

Sustain Champlain Annual Report

2010-2011



Compiled by Christina Erickson, Sustainability Director, May 2011

Our Mission: To create a culture that engages the Champlain College community to make effective use and re-use of our resources, with an eye towards promoting fiscally responsible environmental leadership, and a shared commitment to the ecological health of the planet for present and future generations.

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Report Summary

This annual report presents the activities, events, successes, and next steps for the Sustainability Director, the Sustain Champlain Committee, and related partner programs and departments. This report will address the following four areas where we attempt to integrate Sustain Champlain’s mission:

1. Our institution
2. Our academic program
3. Our physical operations
4. Our campus culture

Our Institution

Strategic Plan

Champlain 2020: A Strategic Plan for Champlain College 2010-2020 includes “sustainability” as one of the College’s central values.

Master Plan

One major piece of the Master Plan was completed this year with the renovation and expansion of Perry Hall. Slated to be a LEED-Platinum building, Perry Hall utilizes geothermal heating and cooling, extensive energy and water conservation measures, and innovative storm water runoff features.

Staffing

Sustainability Director

Christina Erickson shifted from a part-time to a full-time staff member in August, 2010 and is supervised by Associate VP for Campus Planning and Auxiliary Services, Michel George. Her office is now located in Skiff Hall which houses many Student Life staff members.

Work Study Positions

This year five students worked with Sustain Champlain: Lauren Swanson '12 (fall only), Michael Mullins '13, Jocelynn Harvey '13, Rebecca Carlson '14 (spring only), and Devin Carter '14 (spring only). The Work Study positions are an opportunity for students interested and passionate in sustainability issues to further the culture of sustainability within the Champlain College community. Students in this position help raise awareness and encourage environmentally responsible behavior of campus residents. The students and Christina met on a weekly basis to discuss, follow-up, and reflect on current projects. Together, these students spearheaded the student Environmental Club, an SGA approved organization.

This year’s projects included:

- Regular “Going Mindful” Tips, Blog Postings, and articles in *The Current*
- Environmental Club administration
- Better World Book collection
- Bike Rack Proposal
- Documentary Film Series
- Trail work day
- Bulb Swaps in Residence Halls
- Activity Table at Spring Meltdown

Next steps:

Student Staff: in the past we have had general job descriptions for the Work Study program, but going forward we will create specific job roles including media and communications, student outreach liaison, special projects. Hopefully this will allow for a more personalized work plan with clearer expectations. Additionally, a UVM senior is interested in doing her internship with Sustain Champlain for the 2011-2012 year – which will allow for more in depth project assistance.

Sustain Champlain Committee Members

The committee met each month to share updates, provide suggestions for future projects, and plan events. Minutes of each meeting can be found in Clearspace. This year we divided into working groups in hopes of having a clearer sense of purpose. Overall, the committee was well attended and accomplished more in the fall semester. In the spring semester attendance dropped dramatically and meetings were more discussion based.

Name	Title	Department	Working Group
<i>Staff</i>			
Christina Erickson	Sustainability Director	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services	Strategic Plan (All)
Claire Giroux-Williams	Assistant Director for Residential Life Operations	Res. Life/ Student Life	Events + Social Justice
Rachel Desimone	Assistant Director for Residential Life	Res Life/Student Life	Events + Social Justice
Jacob Frankovich	Assistant Director for Residential Life	Res Life/Student Life	Events + Social Justice
Emily Ginter	Sr. Activities Planner	Student Life	Events + Social Justice
Fran Estes	Sr. Information Systems Operations Coordinator	Information Systems	Greening IT
Tom Bonnette	Director	Physical Plant	Storytelling
Linda Wheeler	Director	Events Center	Events + Social Justice
Karen Dusini	Senior Coordinator	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services	Greening IT
Michel George	Associate VP	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services	Strategic Plan
Ted DiGrande	General Manager	Dining Services	Transportation
Kerry Zuccareno	Sr. Production Manager	Marketing	Storytelling
Brian Andrews	Website Director	Marketing	Events + Social Justice
Meghan Hurley	Sr. Analyst/Reporting	Admissions	Greening IT
<i>Faculty</i>			
Sarah Cohen	Librarian	Library	Academics
Andy Burkhardt	Emerging Technologies Librarian	Library	Greening IT
Rob Williams	Associate Faculty	CCM	Storytelling
Joann Patel	Associate Professor Game Art & Animation	CCM	Academics
Benjamin Cavallari	Adjunct	Core	Academics

