



Greening Macalester

How environmentally friendly are the policies and practices at Macalester? In April 2004, for the first time ever, Mac's Campus Environmental Issues Committee (CEIC) and Environmental Studies (ES) Senior Seminar completed an **Environmental State of the College Report**. Ten areas of college environmental policies and practices were examined and given a grade. Below we report the grades, identify some key successes, and list our most important recommendations.

Want more information? Contact the ES Department for a copy of the report or go to www.macalester.edu/environmentalstudies for an electronic copy, supporting background papers, and information on the CEIC.

Want to help? Contact a CEIC or ES Senior Seminar member, or one of the CEIC's co-chairs, Brett Smith (ES Acting Director) or Mark Dickinson (Facilities Management Director). And find ways to reduce your own impacts. Environmental excellence will require action from all college constituencies, including students, staff, faculty, and administration.

Grades

An A-F grading scale was used. The grades included one A, two B's, six C's and one D. No area of performance received an F.

A - Ranks with the leaders among comparable institutions, shows particular initiative, and uses best practices in most aspects of the issue area: **Chemical Use and Hazardous Waste Management**

B - Has taken significant steps to improve its environmental performance, but still lags behind leading colleges in use of best practices: **Dining Services and Food Waste, and Recycling**

C - Has had some successes in improving performance, but also has significant weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. The overall record is average among comparable institutions: **Electricity and Renewables, Environmental Literacy, Heating and Cooling, Landscaping, and Transportation**

D - Has failed to take steps to improve performance and lags behind expectations: **Procurement Policy**

Kudos to.....

- ② The **Chemistry Department** for centralized ordering and minimizing chemical usage in laboratory experiments
- ② **Facilities Management** for earning over \$500,000 in energy rebates from Xcel Energy since 1994 and for helping achieve (along with all the energy conservers out there) a reduction in BTU energy consumption per square foot of college space since 1985
- ② The **Community Service Office** for promoting the use of public transportation and offering environmental service opportunities to boost environmental literacy
- ② **Food Services** for increasing the amount of local and organic food available at Cafe Mac and for a commitment to providing only antibiotic-free meat
- ② **Recycling** for saving the college between \$6,000 and \$12,000 in waste disposal costs annually
- ② The **Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area** for being a great resource to the community

Recommendations...

- ② Assure new buildings are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified as '**green buildings**'
- ② Develop and implement a **procurement** policy that includes environmental guidelines
- ② Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for **paper** use reduction and the purchasing of maximum content post-consumer recycled paper. A commitment to high post consumer content should be included in the college's contract with Document Services
- ② Explore the possibility of replacing **vans and van trips** with more fuel-efficient options
- ② Develop a comprehensive **energy plan** including a reduction in the use of #6 fuel oil, building improvements, strategies for Kyoto compliance, and
- ② Increase **native plantings** and links between landscaping and academics

