

SUSTAINABLE COLUMBIA

Earth Day 2016 Edition

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Earth Day edition of Sustainable Columbia. On this day, Columbians join with communities around the world to recommit to a more sustainable planet.

This Earth Day, I am excited to announce the kickoff of a University-wide sustainability planning process. The process includes the adoption of high-level campus sustainability principles, the formation of focus teams, comprised of students, faculty and staff, to advance us in key areas of campus operations and energy, and the creation of a Senior Sustainability Advisory Committee which I will co-chair. The process will culminate with the release of Columbia's first Sustainability Plan in 2017, which will serve as the University's roadmap for a cleaner and healthier future.

Your participation is important. I invite you to review the [draft Sustainability Principles](#) and [give us feedback](#). Take advantage of special [Earth Day at Columbia](#) activities such as free commuter buses from New Jersey and Rockland, free bike tune-ups and discounts on our new bike share program. Read more about these activities and other campus successes below.

As we look around the University, ground-breaking research and innovative new initiatives are plentiful, yet the movement can't stop there. We must continue to make a meaningful and impactful difference, both individually and collectively, to move us toward a more sustainable Columbia.

Sincerely,

David M. Greenberg

Executive Vice President

University Facilities and Operations

News & Updates



Columbia Goes "Car-Free" This Earth Day

This Earth Day, April 22nd, Columbia will operate free commuter buses from Bergen County, New Jersey and Rockland County, New York to incentivize commuters to choose a cleaner commute option. Studies have identified that many Columbia members residing in these areas have driving commutes. With capacity for over 200 users, this initiative is set to divert over 15 tons of carbon emissions and over 3,200 miles of driving! [Read more](#) about free shuttles, bike tune-ups and other Earth Day programs you can participate in.



Photo: Michael Gerrard (left), Jessica Prata (middle) and Alex Beecher (right) on the panel at the Morningside Campus Sustainability Principles Open House event.

University Adopting Sustainability Principles

Columbia University is adopting a set of Sustainability Principles to set forth a high level vision for sustainability for its campus communities in New York and across the globe. A [first draft](#) of the Principles has been developed through a partnership between University Facilities and Operations and the Earth Institute, and members of the University community had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Principles during informational town hall meetings at the Morningside, Lamont-Doherty and Medical Center campuses. [Read more](#) about the Principles, and how you can contribute.



Focus Teams to Create Sustainability Plan

The University has organized focus teams around key sustainability impact areas (transportation, waste and energy/greenhouse gas emission) with the goal of developing a high-level sustainability strategic plan to be released in Spring 2017. These [teams](#) are comprised of students, faculty and staff from across the University, with guidance from a newly formed [Senior Sustainability Advisory Committee](#).



Introducing a New Bike-Share Program

Students, faculty and staff can ride around campus and beyond on brand new bikes as part of a new bike-share program through Zagster.. The program is piloting 14 Zagster cruiser bikes at three Morningside campus locations. The bike-share program is now open to the entire University community. [Join Zagster](#)



Columbia Joins Governor's REV Campus Challenge

Columbia has signed on to be a Leader-level participant in New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's REV Campus Challenge. The initiative promotes clean energy efforts by recognizing and supporting colleges and universities in New York State that implement clean energy projects and principles on campus, in the classroom and in surrounding communities. The REV Campus Challenge is part of Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision, a strategy to build a clean, resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorker's. [Read more.](#)



Photo: Jamie Hanson, Arnaud Goessens, Nikita Iyengar, Rebecca Snyder and Lauren Sevigny at the UN Headquarters in New York, displaying the theme and social media slogans for this year's World Wildlife Day: "The Future of Wildlife is #InOurHands."