Karl Haas	Adjunct Instructor	Core	Events + Social Justice
Valerie Esposito	Director, Environmental Policy	EHS	Academics
<i>Students</i>			
Michael Mullins	Work Study	EHS	Transportation
Jocellyn Harvey	Work Study	CCM	Storytelling
Devin Carter	Work Study		Events + Social Justice
Rebecca Carlson	Work Study	EHS	Events + Social Justice
Lauren Swanson	Work Study	CCM	
Lauren Lavallee		CCM	Storytelling
Susan Alden		CCM	
Dan Hobbs		EHS	Events + Social Justice
Ann DelMoro		EHS	

Memberships

Champlain College continued with our institutional membership with the Association for the Advancement of Higher Education (AASHE) and as a partner of the Vermont Campus Sustainability Network (VCSN). Champlain was AASHE member spotlight in December <http://www2.aashe.org/archives/2010/1220.php>.

Tracking and Assessment

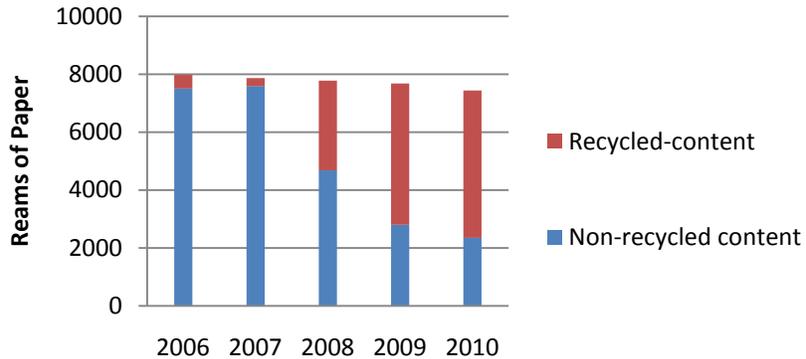
Champlain College is a client of [Sightlines](#), a facilities asset advisory firm that specializes in tracking sustainability indicators including energy, transportation, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, Champlain submits our latest figures so that we can track our own progress, compare that to peer institutions, and set benchmarks as we move forward. This year our report included suggestions on setting targets for carbon reduction. [See FY2010 report.](#)

Additional assessments were done on Champlain College's copy paper usage and waste figures.

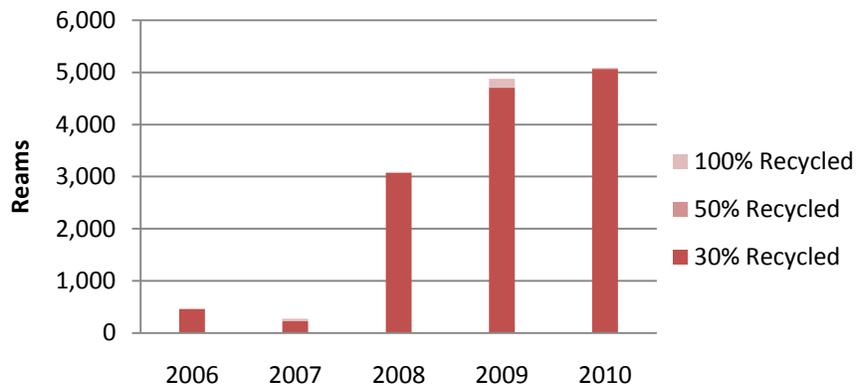
Copy Paper

Using figures provided from our Office Max representative, I calculated our total content and amount of copy paper used on campus (for printers and copiers), as seen in the graphs below. Our overall usage decreased slightly and amount of recycled content paper (generally 30%) grew.

