting the cities and town in the Lowell and Bedford area to join the 120 cities and towns already endorsing the bottle bill.

Students are doing this by building grassroots support on campus through petitioning and setting up municipal meetings with town leadership in cities and towns that have not signed on.

To show your support for an updated bottle bill, become a fan of their facebook page at www.facebook.com/bottlebill.

For more information on MASSPIRG go to www.masspirgstudents.org/mcc or contact Vanessa Wright at vanessa@masspirgstudents.org.

CONSERVATION TIPS – COMMITTEE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SECTION IV

THERESA MULLIN

I didn't set out to save the planet. I wish I could say I did, but my experience with sustainability comes from much more humble beginnings. Before "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" there was "Use it up, wear it out, make due or do without." This was my parent's philosophy; which meant we drove our second-hand cars until they could no longer be repaired, ate leftovers until they were gone, and wore clothes until they were either worn out or outgrown (and passed onto someone else). That was just the way life was. Now that I'm the parent, that kind of "frugal sustainability" is something I try to incorporate into my household on a daily basis. Here are some of the things that I've found that work for our family:

- Write shopping lists on the back of junk mail envelopes.
- Use a fabric shower curtain (like the kind hotels use) to avoid buying disposable vinyl ones.
- Clean bathtubs/sinks with baking soda (it's economical and you don't have to worry if it doesn't all get rinsed away—always nice if you're a parent).
- Save package ribbons/bows from gifts received to use again. Many are just too nice (and expensive) to be used only once!
- Donate unused/unwanted items to charity (request a receipt for a nice tax deduction).
- Repurpose "free" items. For example, many sauces and preserves from the supermarket come in decorative glass jars which can be used as vases (tie a little raffia around the top to hid the threads), candle holders, or to display keepsakes like shells from the beach...we use one as the sugar bowl at our house.



Over the years I'd like to think I've become more altruistic in my thinking regarding sustainability, but it's always nice when one can save the planet and a few dollars at the same time!

Electricity Usage Monitors are now available at both libraries!

Want to find out which appliances are the energy abusers in your home?

How much does your refrigerator and TV use in electricity?

If a new energy efficient appliance will pay for itself with lower electricity costs?

Just plug this device into a three-prong grounded wall outlet and plug any electrical product into the monitor, and you'll find out how efficient (or wasteful) they really are. A large LCD display will allow you to monitor the kilowatt hour consumption of an item to learn how much it costs to run as well as determine your electrical expenses by day, week, or month.

Monitors can be borrowed 1 week at a time by students and staff; Requests can be made at a circulation desk at either library.

Many town libraries also possess these monitors for their patrons use as well!



Games!!!

Want to learn more about sustainability and have fun? Test your on-line gaming skills by playing the "Fish Game"! Visit on the link below. Good luck!

<http://www.cloudinstitute.org/games/>

More sustainability games to come in the next newsletter!

Did you know?

Paper makes up about 40% of American's garbage. *

*<http://www.epa.gov>

On-line resources on sustainability to check out !

- 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