

Save some Green and Be Green!

Pick up a free copy of this **GREEN WOLF** newsletter and pass it along to your friends and colleagues! The more awareness there is about recycling and sustainability on campus, the quicker we can get to a clean and green-friendly earth. This is something that we should all **strive** for.



FEATURED EVENTS



• oneSHIRT National Collegiate Clothing Drive; Feb 21st - 23rd

Just last week, hundreds of universities and colleges brought together thousands of student volunteers to make a difference through the oneSHIRT National Collegiate Clothing Drive. Student volunteers from UAA collected bags of clothing from employees and students throughout the community and campus and donated this charity to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Chancellor Ulmer was present for the event and helped kick things off by donating two bags of her own used clothing. All in all, over 867 pounds of clothing were collected and sent to Big Brothers Big Sisters, thanks largely in part to the Sociology Club, student employees of the Recycling Crew, and the Sustainability Club.

On average, Americans dispose of 68 pounds of clothing per person every year, which represents 4% of the solid waste stream in the U.S. In addition, clothing occupies about 5% of all landfill space. By donating unwanted clothing to be re-distributed or recycled can make a significant difference in our world. As this was the first annual Clothing Drive to be held nationwide, the possibilities can only continue to grow.

If you would like to get involved, stay tuned for future events. The Green Wolf is sure to keep you updated.

The Green Wolf Issue 01 March 2011 Produced by Alden Lee

The Green Wolf

UAA Office of Sustainability

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99515
907.786.4634
aysustain@uaa.alaska.edu

ISSUE
01
March
2011



Campus Green Report Card

Sustainability Action Board

The Sustainability Action Board (SAB) consists of 3 staff, 3 faculty, and 4 students, one of which is a USUAA student representative. At least one of the SAB members is from a community campus. The SAB advises and recommends to the Chancellor and the Sustainability Director courses of action on campus-wide sustainability issues and strategies. SAB promotes and supports annual campus efforts that advance sustainability, recognizes and honors exemplary actions that contribute to a sustainable campus climate and assists the Director in developing and implementing UAA's *Sustainability Action Plan*.

Paper Reduction Working Group

The Paper Reduction Working Group is exactly what its name suggests—a group dedicated toward reducing the amount of paper used on campus. They also seek to reduce energy use as well, most recently conducting a survey on the amount of energy spent in UAA's computer labs. Their results revealed that the most efficient and cost effective way to conserve energy is to have the computer screens go dark instead of alternating to a screen saver.



What is UAA doing for Sustainability?

UAA is making a giant effort to reduce its carbon footprint on the world. Through a large variety of programs and policies, the university is seeking to drastically minimize its energy use and costs, reduce the impact of harmful emissions on the environment, and limit the depletion of non-renewable resources. Here are just some of the ways UAA is getting actively involved in sustaining our planet:

1. Outdoor lighting technology- UAA has installed energy efficient LED lights all throughout the major signs on campus, such as the Seawolf logo on the Wendy Williamson and the light spire on the library. Switching the old 300-watt lights to these new 104-watt LEDs saves energy by over 65%, as well as money—every hour of use is 37 cents cheaper. These LED lights are also equipped with photocell sensors, which determine the amount of daylight available and the amount of light needed to be produced. In addition, efficient induction lights have been installed into the campus parking garages. All this technical talk means one thing—UAA is saving lots of energy and money by switching to these new LED lights.

2. Energy-saving vending machines- Vending machines are huge energy drainers—they use electricity 24/7 to keep the lights on and run the

compressor cycles at all times. UAA has changed this by installing Vending Misers into all the vending machines on campus. The VendingMisers work by turning off the vending machines when people aren't near. When the sensors detect movement, the vending machines are turned back on for 15

minutes. If the machines have been kept on for too long, the machine kicks the compressor cycle back on to keep the beverages cold. This change has reduced energy-usage by 47.2% and saved almost \$9,500 a year in costs—a huge benefit.

3. Alternative transportation- Because a large portion of UAA's students commute onto and about campus, traffic represents over 28% of the university's carbon footprint. Fortunately, UAA has introduced several alternative transportation systems throughout campus which reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion, as well as improving the air quality. In addition to the Seawolf Shuttle, which has three different routes that run through campus, students can also ride the People Mover busses for free and make use of the Share-A-Ride carpooling program and Ride-matching services. For more information, visit www.peoplemover.com for schedules and route information, or call (907) 562-7665.





NEWS

UAA Students can now recycle bottles and cans!



It's true! The moment everyone has not-so-patiently been waiting for has finally arrived: the opportunity for students to recycle their own trash and make a direct and positive contribution to the environment in which they live! Thanks to the hard work and planning by the UAA Sustainability Club, the U of Anchorage now has blue recycle bins planted throughout campus in which students can toss their empty plastic bottles and metal cans (separate bins for each). The Sustainability Club sought to endorse the arrival of these recycle bins by holding a Flash Mob, in which a bunch of used bottles and cans were dumped out along the floor and students were asked to assist in picking them up and recycling them. Now that the word is out, please do your part and recycle your own empty bottles and cans in UAA's newest effort to go **green** (and **gold**)!

