

Greening Princeton

Mission

The mission of Greening Princeton is to promote a healthier relationship between Princeton University and the environment. We will accomplish this mission by advocating the University's leadership in environmental responsibility by cooperating with all departments, educating and engaging the campus community, as well as recommending and facilitating change.

Strategy

Greening Princeton consists of several different subgroups that work on various issues, from eco-friendly dining to energy. These groups individually target administrators that make major decisions in that area and meet with them on a regular basis to develop a good working relationship.

Greening Princeton is different from activist groups at many other universities because of our emphasis on collaboration with the university administration. We have found that administrators are generally receptive to environmental initiatives but are sometimes constrained by time or money. Thus we present the issue not as “You need to do this”, but rather “What can we do to help you move forward on this issue?” We also try to start small, by advocating steps that are cost-neutral or even cost-saving (such as energy efficiency). By assisting with background research, increasing student support for initiatives, and/or advocating for funding, Greening Princeton can greatly accelerate the process of environmental change. We have found that building strong relationships not only increases the chances of accomplishing our goals but also increases the responsiveness of the administration and individual administrators to environmental initiatives over the long-term.



Accomplishments

Dining

- Purchasing changes in Dining Services that include switching to organic tofu, switching from bleached to unbleached white flour, two organic cereals in all dining halls, Fair Trade coffee, some organic produce, some local produce, and sustainable seafood.
- Annual distribution of reusable mugs to all freshmen to help reduce container waste.



Paper

- A “Paper Party” for university purchasing staff to increase awareness of the benefits and availability of post-consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper.
- University mandate for 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper for all routine office paper use, in collaboration with the Princeton Environmental Oversight Committee. (Spring 2004)

Energy



- Worked with administration to research alternative (wind/solar) energy options.
 - Posted notices on variable-flow fume hoods to educate users about energy conservation by closing the hood sash. (Spring 2004)
 - Meeting with Housing Department about Energy Star appliances in on-campus housing, (fall 2004). They agreed to purchase Energy Star refrigerators for all graduate student apartments.

Goals

- Create full-time Sustainability Coordinator position at Princeton University.
- Switch grid energy (i.e., energy not generated at on-campus co-gen plant) to wind and/or solar.
- Convince university to follow green building design standards when constructing new buildings.
- Reduce waste and increase recycling at catered events.
- Eliminate all unsustainable seafood and introduce more organic and local foods in campus dining halls
- Increase purchasing and use of "green" cleaning products on campus.
- Increase choices for environmentally friendly products, such as recycled notebooks, compact florescent light bulbs, and Energy Star appliances, at the U-Store (university bookstore).

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.princeton.edu/~greening/> or email us at greening@princeton.edu.