



THE VERDANT PROGRESS

A Newsletter about JMU Environmental Stewardship

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JMU Officially Adopts Environmental Stewardship as a Defining Characteristic

JMU has a history of commitment to the environment. Our citizens recognize that human health and well-being are dependent upon our ecosystems. We understand that our planet supports provisioning (food, water, wood), regulating (climate, flood control, water purification), and culture (spiritual, aesthetic, and recreation). We know that our actions matter, and we must think critically and act responsibly.

2007 marked a milestone year for JMU's environmental stewardship efforts as President Rose committed the campus as a whole to environmental stewardship. The President's Commission on Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability charted a course forward for the university, and President Rose signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. An administrative organization for campus environmental stewardship was created. In 2009, JMU adopted a defining characteristic: "The university will be an

environmentally literate community whose members think critically and act, individually and collectively, as model stewards of the natural world."

JMU Environmental Stewardship Highlights

- '89 JMU Recycling began
- '94 The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Program began
- '98 JMU signed the [Talloires Declaration](#)
- '04 Biodiesel Fuel was adopted for transportation
- '07 The University Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Commission issued a final report
- '07 President Rose signed the [American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment \(ACUPCC\)](#)
- '08 The [Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World](#) was formed
- '09 A campus [emissions inventory](#) was completed

We have adopted three campus goals:

1. Minimize material impacts, emissions, toxins, solid waste, and consumption.
2. Conserve, steward, and restore natural systems.
3. Advance environmental stewardship through research, education, and community programs.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform our greater community of JMU's efforts to achieve these goals and to engage them in our effort. This year's issues will focus on the efforts of each for the four university divisions. This, our inaugural issue, begins with Administration & Finance.

-Christie-Joy Brodrick Hartman, Ph.D., Executive Director,
Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World

ISNW Fast Facts for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

- 49% of JMU's greenhouse gas emissions impact was due to the 84.6 million kWh of electricity we used.
- We produced 85,971 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.
- Our expenditure on energy was \$14.5 million.
- 20% of our energy was renewable energy.
- We used over 100 million gallons of water.
- We ate 4.5 million meals on campus.
- We produced 3,064 tons of waste.

Administration & Finance Division Accelerates the Transformation of Campus

Buildings and Grounds

- Facilities Management contributed to a [greenhouse emissions inventory](#) which provided insight into JMU's impact on climate and the sources of that impact.
- All construction of a new building or renovation shall utilize materials and methods that provide quantifiable conformity to sustainable construction as defined by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. Per Commonwealth of Virginia requirements, buildings and renovations shall be designed and built to obtain a minimum LEED Silver certification.
- The [East Campus Dining Hall](#) is the first building on campus eligible for sustainability certification by the [U.S. Green Building Council](#). The [Carrier Library Starbucks](#) is targeted to be the state's first LEED-certified Starbucks on a college campus. The Wayland Hall renovation is expected to reach the Gold level.
- A local team, including JMU Facilities Engineering, was awarded a Grant for Community Solutions to Stormwater Issues in Blacks Run and Cooks Creek by the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. By the end of the three-year project, more than 200 rain barrels, rain gardens, green roofs, streamside forest buffers and other practices will be installed.
- Sustainable landscaping practices are increasing. 90% of landscaping waste is mulch, low emissions/low noise leaf blowers are being phased in, flower bulbs are replanted in the arboretum, low water plantings are

used, and annuals are being grown from seed.

- 19% of JMU's energy is renewable. The sources are a 20% biodiesel fuel blend for transportation and the resource recovery facilities waste-to-energy plant, which supplies some of the campus steam and chilled water.
- IT has employed energy saving virtual servers. [Computer power savings instructions](#) are online.

Purchasing

- Copy Center paper products are being purchased from [Forest Stewardship Council](#) certified distributors. Further, all paper products have 30% recycled content. 100% recycled paper is available upon request.
- All desktop computers, notebooks, and monitors purchased must meet, at a minimum, Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) environmental criteria designated as "required" (bronze registration) or higher as contained in the IEEE 1680 Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products.
- All electrical products purchased by JMU will meet the [US EPA ENERGY STAR](#) certification.
- Industrial and institutional cleaning products that meet Green Seal certification standards for environmental performance will be purchased or required to be used by janitorial contractors.
- All surfactants and detergents used will be readily biodegradable and will not contain phosphates.

