Welcome to the first of many routine updates on the sustainability efforts on all Stony Brook campuses. These newsletters are being brought to you by our Sustainability Task Force – a small group of very dedicated individuals working towards making Stony Brook University and the community a more environmentally friendly place to live and work. Our goal with these newsletters is to educate and inform our community about what great work SBU is already doing and to let you know how you can help as well. We look forward to bringing these to you almost every month – we hope you enjoy reading them! If you have an area you would like to know more about or would like to help write an article for an upcoming issue, please talk to one of our Task Force members!

During the academic year we meet monthly to discuss sustainability topics and to work collectively on specific projects to be completed by the year’s end. In 2008 our major initiative was to remove reusable and recyclable items from the vast amount of what is left behind at the end of the semester by our students when they leave for the breaks. This includes furniture, small appliances, clothing and non-perishable food items being diverted from the trash and redirected to those in need within our local community. At the end of the two week program in May of 2008, 1535 pounds of food were donated to a local food pantry, 8192.5 pounds of clothing were donated to Goodwill, we recycled over 4800 pounds of paper and books, an additional 602 pounds of students’ sneakers found their way to the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program and we retained over 1900 pounds of electronics and appliances. Our Recycling and Resource Management department stored this material over the summer and re-issued most at the beginning of the fall semester to students who could use it. We continue to hold this program at the end of each semester, so please remember - if it is useable, please deposit the item in one of our many bins located throughout the residence halls at the end of each semester.

This year our focus has been two-fold: look for ways to increase recycling efforts in the Chapin apartment complex and to publish this newsletter. We will report on progress as we move forward.

www.stonybrook.edu/sustainability/
Recyclemania

Stony Brook University is competing in Recyclemania 2009! RecycleMania is a friendly competition among 510 college and university recycling programs in the United States and Canada. For 10 weeks, campuses compete in different contests to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. RecycleMania helps all participating colleges and universities make achievements in recycling and waste reduction!

On January 28th, a kick-off celebration for Recyclemania was held during Campus Lifetime in the SAC Lobby. Student Life, Campus Dining, Freewheel Club, Environmental Club, Geology club, Student Accounts, and the Department of Recycling and Resource Management shared information about recycling and waste minimization. In addition, a contingent of the University Band and Wolfie were present to help celebrate the spirited affair!

The intent of the Recyclemania Contest is to encourage a fair and friendly competition that will ultimately help all schools to raise overall awareness and to increase recycling rates and lower waste generation practices. The contest began January 18th and ends on March 28th.

This year, both Stony Brook and Stony Brook Southampton campuses are involving their residents with “internal recycling competitions” that are happening concurrent with the National Contest. Each of the buildings will be competing against one another for the bragging rights to be the best at recycling. Marisa Jeffers, Quad Director of West Apartments, manages the committee that oversees the weekly results of the contest. To encourage enthusiasm, Marisa’s committee has decided to issue “Caught Green-Handed” bucks to people who are wearing sustainability buttons and/or performing positive actions that benefit the environment. Students that earn “bucks” will be able to bid on prizes at the end of the contest period. On the Southampton campus, each RA is an “eco rep” who acts as a conduit of information and enthusiasm about the Recyclemania contest.

On the administrative end, departments can participate by organizing office clean-outs. How many of us have files and files worth of outdated information? The Recycling and Resource Management group can provide you with large bins to aid in the clean-up as well as shredding services if needed. Also, please let us know if you do not have a blue desk side recycling container. To arrange for services, please call 2-9297

To learn more visit - www.stonybrook.edu/centralservices/recycling/ Information about Recyclemania can be found at: www.recycledcians.org/

Energy Tips

Screen savers waste energy!

According to the EnergyStar website and our average electric price, we can save up to $90/year per computer by using the machine’s Power Management features. Set the Monitor to turn off after 5 minutes of inactivity and the unit’s CPU to sleep after 15 minutes. Any mouse movement or keystroke will quickly turn it back on.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

If 100 people at any campus dining location used a Red Hot mug, it would save 600 paper cups each day, and 216,000 cups each year. This equals 6,780 pounds of paper and 600 trees a year. You could help save a small forest.