



HARVARD • COMMUNITY

connections

2008



www.community.harvard.edu

greener harvard, greener planet

Harvard researchers travel the world studying human impact on the environment and making discoveries to improve environmental sustainability. Here at home, in the communities where we live and work, Harvard is also focused on reducing its own environmental footprint through research, education, and planning for the development of our campuses.

We are proud to have one of the most comprehensive green campus programs in the country. The Harvard Green Campus Initiative, almost a decade old, supports a wide range of efforts, from helping students, faculty, and staff reduce waste to adopting cleaner, renewable sources of energy. In 2007, we implemented comprehensive green building guidelines for every construction project, assuring that new spaces to support teaching and learning are the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly they can be. We are also planning for an extended campus in Allston that promises to become an even greater expression of environmental sustainability.

In this issue of Connections, we highlight some of the many projects and people we are proud of, both to let you know what we are doing and to invite you to join the conversation about how we can best work together to protect our planet.

Drew Faust
President, Harvard University



Staff Photo Rose Lincoln/Harvard University News Office

Completed in 2006, the renovation of Harvard's Blackstone building in Cambridge received a LEED platinum rating, the highest awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. The Blackstone renovation, one of 28 LEED registered projects at Harvard, is the first LEED platinum in higher education, and the first in a pre-1900 building.

Environmental research involves rainbow of disciplines



Photo courtesy of iStockphoto

From ancient glaciers to modern mining pits, from atmospheric carbon to the impact of environmental literature, Harvard faculty members are working at the intersection between human society and the environment that sustains it.

The Harvard University Center for the Environment has increasingly become a University-wide nexus for environmental research, learning, and discussion. "This center is a service organization," said Professor Dan Schrag, who is building environmental studies across the disciplines at Harvard. "The environment is such a broad subject that it can be part of every school."

Following are facts about a few of the people involved in this dynamic effort.

The economics of the environment

Professors interested in the environment and economic issues have formed the Harvard Environmental Economics Program, an interfaculty initiative whose aim is to study the numerous economic dimensions of environmental problems and develop sensible and effective solutions.

Program director Professor Robert Stavins said economics is essential to solving environmental problems because virtually all have economic causes; they are an unintended consequence of market activity.

"As a result, there has been an explosion of interest in environmental economics around the world," Stavins said.

Stavins' own work may have an impact on the problems of the day. He is currently designing a carbon cap and trade program for the Brookings Institution, aiming to influence national debate on the subject. He's also working on the next generation of an international climate policy architecture as a successor to the Kyoto climate accord, which effectively expires in 2012.

