

Environment & Sustainability

Volunteer Opportunities

Alliance for Sustainability

1521 University Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Vol. Coord.: Sean Gosiewski, (612) 331-1099

<http://www.allianceforsustainability.net>

This Minnesota-based nonprofit supports model sustainability projects on the local, national, and international levels. Volunteers help with office tasks, create promotional materials, and plan and participate in events. Easily reached by bus.

Animal Humane Society

1115 Beulah Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108

Vol. Hotline: (763) 432 4833

<http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/>

The mission of the Humane Society is to prevent cruelty to animals. Opportunities include: grooming animals, walking dogs, and conducting educational programs. Easy bus ride.

Discovery Club After School Enviro. Education

Located at various sites around St. Paul

Contact Civic Engagement Center, x6040

cec@macalester.edu

Volunteers work in teams to plan and teach environmental education lessons to children in urban areas. There are opportunities M-F (you only go 1 day a week). The CEC has all the resources you need. No experience in teaching or knowledge of ecology is necessary to volunteer. Transportation often provided.

Dodge Nature Center

365 West Marie Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Vol. Coord.: Jason Sanders, (651) 789-5235

<http://www.dodgenaturecenter.org>

Volunteers restore prairies, teach classes to children and adults, lead hikes, groom and exercise farm animals, plant trees and maintain trails. Transportation often provided.

Eco Education

1295 Bandana Blvd., Suite 118
St. Paul, MN 55108

Program Contact: Callie Recknagel, (651) 222-7691

<http://www.ecoeducation.org>

Eco Education is committed to fostering within young people the appreciation, knowledge, values and skills necessary to inspire ecologically sound actions. Volunteers assist with special events, the speakers bureau and general communications (program promotion, newsletter or brochure layout and design, mass mailings, media relations, etc.).

Friends of the Mississippi

360 North Robert Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Vol. Coord.: Sue Rich, (651)222-2193 x14

<http://www.fmr.org>

Local conservation group works to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. Volunteer opportunities vary from habitat restoration to supporting special events or office projects.

Great River Greening

35 W. Water Street, Suite 201
St. Paul, MN 55107

Vol. Coord.: Mark Turbak, (651) 665-9500, x11

<http://www.greatrivergreening.org>

Restore the natural heritage of the Mississippi river in downtown St. Paul by revitalizing the river's native trees, flowers and birds. Volunteers assist with site preparation, plantings, and administrative support.

Green Institute

2801 21st Ave S., Suite 110
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Vol. Coord: Kirsten Saylor, (612) 278-7122

<http://www.greeninstitute.org>

The Green Institute is home to a broad range of programs and initiatives, which include: ReUse Center and DeConstruction Services, Green Building, Community Energy and Consulting Services. In the past, volunteers have participated in community gardening, green roof installation, building materials research, marketing, database work, as well as in the development of educational materials.

Science Museum of Minnesota

120 West Kellogg Boulevard,
St. Paul, MN 55102

Vol. Hotline: (651) 221-4703

<http://www.smm.org>

Volunteers interpret exhibits in the museum for children, families and adults. Opportunities include: greeting groups, staffing the info booth or working on projects. Easily reached by bus.

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

2327 East Franklin Avenue, Suite 1
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Vol. Coord.: Heather Cusick, (612) 659-9124

<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org>

Whether you want to dive into the depths of policy or write letters to the editor there is a need and a place for your efforts at the North Star Chapter, in several issue areas: clean air, clean water, forests, open space, transportation, global issues, legislation and elections.

Issue Area Coordinator: Julia Tyler, x6040 or
jtyler@macalester.edu

RELATED LINKS

Campus Ecology (National Wildlife Federation)

<http://www.nwf.org/campusecology>

Campus Ecology establishes environmentally sound practices on college campuses by promoting leadership and action within the campus community. C.E. strives to include all peoples in working towards environmental solutions, and encourages joint campus and community projects. Campus Ecology recognizes the efforts of people who work on outstanding projects by documenting and publishing their accomplishments.

SEAC (Student Environmental Action Coalition)

<http://www.seac.org>

SEAC is a grassroots coalition of student and youth environmental groups, working together to protect our planet and our future. Through this united effort, participants have translated their concern into action by sharing resources, building coalitions, and challenging the limited mainstream definition of environmental issues.

Environmental Education for Kids - Teacher's Pages

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/index.htm>

The teachers' guide to this environmental education for kids site offers some good ideas for teaching activities, as well as some other resources that might be helpful for a volunteer working with kids on environmental issues.

The Twin Cities Green Guide

<http://www.thegreenguide.org>

A printed guidebook and web site educating Twin Cities Metro area residents about environmental issues, serve as a quick environmental reference tool and promote a self-sustaining and community-oriented lifestyle.

Green Teacher

<http://www.greenteacher.com>

Green Teacher is a magazine by and for educators to enhance environmental and global education across the curriculum at all grade levels. Fifty pages of ideas and activities, four times a year.

EnviroLink

<http://www.envirolink.org>

The EnviroLink Network is a non-profit organization which has been providing access to thousands of online environmental resources since 1991.

Project for Public Spaces

<http://www.pps.org>

PPS has an international reputation for its work on the design and management of public spaces. A non-profit, PPS was founded to continue the pioneering work of writer-sociologist William H. Whyte. PPS has helped over 1,000 communities improve their parks, markets, streets, transit stations, libraries and countless other public spaces.

• *Scientists agree that the earth's temperature is rising faster than ever before. Since 1990, the planet has experienced the ten hottest years ever recorded.*

• *Climate change is already causing droughts and water shortages in the Southwestern US and elsewhere. And since 1970, 20% of the North Pole's ice cap has melted away.*

• *Worldwide, 54% of the annual available fresh water is being used. If consumption per person remains steady, by 2025 we could be using 70% of the total because of population growth alone. If per capita consumption everywhere reached the level of more developed countries we could be using 90% of the available water by 2025.*

• *Over half the world's population, most of the people of the developing world—including nearly all of sub-Saharan Africa—live in "low-income, food-deficit countries, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.*

• *Carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" trap heat in the atmosphere and raise average global surface temperatures. Emissions of carbon dioxide grew 12-fold between 1900 and 2000, from 534 million metric tons per year in 1900 to 6.59 billion metric tons in 1997.*

• *In the same period, human population nearly quadrupled, from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion, progressively consuming greater quantities of fossil fuels—oil, gas and coal.*

• *People now use or appropriate an estimated 39-50% or more of the earth's biological production, through agriculture, forestry and other activities.*

• *Half of the world's forests have disappeared since the end of the last Ice Age, and only 22% of the original forest cover remains in large, unbroken areas without substantial human influence.*

TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING

- **Drive low-emission vehicles.**
- **Use energy-efficient lighting/appliances and heating.**
- **Purchase renewable energy through utility wind power programs.**
- **Plan your shopping so you buy only what you need.**
- **Avoid buying over-packaged products.**
- **Compost. As much as 20% of what is thrown away could be composted.**
- **Bring your own re-usable bag with you to the supermarket.**
- **Use returnable or reusable containers.**
- **Buy goods in refillable containers.**
- **Avoid disposable goods where not necessary.**
- **Donate rather than dump e.g. garage sales or charity.**
- **Take public transport, walk, or bike when possible.**
- **Check and fix leaking taps and windows.**
- **Recycle glass, plastic, cans, and paper products**