Content & Amount of Champlain College's Copy Paper



% Recycled Content of Champlain College's Copy Paper

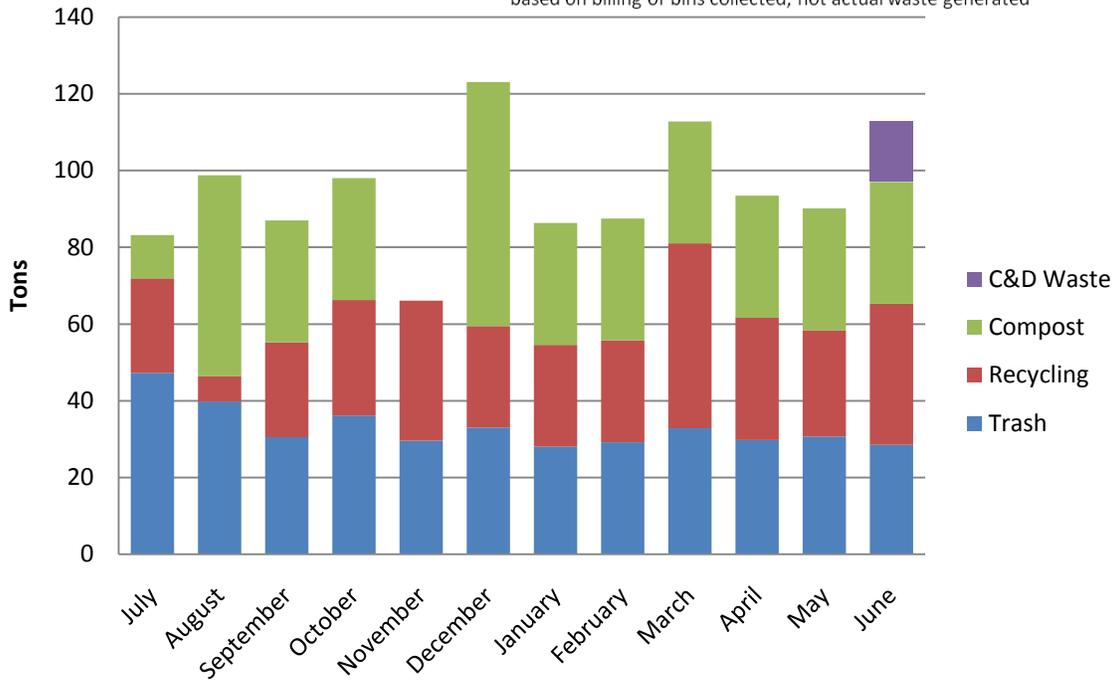


Waste Assessment

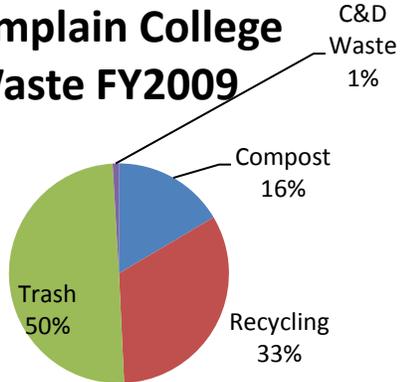
Using figures provided by our All Cycle account representative, I calculated a breakdown of our waste stream. Trash is the most accurate weight, as the large compactor is billed by actual weight, not volume as most other bins are. Highest rates of trash are during the summer during conference season. FY2010 reflects the change in collecting post-consumer food waste in the Cafeteria, which **drastically raised our compost totals** and decreased trash totals (a very good thing.) While our waste diversion rate is improving, we generated approximately 230 tons more waste than the prior year.

Champlain College Waste* FY2010

*based on billing of bins collected, not actual waste generated

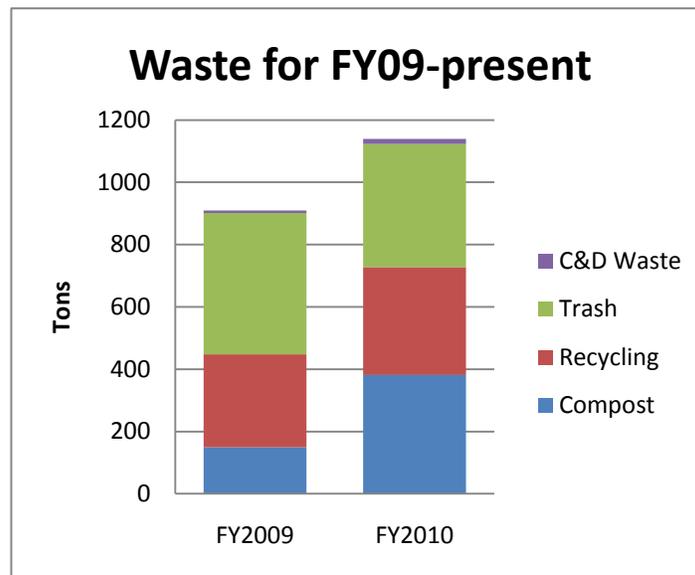


Champlain College Waste FY2009



Champlain College Waste FY2010





Next Steps:

We still rely on estimated figures based on volume rather than weight. In future contracts with our waste hauler, this need should be addressed so that we can better assess our waste reduction efforts.

