

THE UTICA COLLEGE GREEN-TRAX GAZETTE

Number 1
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UC Goes Green!

Utica College has begun the process of investigating and embracing sustainability. In December, the first meeting of the Utica College Committee on Sustainability was held. This committee presently serves as an *ad hoc* committee called into being and appointed by President Hutton. The current members of the committee are as follows:

Rob Cross, chairperson (x3743)	Environmental Health & Conservation
Sharon Wise (x3356)	Faculty, Biology
Carol Downing (x3155)	Faculty, Communication Arts
Don Harter (x3191)	Facilities Management
Rich Kennedy (x3191)	Facilities Management
Ken Kelly (x3100)	Student Affairs
Emily Balcom (x3285)	Residence Life
Lauren Partyka (x3197)	Bookstore
Lisa Mudrie (x3145)	Communications Center
Jeff Weissinger (x3178)	Campus Dining
Courtney Witherspoon	Student
Lequetta Jones	Student
Natalia Chirulescu	Student
Alex Gendreau	Student

Any time you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact anyone on the committee.

With the new year, you should find Utica College a greener and more sustainable community for all of us. Below you will find some of the changes that you will notice as well as the guidelines that we have established to help us achieve our green goals.

Current Guidelines for Recycling & Sustainability:

1. The carts used by our custodians have been equipped with separate trash bags to accommodate separate kinds of waste. We have also purchased more than 200 blue recycling baskets. So – **all of your paper waste (including newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and paperback books) should go in the blue baskets and your regular garbage should go in the black baskets.** Contrary to past practices, our custodial staff is now equipped to keep these two kinds of waste separate! So if we separate, the custodians will separate! Please remember, however, that if we accidentally toss something like coffee grounds or a not-quite-empty bottle in with the paper, that entire batch of paper cannot be recycled. That's the bad news – the good news is that for every ton of paper we recycle, we are saving 20 trees! As a college campus, those tons (and trees!) accumulate quickly. Lightweight **cardboard** and small cardboard boxes can also be placed in the blue baskets. Larger cardboard boxes (including pizza boxes) can be left in the hallway so the custodians can break them down and take them to the cardboard dumpster.

2. **Containers (nonrefundable)** should be placed in the **tall beige cans**, most of which have lids with circular cut-outs. You should notice these in hallways around campus (more about that later). This includes plastic and glass containers (e.g. water and juice bottles).

3. **Refundable bottles and cans** are currently being collected by WPNR-FM (*The Power of Central New York*), and those should be placed in the **labeled boxes** found around campus. In the near future, various student organizations will be sharing the job of collecting these cans & bottles and reaping the rewards of all those nickels – so stay tuned for updates!

4. **Small batteries** (all types and sizes) can be recycled. These are being collected at the **Computer Help Center** in the basement of the library and the **Office of Environmental Health and Conservation in room 279 Gordon Science Center**. You can also drop off batteries at the **main desk of each of the residence halls**. There are buckets labeled for this purpose behind each main desk, except for Alumni Hall.

5. **Hardcover books** can be recycled by taking them to the **library** (they have a receptacle for this) or you can contact **Facilities Management** if you have a large number of these books (faculty – are you planning on reorganizing your office one of these days?). At the end of the semester we will also be identifying drop-off points around campus for unwanted hardcover books. As mentioned above, paperback books can be recycled in the regular blue baskets.

6. **Electronic equipment** can be dropped off at the **Computer Help Center**. This includes the following: **CDs, DVDs, diskettes, audio and video tape, cell phones, pagers, PDAs, empty cartridges for inkjet and laser printers and fax machines** (these cartridges can also be taken to *Staples* office supply store for a \$3.00 rebate on your purchase). Large electronic equipment (computer towers, monitors, etc.) will be collected by the Computer Help Center several times a year. Notice of the dates and place for these collections will be sent out by e-mail. If you have any questions about disposal of electronic equipment, please contact the Computer Help Center at 792-3115.

7. **Styrofoam** packing materials (including ‘peanuts’ and chunks) can be left in hallways to be picked up by custodians. Obviously, you should leave small pieces, like the peanuts, in some kind of bag or box.

8. One of the biggest changes you will notice in many of our classrooms is **THE ABSENCE OF TRASH BASKETS**. This is not meant to be a burden or inconvenience, but rather an attempt to help us all become streamlined in the separating and recycling process. There will be signs and instructions posted, but it won’t be difficult for you to find the **clearly labeled containers** for garbage, paper, and bottles/cans that will be located at **convenient places in the hallways**.

Looking into the Green Crystal Ball!

1. The state of New York is in the process of banning the use of Styrofoam. In order to conform with the ban we will be switching to plates made from a type of bamboo product in food service areas.

2. We are in the process of implementing a system to collect, store, and recycle used food containers from the cafeteria kitchen.

3. As mentioned in the previous section, Student Senate will be establishing a system for different organizations on campus to ‘share the wealth’ from collecting, cleaning, and redeeming refundable cans and bottles. Student Senate is also going to investigate the possibility of participating in ‘Recyclemaniacs,’ a national competition among colleges to encourage sustainability. A new student organization designed to advance green issues is also in the works. I think we can all agree that our students **MUST** take the lead in this effort to become a greener community, or it simply won’t work!

4. The feasibility of switching to recycled paper (20% post-consumer content) is being discussed from the standpoint of both financial and environmental impact.

5. We are examining which printers on campus have the capability of producing 2-sided copies. Most copiers on campus have this capability and everyone at UC is encouraged to use this feature whenever possible.

6. We are also examining the possibility of selling re-usable containers through the bookstore or foodservice outlets. People purchasing these containers would then receive a discount on future food/beverage purchases.

7. Speaking of foodservice, we have been targeted to be part of a 3-year plan by the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority to establish a food composting program. We expect to have this program in place by spring 2009.

8. The end of the academic year always produces an enormous amount of 'stuff' that students don't want/need to take home with them. Hopefully, we can develop a program to collect this stuff and either donate it to charity or develop a kind of 'garage sale' for the campus community and perhaps even the larger community. This might be a fund-raising opportunity for a campus organization and may be another project for Student Senate to consider.

9. We will be establishing more permanent and 'aesthetically pleasing' stations for garbage and recycling throughout the campus. We need to determine the needs and wishes of various campus populations in conjunction with our goals to become more sustainable.

This is a time for change and growth in every corner of Utica College. No one is expected to make huge sacrifices of time or effort, but everyone is expected to try harder to make these small changes that will go so far to bring Utica College to where we need to be as a community dedicated to sustainability and concerned about the future of our global community. As with everything we do, one of the keys to success is effective communication. I invite each and every one of you to contact someone on the committee if you have ideas, questions, or concerns.

***Respectfully Yours,
Carol A. Downing***