Students Attend UN World Wildlife Day

Columbia MPA Environmental Science and Policy Program students were excited to attend the [celebration of World Wildlife Day](#) on March 3, 2016 at the UN Headquarters here in New York. The event allowed students to learn more about the pressures wildlife face and to connect with global leaders involved in wildlife issues, and was especially valuable for several students currently

working on a wildlife trafficking consulting project for the Wildlife Conservation Society. [Read more.](#)



Columbia Signs White House Climate Pledge

Columbia joined more than 200 colleges and universities in signing President Obama's "American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge" to demonstrate support for strong climate action by world leaders in Paris in December. The pledge calls for universities to "accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus." [Read more.](#)



Columbia Issues First Green Bonds

On April 6th and 7th, Columbia became the first Ivy League university to issue green bonds. The university sold \$50 million of ten year, tax-exempt green bonds to help finance the Jerome L. Greene Science Center on the Manhattanville Campus. [Read more.](#)

(Photo: edf pulse)



Launch of the Center for Climate and Life

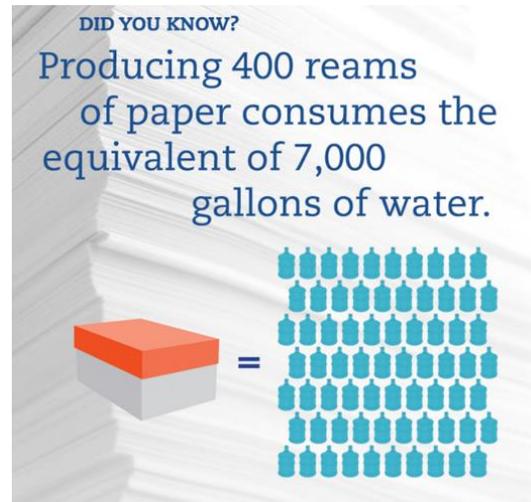
To plan for a thriving future, business leaders need to understand how rising global temperatures can change their investment landscape in the near future. They now have a new resource to expand their knowledge base: [Columbia University has launched the Center for Climate and Life](#) to bring business, finance and science together to advance global understanding of the impact a changing climate will have on life's essentials—food, water and shelter—and to find ways to make energy more sustainable. [Read more.](#)

Awards & Recognition



Carman Hall Wins the 2016 Energy Challenge!

Carman Hall has won the 2016 Energy Challenge with a sweeping **10%** reduction in kWh, ultimately saving approximately **4,500 kWh** throughout the entirety of the challenge! Watt Hall took second place, followed closely by River Hall, in third place. Combined, the buildings saved over **5,200 kWh** and diverted over **3,300 lbs.** of CO₂ from our atmosphere.



Mailman School of Public Health Paper Reduction Green Office Certification Program To Award First Participants

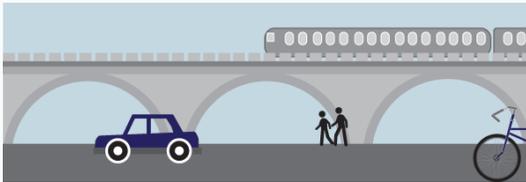
The Mailman School of Public Health has been actively engaged in a paper reduction green office certification program over the past year. In May, Dean Linda Fried will announce the teams who's efforts have earned them the Bronze level of certification. Since this time last year, the school has reduced total paper purchased by **17%**, specifically reducing non-recycled paper purchased by **26%**. [Read more.](#)

Measuring Success



Columbia Print Goes 100% Tree-Free

This September, Columbia Print transitioned to **100% recycled-content paper** for black and white copies. To date, the department has saved **298 trees**, almost **140,000 gallons of water**, and diverted over **9,000 lbs. of solid waste** from landfill, and over **300,000 lbs. of CO₂e** from the atmosphere. Looking forward, Columbia Print will begin to transition all University stationary to 100% recycled content paper. [Read more.](#)



Transportation Survey Will Assess Columbia's Mode Split

Columbia is conducting a survey to better understand the travel patterns of the University community. The survey will inform future planning to best meet the dynamic transportation needs of our students, faculty and staff in an effective and environment-friendly way. [Click here to take the survey](#) and help us improve our campus transportation services and sustainability practices.

Announcements

This Friday, April 22nd, is **Earth Day!** What are you doing to celebrate? [Let us know](#), and we'll give you a shoutout!



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Get Social about Sustainability!