Montreal Campus

In October I attended a conference in Montreal and at the request of our Champlain Montreal campus, I paid them a visit to do a quick sustainability assessment of that campus. I compiled a brief report with related recommendations and submitted it back to the Montreal program director as well as David Provost.

See Champlain College Montreal Campus Sustainability Assessment Report, October 2010

Academic Program

This year we continued to discuss ways of integrating sustainability concepts into the Champlain curriculum.

Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum

In November, in conjunction with the Center for Instructional Practices, we held a “Snack and Yak” discussion for faculty to discuss ways they currently use or ways they would like to use sustainability in their classes. This conversation also contributed to a poster that was displayed during the Faculty Collaborative Poster session. In addition, I have continued individual conversations with faculty who are interested in various student projects related to sustainability. There is now a list of potential projects posted on the Sustain Champlain website, along with other tips for faculty, at <http://www.champlain.edu/Sustain-Champlain/Sustainable-Academics.html>.

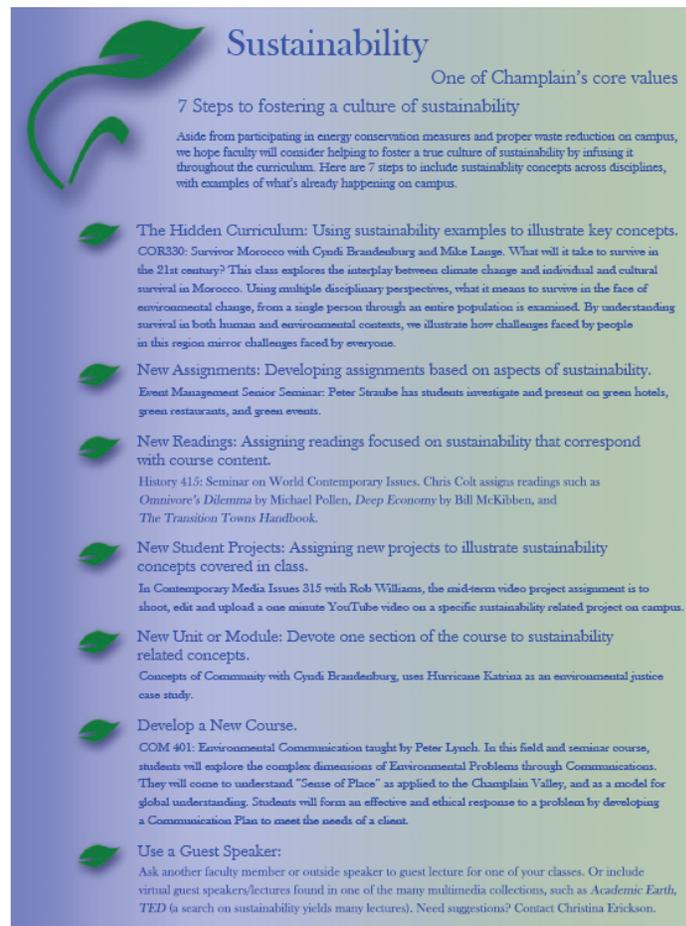


Figure 1. Poster displayed at Faculty Collaborative Poster Session, May 2011
Created by Christina Erickson, Valerie Esposito, and Joann Patel

Environmental Policy Program

This year was the inaugural year of the Environmental Policy Program, which adds a very positive dimension to bringing environmental issues the academic side of the institution, and also adds to the general culture of the campus. In conjunction with Sustain Champlain, the EP program hosted a speaker series in the spring semester with three speakers:

- Tom Gephardt (parent of current student) speaking about renewable energy (co-hosted by the Advancement Office)
- Kesha Ram (Vermont State Legislator, hill district of Burlington) speaking about environmental policy and youth
- Brian Tokar (Director of the Institute for Social Ecology) speaking about climate justice

Field trips:

In addition, we offered the following field trips for EP students (also open to all students)

- Tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (December)

- Vermont Climate Action Day at the Statehouse in Montpelier (February)



Figure 2. at the Statehouse



Figure 3. Touring the Materials Recovery Facility

Student Projects

Over the year I worked with several students on various communication/design projects including:

- Joel Wilke '11 -- interpretive booklet about the sustainability aspects of Perry Hall
- Susan Alden '11 – provided design support for Eco-Reps logo and posters; event posters
- Melissa Kennedy '11 – completed her senior project for CCM by developing a new waste separation campaign “Sort it Out”



Additionally, we learned of other students projects related to sustainability happening on campus, such as the AIGA design competition. This year’s theme related to community gardens.