Food

- A Farmer's Market is held each Fall on campus.
 - Fair Trade coffee is available at all Starbucks and Java City locations on Campus.
 - Organic foods are available at Mr. Chips, D-Hall, and the East Campus Dining Hall.
 - Over 200 products are purchased from the state of VA.
 - All disposables at catering are 100% compostable.
 - Bottled water is no longer used at catered events.
 - An herb garden in the EJC Arboretum is used by catering.
 - See more at the [Campus Dish website](#) and at the Dining Services' Director's [presentation](#) to the JMU Student Affairs & University Planning Division.
- Reusable containers are available at Mrs. Green's and Let's Go. Wash them yourself or trade your dirty container for an equivalent clean container.
 - 100% of JMU's fryer oil goes to The Greener Oil Company to be converted to biodiesel fuel.
 - The purchase of water in individual plastic bottles using university funds is prohibited except for use in emergencies or for safety and health reasons.
 - A waste minimization program has been implemented at football games.

Personnel Resources

- An environmental stewardship [training and development series](#) is offered.
- More than a dozen employees in Administration & Finance Division serve on the ISNW committees.

Water

- By going trayless in D-Hall, East Campus Dining Hall and Mrs. Green's, 436,000 fewer gallons of water are used per year.
- Low water landscaping is being phased in. See JMU spelled in low-maintenance Gold Mop Cypress at the softball field.

Join the Effort

Get involved. See the [Guide for Stewards of the Natural World](#) and opportunities across campus to [get involved](#). Familiarize yourself with the new JMU [environmental policies](#), and share those with others.

Waste

- In 2005, JMU received the Outstanding University Program award by the Virginia Recycling Association. In 2008, JMU placed third in the Commonwealth in the national 2009 RecycleMania Waste Minimization competition.
- 58% of JMU's waste is diverted from the landfill. 1,324 tons of waste go to the landfill annually. The new Rockingham Memorial Hospital will use the methane from the landfill as fuel.
- JMU has purchased an industrial shredder. Confidential material can be disposed of in locking recyclable containers that are available by contacting the Recycling office at 568-6074 to schedule a delivery and pick-up.
- Dining Services provides recycling everywhere – including at concessions.

Transportation

- All JMU citizens ride City of Harrisonburg Transit at no fee by showing their JAC card.
- JMU is a leader in Virginia in biodiesel fuel adoption. JMU's diesel fleet operates on 20% biodiesel fuel and the city fleet uses 5% biodiesel fuel.
- A [portal](#) has been launched with resources on alternative transportation.
- The campus will transition to peripheral parking in 2011-12. Bicycle improvements have begun.
- All vehicles purchased must be biodiesel, electric or hybrid. The motor pool fleet is all alternative fuel vehicles. A 2010 hybrid trash truck and two total electric utility pickups, for use by Recycling and the Carpenter shop, were purchased.

- A Transportation Demand Coordinator position was created in 2007.
- A new Convo Express route serves the Convocation Center and parking there is available at reduced cost.
- Scratch-off day parking passes are available for those who drive a reduced amount.

Administration & Finance has Two “Be the Change” Stewards

Two members of Administration & Finance have received “Be the Change” recognition for their environmental stewardship efforts: [Towana Moore](#) and [Shirley Lea Foley](#).

"From a business point of view we were interested in it because we were looking at ways to save money. From a personal standpoint I think I was interested in it just because it's the right thing to do."

– Towana Moore,
Associate Vice President for Business Services

"Recycling is not my job -- it's my obligation. As a mother and a member of a consumer-oriented society, I feel the need to leave as small a footprint on the planet as I can."

– Shirley “Lea” Foley, housekeeper

Learn more at [Be the Change – Sustainability](#).

President Rose’s Opening Address Focused on Stewardship

On August 14, 2009, President Rose addressed environmental stewardship. Read his full [address](#).

“Sustainability is not one more initiative in a string of initiatives. It is not one more ingredient in our stew pot. Instead, it is an approach to life. It transforms how we live and therefore everything about us is redefined.”

-JMU President Linwood Rose

Congratulations!

Dennis Hart is officially a Certified Energy Manager (CEM).

Dining Services received Virginia Green Certification for the Festival Conference and Student Center.

Did You Know?

That the popcorn tubs and commemorative cups at football games are recyclable (#2s)? Recycling & Integrated Waste Management, Dining Services, Athletics Marketing, the Marching Royal Dukes and the Office of the President are teaming up to reduce waste at football games. Help us by recycling and properly disposing of your trash at the numerous waste stations that have been installed in and around Bridgeforth Stadium.



Recycling is a 20 year old endeavor at JMU. Download your [recycling guideline](#) and contact your building coordinator if your office doesn’t already have deskside recycling bins.

Think Green It’s Friday (TGreenIF) Tip



Tip: Give it a Rest. Use a power strip as a central “turn off” point to completely disconnect the power supply. Unplug electronics, such as cell phones, once they are charged. Adapters plugged into outlets use energy even if they are not charging.

Watch hallway screens and table tents for weekly [tips](#) on energy saving!

The Verdant Progress is developed by the Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World. E-mail us at stewardship@jmu.edu