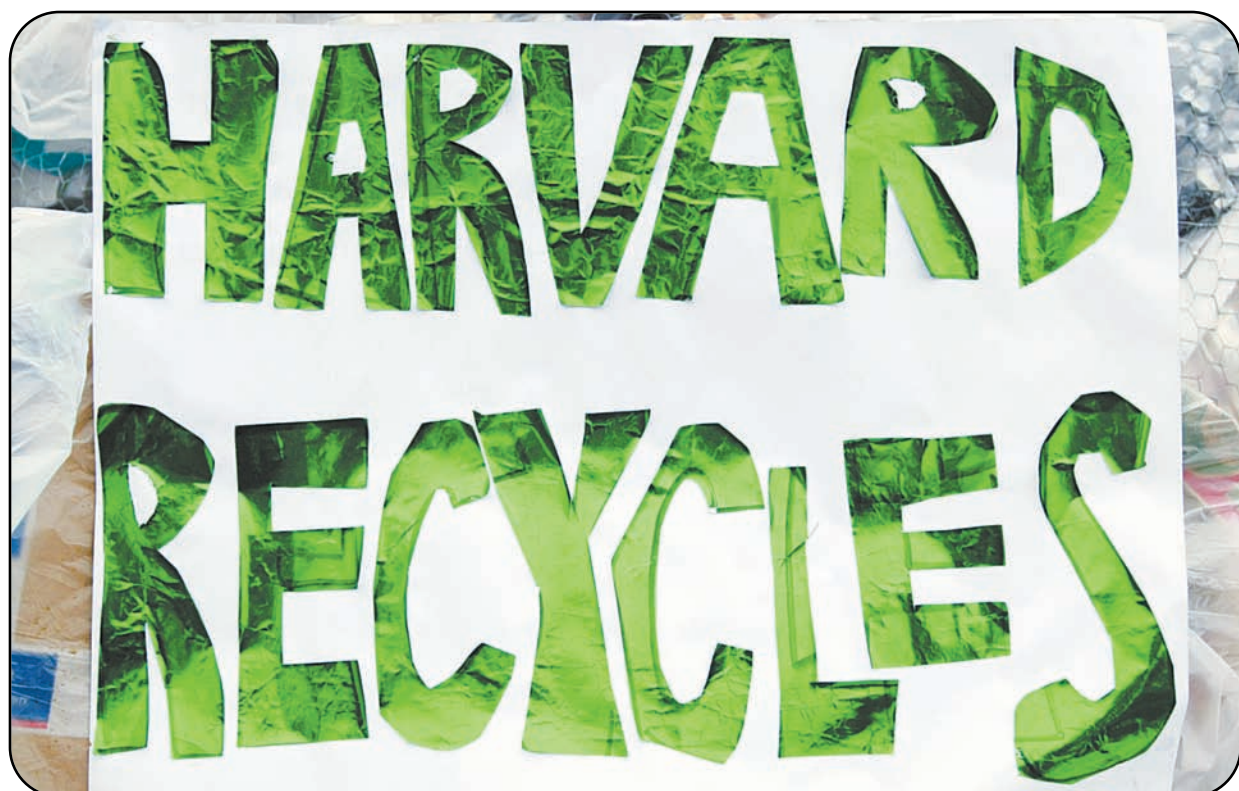
When the environment strikes back

Professor Richard Zeckhauser is looking at natural disasters caused or made more severe by human activity. The calamities he studies all have a similar feature - they are caused or exacerbated by the cumulative effect of seemingly minor, distant activities that are so far removed in space and time that they're difficult to connect to the ultimate tragedy.

Global warming, for example, is a worldwide problem, but its cause boils down to the individual decisions we make every day. We drive to work instead of walking; we turn on a light instead of sitting in natural light. The diffuse nature of the cause makes it particularly difficult to address, he said.

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“Beantown truly is Greentown,” Boston Mayor Thomas Menino said. “Being green helps us build a better city and improve our economy at the same time. The success of Boston depends on us making the city greener.”



Staff Photo Jon Chase/Harvard University News Office

A sign underscores Harvard's commitment to recycling. As a result of Green Living programs that reach nearly 9,000 undergraduate and graduate residential students, campus recycling rates have increased by over 40 percent.

Pledge to go green

Sustainability pledge is a model for other campuses

Each year more and more Harvardians are committing to living green through the Sustainability Pledge project developed by the Harvard Green Campus Initiative. Students, staff, and faculty pledge to take at least three simple steps towards reducing their environmental impact. The pledge helps turn eco-friendly behaviors, such as shutting down computers at night, using recycled paper, and eating local produce, into habits.

Harvard's pledge campaign is gaining widespread notice in other circles. Interest in the pledge has poured in from other campuses, the business sector, and non-profit groups.

How about you? Would you like to join us in pledging to reduce our environmental impact this year? At right is a list of our top five picks for simple actions that add up to a big impact for the planet.

Did You Know?

Boston and Cambridge were recently recognized by Popular Science Magazine as among the top ten "greenest" cities in the country. The cities were noted for their efforts in each of the four categories: electricity, public transportation, green living, and recycling. Boston's plan to develop a plant that would turn 50,000 tons of yard clippings into power and fertilizer was highlighted in the rankings.



Crowning achievement for environmental activist

Harvard alum - and Miss Rhode Island - Alli Rogers spreads the word

As co-captain of Harvard's Resource Efficiency Program (REP) while she was a student and REP coordinator after graduating, Allison "Alli" Rogers, Class of 2004, inspired her campus peers to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

"I was very involved," she told the radio program "Living on Earth." "You would find me digging through trash, running a waste audit."

Rogers traded trash for a tiara when she was crowned Miss Rhode Island - on Earth Day, April 22, in 2006 - but her commitment to green principles continued. She became the first-ever contestant to offer a

climate change platform at the Miss America Pageant.

Today, Rogers is a sustainability consultant to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's Green the Capitol initiative in Washington, D.C.

What drives her, she said is "in 30 years, I don't want to look back and say 'Wow, I could have done so much more then.' I am working today so we can make a difference - for today and for the future."

For more information visit <http://cao.house.gov/greenthecapitol/>



Photo courtesy of Allison Rogers

Allison Rogers shows off her Solarjo Power Purse that will charge a cell phone or iPod at the first Climate Project Training Session run by former Vice President and Nobel Prize winner Al Gore in Nashville.