Figure 4. Example from AIGA student design competition

Physical Operations

Waste Reduction

Infrastructure

Throughout the year I provided guidance on locating, ordering, and placing various recycling/trash/compost bins across campus including: new bins for Quarry Hill, new bins for Perry Hall and improved bins for Jazzman's as well as providing input on bins for future buildings.

New water refill stations are located in the new Lakeside Building. We are still working on expanding refill stations across campus.

In efforts of expanding out compost collection in areas that often host catered events two more compost bins were purchased and placed in MIC 3rd floor and the Aiken Conference Room. We also created volunteer "Green Teams" to assist with waste separation stations for large outdoor catered events, including the Perry Hall Open House (September) and Spring Meltdown (April). Having a staffed station makes an enormous difference in getting items properly separated.

We also added clarification around service ware and composting on event reservation system and there is a new Green Meetings page on Event Center website <http://www.champlain.edu/Conference-and-Event-Center/Green-Meetings.html>.

Activities & Events

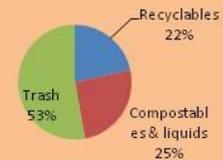
- Trash Bash waste sort, November 2010



Figure 5. Green Team waste separation station during Spring Meltdown

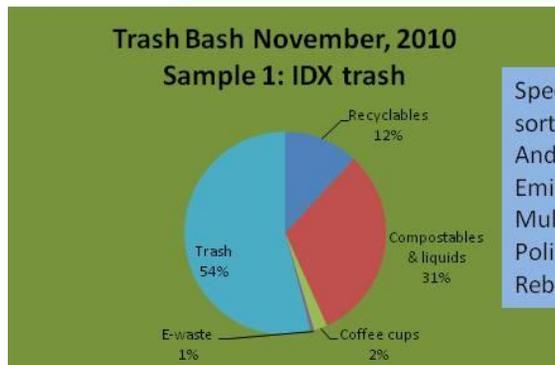


January 2010 Sort
 Sample: compactor & Hill/Lyman Dumpster

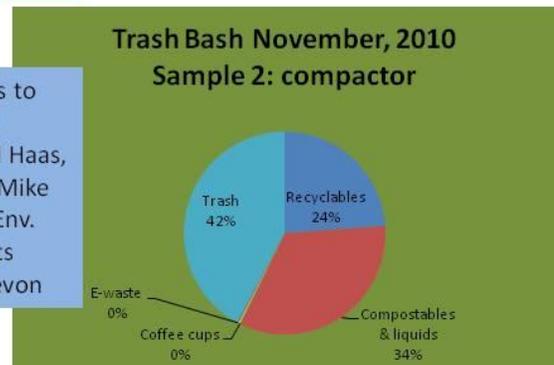


So. How did we do??
 Compare the charts below to the one on the right. There is STILL a lot of recyclables and compostables found in the trash.

See photos at <http://picasaweb.google.com/steve.mease/TrashBash2010?feat=directlink>



Special thanks to sorters: Brian Andrews, Karl Haas, Emily Ginter, Mike Mullins, and Env. Policy students Rebecca & Devon



The summary is that in the Student Center, we are doing better on keeping recyclables out of the trash, but folks are still learning what can go in the new compost bins there (or, just aren't paying attention). The sample from the res hall showed that nearly a quarter (25% by weight) of what was in the trash should have been recycled. We're talking plastic bottles and newspapers here.

