



Sustainability at Macalester

Macalester College has taken a leadership role in sustainability for higher education. In 2000, President McPherson signed the Talloires Declaration, the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. In 2007, President Rosenberg signed the President's Climate Commitment, which commits us to make a plan to become climate neutral (i.e. no net greenhouse gas emissions). Currently we are analyzing our greenhouse gas emissions and will be developing a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

Macalester College has further shown our commitment to sustainability through initiatives such as building the EcoHouse student residence, starting a Zero Waste committee, developing sustainability procurement initiatives, and starting the Clean Energy Revolving Fund (a source of funding for energy-efficiency projects). Our food service, Bon Appétit, actively promotes local and organic food and is developing the "Low Carbon Diet", an analysis of the connections between food and climate change. In the spring of 2008, we will break ground for the Institute for Global Citizenship building, which will be designed as a US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum building, the highest standard available.

As a Macalester faculty member, you have opportunities that may save you money and promote sustainability on campus. You can promote sustainability through your work.

Opportunities for Macalester Staff and Faculty

- **Subsidized Bus Passes** are available to all staff at the information desk in the campus center. All bus passes are sold at 50% off retail. This is a new program that started as part of the President's Climate Commitment. To find the bus routes, use Metro Transit's trip planner (<http://metrotransit.org/tripPlanner/Default.aspx>).
- **MacBike's** Bike Share program allows staff with IDs to check out bicycles from the Information Desk in the Campus Center for up to a week. The bikes are free and a helmet, lock, and map of Twin Cities' bike routes are included.
- **High Winds Fund "Walk to Work" Program** (<http://www.macalester.edu/highwinds/index.html>) provides financial assistance for staff who purchase houses within one mile from campus by offering "fix up" matching grants up to \$3000 for home improvement projects.
- **HourCar** (<http://www.HOURCAR.org>), a pay-by-the-hour car share program, is located adjacent to campus.
- **Bring your own mug** to the Grill and you can get \$1 coffee refills. They also sell refill mugs for \$5 with your first refill free. **Ask for dishes** if you are eating in at the Grill instead of using disposable products.
- **Use the campus travel agent, Vanguard (763-746-8877)** and your travel miles will be automatically tallied for inclusion in the campus's carbon audit.

What Can You Do to Promote Sustainability at Macalester?

- **Include Sustainability in Your Classes**
 - The Sustainability Office updates a listing of potential student projects available at: <http://www.macalester.edu/sustainability/studentprojects>.
 - Faculty from Macalester, Carleton, and St. Olaf participated in a faculty development seminar on sustainability in the summer of 2008, faculty resources are available online: <http://serc.carleton.edu/sustainability/resources.html>. Look for the Minnesota specific sustainability information.
- **Save Energy**
 - Turn off unneeded lights
 - Ask computer services to make sure your computer is set for “sleep mode” after a certain time of inactivity
 - Take the stairs instead of the elevator
- **Purchase Environmental Preferable Materials**
 - If you purchase materials for your department, ask for environmentally-preferable materials (i.e. post-consumer recycled paper, non-toxic inks).
 - If you need to purchase cups, compostable cups can be purchased from Deb Novotny in catering (dnovotny@cafebonappetit.com, x6313).
 - If you organize events, ask catering for local and organic foods and a “low waste” event.
 - Kathy Johnson’s office employs a sustainability procurement intern. This year it is Nicole Kligerman (nkligerman@macalester.edu). She can help with sustainable procurement questions.
- **Save Paper**
 - Print double-sided copies. If your printer allows for duplex printing, ask computer services to set it up as your default.
 - If you do not have a duplex copier, print drafts on one-sided paper.
- **Reuse**
 - If you need interoffice envelopes, mailing services in the campus center may have extras. Likewise, if you have extra interoffice envelopes, take them to mailing services.
- **Recycle**
 - Send used ink jet cartridges to Ann Esson (esson@macalester.edu) in Environmental Studies. She sends them off for recycling. There is also a drop box outside the Highlander. The drop box will also take old cell phones and PDAs.
 - Know where your recycling bins are located. Offices sometimes have large bins for recycling and small bins perched on the side for garbage.
 - If you have questions about recycling, please call Facilities Services, x6278.
- **Share ideas**
 - If you have good ideas for sustainability at Macalester or how to include sustainability in the curriculum, please contact Sustainability Manager Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Kagin 007, shansen2@macalester.edu, X6019.