Be Green! 5 Easy Steps:

Save while you sip: Get your eight glasses, at zero-waste a day, by totting your own durable and safe water bottle. Get your java fix (and a discount at many coffee shops!) by bringing your own stylish travel mug with you.

Give your computer a rest: Setting your computer to sleep mode can reduce electricity use by about 85% compared to using a screen "saver," which saves no energy at all. Find instructions: www.energystar.gov.

Commute efficiently: Join a carpool, take the T or ride your bike to work. Learn about greener (and cheaper) alternatives to driving solo: www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/environment/.

Switch to CFL bulbs: Compared to incandescent bulbs that give off 90% of their energy as heat, CFLs save 75% more energy and last 10 times longer. They're available nearly everywhere light bulbs are sold.

Put your drain on a diet: Turn off the water faucet when doing the dishes, brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving. Letting the water run for just 2 extra minutes a day would waste up to 2,190 gallons of water each year.

For more information visit www.greencampus.harvard.edu/pledge/

“A green Harvard means a greener Cambridge,” Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons said. “We’re proud to partner with Harvard and other institutions to improve our shared environment.”

Reused Harvard furniture goes to families and organizations

Do you need a desk or a chair, and want to support sustainability efforts? Check out Harvard University's Recycling and Surplus Center for free furniture and other office items from Harvard.

Located in the parking lot behind 175 North Harvard Street in Allston, and held on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Recycling and Surplus Center offers a second use for a variety of items from many Harvard departments and schools. Donated items often include file cabinets, steel office desks, wooden student desks, chairs, metal bookshelves, cubicle dividers, and many shades of high-quality paint.

In addition to serving individuals, the Surplus Center regularly offers furniture to more than 85 social service providers. Some recent beneficiaries include the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, the Accept Education Collaborative, and Empower Africa. Last year, Harvard donated items worth more than \$2.5 million to local charities and individuals.

For more information, call Rob Gogan, Harvard's recycling and waste manager, at 617-495-3042, or send email to rob_gogan@harvard.edu. And please respect our neighbors' need to maintain safe traffic flow around the Recycling and Surplus Center by parking only where the monitors designate.



Staff Photo Jon Chase/Harvard University News Office

Harvard's Recycling and Surplus Center offers a new lease on life for used furniture. Robert Gogan, (pictured above) Harvard's recycling and waste manager, oversees these efforts. Last year he accepted the American Forest and Paper Association's annual award for the best campus recycling program in the country.

Crimson goes green

Harvard is exceeding many national benchmarks for reducing waste, recycling and environmental conservation. Here are just a few examples:

During the past two years, students from the Resource Efficiency Program and the Graduate Green Living Program distributed approximately 3,900 energy-efficient light bulbs to make lighting in dorms more efficient.

Harvard dramatically reduced the number of vehicles that staff and faculty drive to the Cambridge and Boston campuses by subsidizing 6,300 MBTA passes, offering incentives for more than 100 carpools, and creating education and awareness programs. Fewer than 18% of Harvard's community of faculty, staff, and students drive alone to the campus - well below the national average, which is over 70%.

Ensuring campus buildings are cleaned using products that are environmentally friendly by operating a successful Green Cleaning program.

Harvard leads the nation with more LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings than any other college or university. The platinum-certified Blackstone renovation project is among 28 LEED registered or certified buildings on campus.

The entire fleet of the University's 70 diesel shuttle buses run on soybean-based bio-diesel fuel - a clean and renewable energy source.

Eating local produce can reduce your carbon footprint

Before you bite into that New Zealand apple, consider what it takes to get that apple from way down under to your table. Shipped across the ocean and trucked to your local store, produce that travels from afar pays a hefty fossil fuel price.

One way to reduce that carbon toll is to buy locally. Buying and eating locally grown and produced foods has become the newest tenet of sustainability since it reduces the environmental impacts of shipping foods across the globe, and has the

added benefit of supporting local economies. Harvard is doing its part to purchase more local and sustainably produced goods, drawing local farmers and food producers closer to the Harvard community.

Harvard University Dining Services, which runs the undergraduate dining halls and cafes across the university, recently set out to purchase more local food. During the fall at least 40 percent of fresh produce that Harvard University Dining Services serves is grown locally, and other foods, such as eggs and dairy products, come from New England farms.

Harvard is also making it easier for the campus community and our neighbors to find locally grown produce through the Dining Services sponsored Farmers' Market, located in front of the Science Center in Cambridge. Each June through October, local farmers sell their fruits, vegetables, baked goods and specialty items every Tuesday afternoon.