To check out the Flash Mob in action, visit this link: <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150098252016305&oid=57576345235&comments>



MEET THE CREW.

Bynum Jackson

Assistant Director UAA Recycling

Major: Undeclared

With an unusual name to match his outgoing personality, Bynum Jackson holds the position of Assistant Director of Recycling at the Office of Sustainability. A freshman in his second semester at UAA, Bynum was hired on at the start of August 2010 and has since done all he can to encourage and spread the effects of recycling on campus.

As Assistant Director, Bynum's responsibilities lie mainly in the field. Rather than sitting in an office, Bynum hits the campus with the rest of the Recycling Crew, making sure that the recycled trash is getting taken care of and the bins are set up properly. This involves traveling around UAA and collecting the recycling, from the numerous recycling bins positioned throughout campus as well as from the teachers' offices, and transporting it to the Dowling recycling plant and several other recycling units.

In addition to this, Bynum coordinates with the Recycling Director to deal with all complaints made about the Recycling program. These can range from overflowing recycling bins to lack of accessibility around campus, and

Bynum makes sure that the appropriate solutions are made as soon as possible. These can range from overflowing recycling bins to lack of accessibility around campus, and Bynum makes sure that the appropriate solutions are made as soon as possible.

Bynum reports to Nick Herrick, the Director of Recycling, and Paula Williams, the UAA Sustainability Director, with weekly updates on how the field work is going. He also collects time sheets and makes sure the crew has worked their required hours.

Work starts at nine o'clock in the morning for Bynum, as he meets up with the rest of the group and sends them off on their respective assignments, oftentimes tagging along with certain members to get the day's work finished. It's not the most glamorous job, by any means, but Bynum feels a large sense of duty and importance in regard to it.

"In order to keep our outdoors 'outdoorsy,' I feel that recycling is a necessary thing we need to do. I wish to expose more people to the benefits of recycling and hope to see it expand here on campus."



THE BIG QUESTION

What is Sustainability?

According to Dictionary.com, **sustainability** is "to keep up or keep going, as an action or process; to supply with...the necessities of life." The Context Institute defines it as "the ability of a system (society, ecosystem, business) to continue functioning into the indefinite future without being forced into decline through exhaustion of key resources." Whatever the definition, sustainability is a highly important concept that impacts all of us—from our community, to the country, to the entire planet itself. A huge amount of scientific evidence has shown that many of the world's important resources are being rapidly

exhausted. Not only does this alarming news severely affect us, it also puts future generations in serious risk of living in a burnt-out and depleted world. Sustainability is the key to halting and potentially reversing this devastating problem. By seeking to conserve our remaining important resources and be more mindful of our use of electricity, paper supplies, gas emissions and the like, we can make this earth into a clean and self-sustaining planet that can be enjoyed through many more generations. This future won't be easy to achieve by any means, but by working together with the countless dedicated recycling and

sustainability programs throughout the planet and making our own conscious decisions toward greener living, we can make this a reality. One of the purposes of UAA's Academic Plan : To ensure that our graduates are citizens who can capably and quickly work to ensure the long-term health and vitality of our cultural, economic, environmental and social systems in our city, state, nation, and world. You can join UAA's cause simply by making a few small changes in your day-to-day life; when everyone contributes, the impact is tremendous. The sustainability of our planet is in your hands.



Be GREEN (and Gold)!

Top 20 things you can do right now!

1. Turn off lights each time you leave the room.
2. Use energy efficient light bulbs at home, school and the office.
3. Take the bus 2 days per week or more instead of taking your car.
4. Walk or ride your bike to school or work once per month or more.
5. Join or organize a carpool.
6. Buy a fuel efficient vehicle.
7. Join a car cooperative.
8. Eat meat-free meals once a week.
9. Buy local and in-season food whenever possible.
10. Ask for local, organic and fair trade food on campus.

11. Use a portable coffee mug.
12. Bring your own cutlery/chopsticks/cup/tupperware to UAA.
13. Drink from the water fountain or tap to reduce plastic bottle waste.
14. Use a stainless steel water bottle.
15. Purchase furniture, clothing, school supplies and books through Craigslist Anchorage.
16. Print double-sided.
17. Buy 100% recycled paper.
18. Support local businesses and U.S. made products.
19. Buy 100% biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products and toiletries.
20. Share what you learn with family and friends.



EYE ON IT Sustainability Facts

1. Electricity production is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the United States, and is responsible for 40 percent of the nation's carbon emissions that contribute to global climate change.

([Worldwatch Institute, 2007](#))

2. Lighting consumes up to 34 percent of electricity in the United States.

([Worldwatch Institute, 2007](#))

3. Each of us uses approximately one 100-foot-tall Douglas fir tree in paper and wood products per year. ([EPA, 2008](#))

4. More than 56 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. during 2007 was recovered for recycling — an all-time high. This impressive figure equals nearly 360 pounds of paper for each man, woman, and child in America. ([Paper Industry Association Council, 2007](#))

5. Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months. ([EPA, 2008](#))

