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Promoting Sustainability at Providence College

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Promotion of Sustainability at Providence College

By Victoria Hanlon and Ava Biafore

Research Question

What are Providence College's existing initiatives in regards to sustainability and how can the student body and faculty advocate for more sustainable practices for better habits in the future?

Methods

- Compiling data reports from U2, Newport BioDiesel, Sodexo Dining Services, Warren Solar Farm, National Grid and other colleges.
- Working with Jill Parrett, Head of Environmental Health and Safety Department, to discuss the data reports and determine the importance of the information.
- Talking with students to discuss what they value in terms of sustainability

Results & Steps Moving Forward

- There is growing interest in promoting the principles of social responsibility and sustainability in the context of higher education.
- Being a sustainable campus is very attractive for younger students, and may be a factor during the college search.
- We created visuals that will increase awareness of PC's current sustainability initiatives for current students and prospective students.
- We recommend that these visuals are posted around campus and in the admissions office. Our efforts will help push Providence College forward on their sustainability plan while also improving knowledge of PC's efforts.

What's Happening in Ray?

Vendors are currently picking up about 1,000 lbs of food waste for composting per day

Utilizing reusable cups and silverware help reduce waste.

After two weeks of composting, we diverted 110 bins from landfill to composting facility, equalling 1,648 pounds of compost per day, 11,536 lbs per week, and 51,000 lbs per month

New reusable to go boxes in Ray will help reduce the use of disposable to go boxes. Boxes are cleaned and sanitized after each use!

Pick up your keychain today in order to receive a reusable to go box!



Energy Conservation

Energy Rebates

Through our partnership with National Grid, we received rebate incentives for incorporating energy-efficient design aspects and equipment into our summer break projects - namely the Priority heating and cooling upgrades, Raymond dining hall renovation, and Alberto Magasin renovation projects.

Projects

Upgraded lighting system in all the residence halls which will save over 3,000,000 kWh per year

National Grid Rebate: 200 replace failed steam traps and resinsulate heating and cooling pipes with deteriorated and missing insulation.

The Warren solar farm will produce 5,800,000 kWh annually, which accounts for 26% of our annual electricity use. The solar farm went operational on January 10 and produced 1,690,767 kWh in the first four months.

Waste Reduction

Composting

The vendor picks up about 1,000 pounds of food waste from composting everyday

Alumni Reusable Baskets

The new reusable baskets will avoid the disposal of 300-400 paper boats everyday

Reusable Cup Program

The reusable cup program in Alumni, Eaton St, and the Bianno Starbucks will save 150 cups per day

Recycling

Almost 17,000 pounds collected from office and dorm recycling