For more information visit www.dining.harvard.edu/flp/ag_market.html



Staff Photo Jon Chase/Harvard University News Office

Shoppers line up to buy fresh produce at the weekly Farmers' Market near the Science Center at Harvard. In the U.S., produce travels an average of 1,500 miles from its origin before it lands on your plate! Buying local reduces fossil fuel needed for transport.

Food Fact:
A locavore is a person who endeavors to eat only locally produced food.

“Massachusetts campuses have clearly stepped up to the plate in a big way,” said Ian Bowles, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for Massachusetts. “Their pledge to pursue clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is especially significant.”

happenings @HARVARD

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science lectures

Longwood Science Seminars

Intelligent Drug Consumption
Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-7PM

Your Gut: The Long and Short Of It
Wednesday, April 16, 5:30-7PM

Seminars are held at Harvard Medical School, New Research Building, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston (across from Boston Latin Academy).
For registration and more information, go to <http://hms.harvard.edu/public/longwood/longwood.html>

Plug-in Electric Vehicles & the Power System with Juha Kiviluoma
Tuesday, April 1, 9:30AM
Belfer Center Library (L-369), Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge
www.energytechnologypolicy.org

Biodiversity, Ecology, and Global Change
Wednesday, April 16, 5PM
Stephen Pacala, Petrie Professor of Biology & Director Princeton Environmental Institute
Fairchild Lecture Hall, 7 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge



Staff Photo Rose Lincoln/Harvard University News Office

community events

Night at the Museum

Friday, May 2, 5-8PM

A special evening of exploration and fun. Staff members and volunteers will be in the galleries with hands-on activities, live animals, and interactive displays. Free & open to the public.
Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Discovering the World Around Us: Biodiversity and Climate Change

Sunday, May 4, 2PM

Join Marie Studer, Education and Outreach Director for the Encyclopedia of Life Project, to talk about how to understand the local impact of climate change. Free & open to the public.
Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Green Guide

Important links to online resources to help you live green!

Understand the environment: Learn about current research by Harvard faculty and students that address problems facing our natural environment:
<http://environment.harvard.edu/>

Get involved: Find out what green programs and services Harvard has implemented on campus, and how you too can take action:
www.greencampus.harvard.edu/

Learn by taking a course: Choose from various courses in Environmental Studies:
www.extension.harvard.edu/

Evaluate your ecological shoe size: How many earths would we need to sustain us if everyone on the planet lived like you? Find out:
www.earthday.net/footprint

Free yourself from junk: Half of junk mail is thrown out unopened. Find out how to take control of your mailbox:
www.newdream.org/junkmail

Go organic: Organic growing methods protect water quality, maintain soil fertility, and enhance biodiversity. Find out where to buy organic:
www.eatwellguide.org

Enjoy local produce: Buying local reduces reliance on fossil fuels. Find a local farmers' market:
www.thefoodproject.org/building

Planting seeds John Harvard's gift

In celebration of the 400th birthday of John Harvard and his gift of books to the college, Harvard students, faculty and staff contributed to a fund used to purchase over 400 science-related books that

will be donated to school libraries in Cambridge and Allston.

The books were selected by the schools' librarians and science teachers and will encourage young readers to think more about our natural environment.



Environmental research involves rainbow of disciplines

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Zeckhauser is collaborating with Alan Berger, whose specialty is rehabilitating former mining sites. Berger's Project for Reclamation Excellence is currently designing a plan to handle contaminated water running from a Colorado mine mouth with a treatment plant to remove pollutants and a natural wetland to provide additional purification.

The project uses high-tech tools to help town residents to imagine what the finished project will be like. The imaging work, which includes a virtual tour, has the potential to make Superfund cleanup planning far more accessible to the public, bolstering participation.

Writing that moves mountains

Professor Lawrence Buell studies American environmental literature. It's critical that scholars

in the humanities as well as the sciences work on environmental issues, Buell said, because these are problems for society to solve, not just scientists, policymakers, and economists.

Great books, such as Rachel Carson's landmark "Silent Spring," have changed minds and influenced policymakers, Buell pointed out, and ultimately accomplished the most important mission: getting everyday people involved.

"For any kind of significant advance and change to occur in the policy arena ... it requires us to re-imagine the way we exist with respect to each other, to fellow beings, and to nonhuman life forms," Buell said.

For more information visit
<http://environment.harvard.edu>

Harvard commits to cap emissions

In concert with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Harvard voluntarily agreed to limit greenhouse gas emissions from all new buildings constructed on its Allston campus.

According to the EEA, the voluntary agreement with Harvard is the first of its kind to reduce greenhouse gases beyond the current standards.