CAMPUS RESOURCES

Looking to plug in with people on campus who are going green, or are you curious about what certain offices and departments are doing to go green? Here's a glimpse....

Green Leaf Courses

George Mason University has over 70 green leaf courses to offer that are related to Sustainability Studies, and is continually adding more to the course catalog. To earn the designation of a Green Leaf course, these classes must focus on learning about sustainability, i.e., meeting our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Likewise, there are also over a dozen Green Leaf programs, including undergraduate degrees, minors and certificate programs, as well as graduate degrees and certificate programs. To learn more about these courses, check out http://sustainabilitystudies.gmu.edu/green-leaf/courses/

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

The Department of Environmental Science and Policy offers two undergraduate degrees and many minors. The department also manages several concentrations in the BS in Earth Science and BS in Biology, and co-manages the BS in Global and Environmental Change.

Did you know you can also get a degree in Environmental and Sustainability Studies? The degree provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of three aspects of environmental and sustainability studies: people, prosperity, and planet. In addition to required core courses, students can develop more in-depth knowledge by picking one of four concentrations. Check out http://esp.gmu.edu for more information.

Mason Center for Conservation Studies

The Mason Center for Conservation Studies (MCCS) and the Center for Conservation Education and Sustainability at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) have created a unique opportunity to offer the Smithsonian-Mason Global Conservation Studies Program. The program offers courses in conservation theory, field methods and practice, and human dimensions of conservation. Instructors include Mason faculty and Smithsonian scientists. See http://mccs.gmu.edu/ for more information.

Office of Sustainability

The mission of the sustainability office is to use the strengths of George Mason University - innovation, responsiveness, flexibility, and community strength - to provide leadership in environmental, social, and economic stewardship on our campuses and throughout the local and global communities of which we are a part. Check out their website at http://green.gmu.edu

The Office of Sustainability offers many ways for students to get involved. If you have career interests in sustainability issues, there are a number of ways to become involved with campus sustainability initiatives that can support your leadership and educational goals. The Office of Sustainability can offer you advice, feedback, and inform you of major opportunities for involvement. The Office welcomes your ideas relating to student-, faculty-, or staff-led sustainability projects that will improve economic, social, and environmental sustainability on Mason’s campuses.

AE Green

AE Green is the umbrella sustainability program for Auxiliary Enterprises. They primarily assist with development of area sustainability goals, projects, initiatives, marketing and outreach, education outreach programing, and serve as a resource for campus-wide sustainability related topics. There are quite a few areas that fall under AE Green including:

- George Mason University Bookstore
- Child and Development Center
- Mail Services
- Mason Card Office
- Mason Dining
- Mason Inn
- Office of Housing and Residence Life
- Patriot Center
- Print Services
- Student Centers
- Vending Services
- Parking and Transportation

For a complete list of all areas included under the AE Green umbrella, visit http://auxe.gmu.edu

If you would like to get involved with AE Green, there are numerous opportunities for students. Past students have completed projects involving Bookstore sustainable products, GMU Child Development Center Garden, and local food projects. If you are interested, please e-mail Dan Waxman, Assistant to the Executive Director of Retail Operations, at dwaxman@gmu.edu.

Mason Sustainability Institute

The Mason Sustainability Institute offers workshops on anything from organic gardening to energy management to members of the Mason and local community. MSI Workshops are open to any and all community members wanting to learn more about sustainability. They are taught by community members and business owners that have a special expertise in one or more aspects of living sustainably. If you’re interested in attending a workshop or potentially leading a workshop, contact the MSI at pgreen@gmu.edu.

Center For Climate Change and Communication

The Center for Climate Change and Communication’s mission is to conduct public engagement and behavior change research that can be used to improve climate change communication and social marketing programs. To help translate their research into practice, they assist other organizations by helping them develop climate change prevention and adaptation programs. Check out http://www.climatechangecommunication.org for more information.

Idea: Offset your Residence Hall

Living in your residence hall requires a lot of energy. Plugging in your laptop, turning on your thermostat, and leaving your TV on all use electricity, which in turn emits carbon dioxide emissions. However, the Office of Sustainability has a relationship with Terrapass, a company that funds carbon offsets. According to Terrapass, you fund clean energy projects that reduce carbon dioxide emissions in proportion to the amount of energy you use. Your purchase will fund anything from clean energy projects to methane digesters, and even projects that capture gas from landfills. Use the code GMU-Dorm to get 10% off your purchase.