

Green Spots

by Meredith Holmes

Universities and colleges recently have embraced the concept of sustainability – loosely defined as growth that does not compromise the ability of future generations to grow. There are dozens of national campus sustainability organizations, indexes, conferences, and opportunities to sign various sustainability pledges. On some campuses, sustainability has come from the top, and on others, students have pushed the issue.

At Case Western Reserve University, sustainability has been a grassroots effort, inspired by students, administrators, faculty, and staff alike. On these pages we highlight some of those efforts that have tangible impact and offer “green” solutions on campus and in our community.



From Farm to Fork

Building on a project they created for an entrepreneurship competition, five Case Western Reserve students developed Fresh Fork Market, a pipeline for local farmers to supply area restaurants with locally grown products. Termed a virtual farmer's market, this new business connects customers with Ohio farmers in a 50-mile radius of Cleveland and delivers products from farmers directly to restaurants. Scheduled to launch in late May 2008, Fresh Fork Market has signed on 60 farmers and developed interest from nearly 40 restaurants. And, yes, they won the competition! For more information, visit: www.freshforkmarket.com.

Green Living

Envisioned to minimize energy and water use in design, construction, and operation, the Village at 115 residence halls have become a model for green architecture and university living. Several buildings in the complex have won awards from the U.S. Green Building Council, including gold and silver ratings. Built in 2005, the plans incorporated many innovative building and operation methods that include:

- Recycling more than 60 percent of the complex's construction waste.
- Cutting down on fuel and transportation costs by using local brick, slate, and poured concrete.
- Collecting 70 percent of the complex's storm water in a groundwater recharge system, which allows the water to percolate into the ground rather than enter into the sewer system.
- Displaying real-time steam, water, and electricity usage in kiosks located in each residential house.
- Designing the exterior of each building to cut energy demand for heating and cooling by 30 to 40 percent, as compared to conventional buildings.



Campus Green

A 10-year, campus-wide investment in energy-efficient technologies and building systems was completed in 2005 at Case Western Reserve. At that time retrofits to address energy usage were implemented including energy-efficient motors and air handling systems, reflective roof coatings, fluorescent lighting, motion sensors, and high-performance windows. Some of the most dramatic results occurred at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and Kelvin Smith Library.



Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences building has seen a 50 percent drop in energy consumption over the last three years due to retrofits including, low-emission film on windows, reheat and perimeter sensors, and new energy-efficient motors for the building's air handling system.

Kelvin Smith Library saw energy consumption decline 30 percent after a 2006 lighting retrofit with motion sensors, daylight sensors, and brightness reduction of 1,500 lights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAMPUS-WIDE EFFORTS VISIT THE FOLLOWING:

Office of Sustainability

With a growing campus-wide network of individuals and departments committed to building a culture of sustainability, this office sponsors a speakers series and publishes the e-newsletter *Bright Ideas*. www.case.edu/news/sustain

Sustainapalozza

This annual fall event showcases programs, clubs, centers, and research opportunities that enable students to get involved on campus and in the wider community. www.case.edu/news/sustain

DeltaE

A newly formed undergraduate group focused on energy-efficiency and sustainability advocacy. <http://de.case.edu/>

Summer Undergraduate Research in Energy Studies (SURES)

Offers opportunities for undergraduates to work with faculty on energy sustainability issues. For more information contact the SOURCE office at 216-368-2180.