Colby-Sawyer College

GreenROUTES: Sustainability at Colby-Sawyer College

Walking Our Talk

2009
- Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team Wins 2009 Regional Competition for their “Bring Your Own Mug” program in the Dining Hall. Students distributed 80 reusable mugs (donated by Sodexo) resulting in a decrease of 1,000 disposable cups per week.
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives Public Service of New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Award for the third time. Eco-Lab non-toxic cleaning supplies used; added insulation in many attics; upgraded underground utilities to the residence halls.
- Environmental Studies becomes full academic department and adds Terrestrial and Aquatic concentrations in the Environmental Science major.
- First Greenhouse Gas Inventory Conducted by Community Based Research Project class setting our baseline for future reductions.
- Students for a Greener Campus (SGC) Club initiated.

2010
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives its first Public Service of New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Award.
- Phase I Energy Efficiency Project Changed from heating oil to more efficient and cleaner-burning propane; upgraded lighting to CFLs; set-up automation systems for many boilers, heating valves and A/C units; installed pumps for heating circulators in dorms that use 50% less energy than existing pumps.
- Energy Star Purchasing Policy instituted across campus where all appliances purchased by or for the college will be energy efficient.
- Flex time policy introduced and use of videoconferencing for meetings increased in order to reduce vehicle/air travel emissions and save money on travel expenses.
- 100% Recycled Paper Policy instituted for all college letterhead and paper used in printers/copiers.
- Colby-Sawyer’s new Strategic Themes introduced: Engaged Learning, Linking to the World, Living Sustainably, and a Dynamic Deans to Excellence.
- GreenROUTES Climate Action Plan for Colby-Sawyer College approved and ratified by the Board of Trustees committing the college to a 55% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, 70% by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- Vermiculite (worn) compost bins added in the library. Student Development offices, the Communications Department, and the Environmental Studies “Green Suite”.
- Anne Baynes Hall (‘77) See Nursery & Organic Cardi plant.
- Colby-Sawyer Courier student newspaper goes paperless.

2011
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives its second Energy Efficiency Award from Public Service of NH for converting incandescent bulbs to CFLs in the Curtis L. Ivy Science Center and the Susan Colgate Cleveland Laboratory. In year one there was a 75% reduction in energy and a cost savings of $3,916. Also, 1,100 high performance windows were installed in residence halls.
- Recycling efforts increased so that collection bins are now available in every building.
- Part-time Recycling Coordinator hired to conduct outreach, supervise student workers, facilitate collection of hard-to-recycle items, and set up recycling areas across campus.
- Recycling Initiated. Options exist on campus to recycle paper, cardboard, cans, paper and glass.
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives its first Public Service of New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Award.
- 11 Eco-Reps hired to conduct outreach around campus and support Zero-Sort recycling on all of the floors of all the residence halls. These Eco-Reps also earned the NH Campus Compact Presidents’ Leadership Award.
- Sodexo Facilities implements a policy to purchase items that were FSC and rainforest certified using vegetable based ink and a 100% wind powered printer.
- Colby-Sawyer’s new Strategic Themes include 1) Engaged Learning, 2) Linking to the World, 3) Living Sustainably, and 4) Dynamic Deans to Excellence.
- Zero Waste Mountain Day. College modernizes this tradition by collecting a large bins of recyclables and composting a 4-yard container full of food waste. Only 2 bags of trash were sent to the landfill for over 1,000 attendees.
- Colby-Sawyer partners with Casella to offer a Zero-Sort™ recycling program and fund an annual internship for a Zero-Sort Recycling Ambassador.
- No idling policy initiated for visiting buses and campus vehicles at away games.

2012
- TollEmotion Polar Bear Energy Meters Installed. Generous alma mater contribution enabled Ivy Science Center and all 11 residence halls to receive individual sub-meters and animated touch screens that give current feedback about energy usage to occupants.
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Grant in the amount of $54,000 awarded to Colby-Sawyer to support environmental programs across campus.
- Colby-Sawyer students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team Wins 2012 Regional Competition for Eco-House, Charger’s Stable, and Wind Turbine feasibility study project development.
- Colby-Sawyer’s new Strategic Themes introduced: Engaged Learning, Linking to the World, Living Sustainably, and Dynamic Deans to Excellence.
- Preferred Procurement Guidelines approved by Senior Staff encouraging purchase of materials by and for the college that promote personal wellbeing, social justice, and environmental sustainability.
- STAR Task Force formed. Sustainability Teaching and Academic Resources (STAR) Task Force conducts “Sustainability in the Curriculum Survey” and develops resources for faculty who wish to integrate more of those principles and practices into their classrooms.
- Solar/Wind Demonstration Projects. Two residential-scale alternative energy systems with web-based monitoring capability installed for use in classes.
- SIFE wins regional competition for Eco-House, Charger’s Stable, and Wind Turbine feasibility project development.
- Three-year Solar/Wind Demonstration Projects. Two residential-scale alternative energy systems with web-based monitoring capability installed for use in classes.
- Colby-Sawyer students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team Wins 2012 Regional Competition for Eco-House, Charger’s Stable, and Wind Turbine feasibility study project development.

2013
- First Permaculture Design Certification course offered at Colby-Sawyer College—GreenROUTES Permaculture Garden and Sustainable Living Laboratory concept born.
- GreenROUTES Sustainable Dining Committee formed promoting ‘trayless dining’. “Chow for Seaws” composting program. for trade coffee and organic tea, bulk plastic-saving dispensers, recycled napkins, conversion of used fry oil into biofuels, and more local and organic foods.
- American College and University Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) enrolled.
- Facilities begin composting grass and leaves for use in landscaping.
- Flex time policy introduced and use of videoconferencing for meetings increased in order to reduce vehicle/air travel emissions and save money on travel expenses.
- 100% Recycled Paper Policy instituted for all college letterhead and paper used in printers/copiers.
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives its third Energy Efficiency Award from Public Service of NH for converting incandescent bulbs to CFLs in the Curtis L. Ivy Science Center and the Susan Colgate Cleveland Laboratory. In year one there was a 75% reduction in energy and a cost savings of $3,916. Also, 1,100 high performance windows were installed in residence halls.
- Recycling efforts increased so that collection bins are now available in every building.
- Part-time Recycling Coordinator hired to conduct outreach, supervise student workers, facilitate collection of hard-to-recycle items, and set up recycling areas across campus.
- Recycling Initiated. Options exist on campus to recycle paper, cardboard, cans, paper and glass.
- Sodexo Facilities Department receives its first Public Service of New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Award.
- “Community and Environmental Studies” program founded.
- Colby-Sawyer Sustainability Coordinator hired at Colby-Sawyer, per the recommendation of the student GreenROUTES team.
- Colby-Sawyer’s new Strategic Themes introduced: Engaged Learning, Linking to the World, Living Sustainably, and Dynamic Deans to Excellence.
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2014
- EPA Green Power Partnership Leadership Club Award for exemplary green power program: Colby-Sawyer College via the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates for 100% of our electricity usage.
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