- 212 Battery Office Move Out Collection (January) – collected a van full of materials donated to ReSource
- Annual Move-Out Collection for residence halls, April/May 2010 (co-hosted by Res Life) – Donations included: ½ a van full of clothing to Goodwill, 2 boxes of food to Burlington Food Shelf, ½ a van full of household goods to ReStore



Figure 6. Items collected at 212 Battery office Move Out



Figure 7. Sorting out collected items for the Move Out project

Next steps:

There is still need for further clarification and designation of role regarding compost collection at catered events, particularly in areas where there are not bins (Gym) or for outdoor events. For several events, I had to go get the carts from the loading dock area and bring them to the event location. I believe this should be part of the regular event set up process. Also, there are times of the year when it is harder to solicit volunteers for the Green Teams (especially during Graduation), so we may want to consider hiring students, if this is seen as a worthy endeavor. Finally, we need to ensure that the custodial staff is fully trained in waste separation as I witnessed staff members combining bags of items that had just been separated.

Continue adding water refill stations across campus, especially in the IDX Student Center.

Energy Conservation

Energy Planning

With the intention of thinking about our energy planning future we held a gathering, in November, of energy related professionals from inside and outside of the College community to discuss ideas and options. This conversation helped guide a draft of the proposed Energy Policy for Champlain, which includes several recommendations.

See Champlain Energy Policy, Draft April 2011

Greening IT

This year the Greening IT subgroup completed an experiment, in conjunction with Burlington Electric Department to see if using a “Smart Strip” would be a way to create savings in office settings. Using a standard office set up in Coolidge Hall, the BED staff found that this would **not** be a cost effective measure at this time.

Kill-A-Watt Challenge

This year we started a competition among Champlain College residential halls to reduce electricity usage. The winner of the competition was determined by the hall that has the largest percentage reduction of electricity over baseline consumption as well as the highest rate of participation in various events on campus and within the residence halls. The aim of this competition was to raise student awareness regarding electricity conservation and related behaviors in Champlain College residence halls - a skill that students will carry with them wherever they live in the future. The Challenge was a collaborative project between Sustain Champlain and Residential Life.



The challenge was a mediocre success. Some RAs were very involved, in other buildings residents didn't even know the challenge was happening. Overall, we did see a reduction in usage but there are still several limitations in metering (due to combined buildings, etc.) that we could not get a totally accurate accounting of usage.

See more at <http://www.champlain.edu/Sustain-Champlain/Sustainable-Culture/Kill-A-Watt-Challenge.html>

Transportation

Bike/Ped Improvements

In October, I coordinated a Burlington contingent to meet with the Bixi Public Bike company in Montreal to discuss if this might be a feasible system for Burlington. This meeting led me to participate in the Burlington Walk/Bike Council in order to see how we might better improve Burlington and campus infrastructure to better support bicyclists and pedestrians. We are also continuing our partnership with the [Safe Streets Collaborative](#), and contributed \$500 toward reflective leg bands that we can distribute among our community.

There are now also four bikes available for employees to borrow at Lakeside.



Figure 8. Michel George modeling the Lakeside Bicycles

Transportation Plan

Spearheaded by Michel George, a transportation planning ad hoc committee was formed to create a new transportation and parking plan for the College, in light of upcoming construction projects (and therefore decreased parking on main campus). Together with input from the transportation committee of College Council, several recommendations will be brought forward in the coming year regarding all aspects of transportation.

CATMA

In attempt to increase awareness of and participation in CATMA benefits and programs, we hosted them on campus for various events:

- Presentation to Sustain Champlain (October)
- Presentation to Staff Council (November)
- Employee Survey Tabling (December)
- Tabling at Lakeside Open House (February)
- Presentation to Sodexo employees (March)

Way to Go Week

In effort to increase participation in this annual commuter challenge, I conducted a number of outreach efforts including emails, brief presentation at all employee retreat, and a raffle. Participation rates nearly doubled from last year (110 this year, 60 last year).



Culture

Working on creating a culture of sustainability on campus has been done in a variety of ways including outreach, events, and communication. In addition to the outreach efforts described in the sections above, the Sustain Champlain team worked on the following.

Community Garden

Started in the spring of 2011, the community garden originated by request of students, faculty and staff, as was approved by President Finney with support of the Physical Plant Grounds Staff. The community garden is located beside Rowell Annex and has 27 plots available for individual use by Champlain college community members – all but one of which are spoken for this garden season. See more information at http://www.champlain.edu/Documents/sustain_champlain/GardenDescriptionRegistrationForm.docx

Communication

This year we continued building our Web 2.0 presence, including: [Blog](#),



Figure 9. Raking out the new plots in the community garden

[Facebook site](#), [Twitter account](#), and [videos](#) created by Rob Williams' media students. Additionally, the Sustain Champlain [website](#) was updated.

