

# ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2013-2014

## Accomplishments:

- Climate Action Plan
  - Completed the 2014 updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory for FY2013
  - Reduced the number of RECs purchased from 21,780 to 17,000 as requested by the SGA. Behavioral and structural changes to increase the percentage of emissions covered by RECs will be explored next year.
  - Initiated an Agency Energy Plan for FY14 with the Department of General Services. The resulting report will suggest ways for the College to save at least 20% of energy costs.
- GSMRF
  - Installed a geothermal heating unit for the Admissions Building in Summer 2013, which will result in a reduction of GHG by 7.7 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.
  - Revised the language on the GSMRF contract in Fall 2013 to ensure that at least one staff member manages the GSMRF fund when the Sustainability Fellow is not present.
  - Used the fund to purchase new heat pumps for the Greens (41 units) in Spring 2014, which will result in a savings of 200 MWH and \$22,000 in electricity bills each year. The payback period is approximately 8 years. This will result in a reduction of GHG by 138 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.
  - Two more proposals written for GSMRF by interns (Vending Misers and Hand-Dryers) will be considered next year.
- Large Scale Solar Projects
  - Obtained a roof analysis for solar panels on the ARC through Pfister Energy.
  - UMD College Park will potentially include us in the University of Maryland Solar Proposal, an RFP is expected to be issued at some point soon.
- Composting Program
  - The composting program is currently being managed by the Sustainability Fellow and the Sustainability Office staff. It includes pickup from the Great Room, Daily Grind, the residence halls (including the dorms), and some academic buildings. Compost is sent to the Campus Farm, where it is managed and tilled.
- Oyster Shell Program
  - Thanks to the former Fellow, Tom Brewer, the Oyster Shell Program was altered from a token-based system to a computer-based system. All students now have the option of taking out up to two green "to-go" boxes at once, which are tracked using the student's one card. Each student need only return his or her used Oyster Shell box to the Pub, the Grab-n-Go or the Great Room to receive a cleaned Oyster Shell box at their next meal. This has cut down dramatically on the amount of styrofoam waste that is produced by SMCM.
- Campus Farm
  - The Farm and its managers now monitor the tilling and monitoring aspect of the Composting Program.

- A Hoophouse Grant was written and submitted to the Sulica Fund in January, and they will read it over the summer. A similar grant was also submitted to Bon Appétit.
- Bike Rental Program
  - The Campus Bike Shop has a fully functioning bike rental program. Students can rent bikes for \$60 and get \$50 back for returning them at the end of the semester.
- Recycling
  - Terracycle
    - A student-led project was initiated to recycle certain normally-nonrecyclable objects into art.
  - Electronics Drive
    - An electronics drive was held during March for the entire campus. Nearly 100 pounds of electronic waste was recycled.
- Refillable Container Stations
  - Eight water fountains with refillable container stations were purchased and installed cross-campus during June 2014.
- Auditing
  - ACUPCC Greenhouse Gas Progress Report (Completed January)
  - Maryland Department of General Services Agency Energy Plan (Started May 2014).
- Campus Beautification
  - Geothermal Sign at Admissions
  - Green Roof Replanted
  - Tree (26 total) and Bush/Flower (566 total) Planting
  - A Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant was applied for in regards to kudzu removal and is in review.

#### Events:

- “Eat Local Challenge”, September 28<sup>th</sup>
- Green Cup, February 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>
- 4th Annual Polar Bear Plunge, February 28<sup>th</sup>
- Electronics Recycling Drive, March 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>
- Arbor Week, March 30<sup>th</sup> –April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Earth Hour, April 26th
- FreeCycle Market, May 7<sup>th</sup>
- End of Year Donation Drive, May 17<sup>th</sup>

#### Memberships Renewed:

- ACUPCC
- TreeCampus USA
- Audobon International
- Morton Registrar of Arboretums
- EPA Green Power Partner

#### Awards:

- SMCM was awarded a Federal Transportation Alternatives Grant to design and build bike paths across campus. The 15-year Campus Master plan includes plans for an extensive network of bike paths to keep pedestrians and bikers safe.
- SMCM was awarded a grant for our geothermal heating unit in Admissions. The grant is approximately \$3000.
- A short article on the composting program was published in the May edition of Biocycle.
- EPA's Green Power Leadership Club 2014 – Capital Athletic Conference Champions for use of green energy.
- Promoted to a Tier 2 Arboretum by the Morton Registrar.
- Recognized by TreeCampus USA for a commendable Arboretum Program.
- Recognized by BestCollegeRankings for an outstanding Sustainability Website.

#### Arboretum Events 2013-2014:

- November 6 – Tree Planting
- February 15 – Southern Maryland Birds Lecture with Dr. Ernie Willoughby
- March 11 – Birdhouse Placing
- March 12 – Living Lands and Waters Lecture with Chad Pregracke
- March 30-April 6 – Arbor Week
  - Campus Farm Workshop
  - GMO Panel and Discussion with Dr. Wynn, Dr. Dowla and Mr. Jimmy Lewis
  - “Putting the World in a Blender” Lecture with Dr. Rauschert
  - Movie Nights: The Botany of Desire, When A Tree Falls, Dirt! The Movie
  - Tree Appreciation Lecture with Arborist Justin Mattingly
  - Tree Planting
  - The Leitmotif of Botanical Gardens with Dr. Richard Olsen
  - Rain Barrel Workshop
- April 9 – Climate Panel with Dr. Williams, Dr. Adler, Dr. Emerick and Dr. Henderson
- May 9 – Garden Market at HSMC