Each week, I sent out a "Sustain Champlain e-bulletin" filled with updates, announcements, and info on upcoming events and opportunities.

Eco-Reps Program

In the fall of 2011, Champlain College will launch an Eco-Reps Program in our residence halls. This program trains student leaders who model and promote environmentally responsible behaviors in the residence halls by educating their peers. A program of Sustain Champlain, Residential life, and Physical Plant. More information at <http://www.champlain.edu/Sustain-Champlain/Sustainable-Culture/Eco-Reps-Program.html>

Due to very low application numbers during my spring recruiting attempts, I will try again in the fall and open the opportunity to new first year students as well.

Events

Over the year many events were held, most of which were hosted as a collaborative effort with other departments/programs, including:

- City Market bicycle smoothies in support of Each Local Week, September
- Home Solar options workshop with VPIRG, December
- Environmental Club Documentary Film Series, Spring semester
- Environmental Policy Speaker Series, Spring Semester
- Trash Bash waste sort, November 2010
- Annual Move-Out Collection for residence halls, April/May 2010 (co-hosted by Res Life)
- Off-campus Spring Move Out Project, hosted by City of Burlington, CSWD, UVM, Champlain, ReSTORE, May 25 (expanding to two locations, largely at request of neighbors at Ethan Allen Club)

While not organized by Sustain Champlain, there were several sustainability related events hosted by other entities on campus, including:

- Norwegian Ambassador speaking on Oil, Energy and the Environment (October)
- Gary Hirshberg, CE-Yo, Stonyfield Yogurt (part of BYOBiz series)
- Iraqi Ambassador speaking on Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Post-Transition Iraq (March)

In the News

Various Sustain Champlain projects and events were noted on the Champlain College news website and *The Current*. In addition Champlain was mentioned in the following articles:

- "I believe: We need to model behaviors we wish to see", by Christina Erickson, Burlington Free Press, October 3, 2010 (reprinted in *Champlain View*, Spring 2011 http://issuu.com/ChamplainCollege/docs/final_version_050511_qcp/1)
- "First-Rate Impression: Champlain College's Perry Hall marries old with state-of-the-art new", Seven Days, October 13, 2010

- “Bixi’s in my backyard? Burlington needs work first”, Burlington Free Press, October 31, 2010
- AASHE member spotlight <http://www2.aashe.org/archives/2010/1220.php> (December)
- Mentioned in Campus Ecology guide about geothermal <http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Campus-Solutions/Resources/Reports/Going-Underground-On-Campus.aspx>
- “Company finds its niche in public space recycling”, Rutland Herald, January 24, 2011
- “Vermont Campus Greenery: A sampler”, Burlington Free Press, April 23, 2011
- “Top 10 eco-tips for graduating seniors” , by Christina Erickson, Burlington Free Press, May 29, 2011

Presentations

Outreach presentations on campus included:

- Orientation Leaders (recycling)
- New student Orientation packets included stainless steel water bottle & *Go Green Guide to Living Sustainably at Champlain College*
- RAs (Recycling, Kill-A-Watt Challenge)
- Sodexo staff (thanking them for work with increased compost collection)
- Environmental Communications class (general Sustain Champlain and communication issues)
- Environmental Policy class (general Sustain Champlain; tour of the Materials Recovery Facility)
- Rowell Hall residents (e-waste)
- LEAD trash collection program (recycling, waste, etc.)
- CCM 315 (Sustain Champlain videos)
- Tuesday Management Team meeting (Future of Sustain Champlain)
- May 11th Retreat (Way to Go Challenge)



Figure 10. Captain R³ makes an appearance at the Staff Council Halloween Lunch

Off-campus:

- Vermont Campus Sustainability Network meeting (March) “Building Local Partnerships: Examples from Champlain College”

Where do we go from here?

The Sustain Champlain initiative has come a long way in the past six years when it began in 2005 as the Post Carbon Committee. A small group retreat in late May will evaluate the future direction of the program to ensure that it is best meeting current needs as well as planning for future needs. Three key areas up for discussion are:

- Common understanding of what we mean by “Sustainability”. How do we define it for our institution?
- Many projects and programs, but operate in a somewhat disjointed fashion. Need for a clear vision of where we want to go, how we will get there, and how we know when we are there.
- Reorganization/revitalization of Sustain Champlain Committee