

Fall 2015 Update on Columbia University's Environmental Stewardship

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Dear Colleagues,

Columbia University has a long-standing commitment to sustainable practices. Our scientists are at the forefront of breakthroughs in climate research, and as an institution we join in a shared commitment to a more sustainable environment in our local community and across the globe. We take great pride in the many initiatives we have implemented to reduce our environmental footprint, including pledging to reduce our carbon emissions 30%, investing in more efficient infrastructure and cleaner energy, increasing the number of LEED certified buildings, incorporating sustainability in purchasing decisions, converting to hybrid or electric vehicles, and much more. This edition of "Sustainable Columbia" highlights some of the rich variety of recent initiatives and efforts underway - across all aspects of campus life - to create a better future for our community.

While we celebrate our accomplishments, we know there is still much that can be done as we move forward.

As the new Executive Vice President of Facilities and Operations, I am personally committed to working with the University community to advance Columbia's sustainability objectives. To that end, I encourage all members of the community to share any ideas with our Environmental Stewardship team at environment@columbia.edu. You can also visit the [Environmental Stewardship](#) Web site to learn more about steps you can take to reduce your environmental impact.

It is going to take all of us, working together, to build a healthier, more sustainable Columbia.

Thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely,

David M. Greenberg

Executive Vice President

University Facilities and Operations

News & Updates



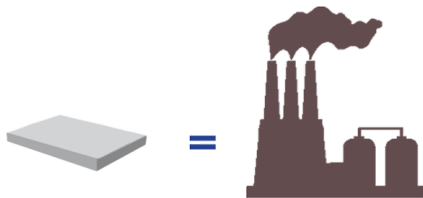
Undergraduate Housing Expands Recycling Campaign

In academic year 2014/15, Columbia Housing, Environmental Stewardship, and Facilities Operations launched a recycling pilot program in the undergraduate residences of Carman Hall and East Campus that features a new bin layout and improved signs. The program expanded to Furnald Residence Hall this fall with the addition of standardized bins and signage. [Read more.](#)

Students Collaborate on 2015/16 Green Fund Projects

The three Green Fund projects selected for this academic year, *Break the Ice*, *Sustain-a-Bottle* and *SIPA Zero Waste* are off to a running start! Applications will be accepted for next year beginning in November 2015. [Read more](#) about each current project.

Mailman School of Public Health Prepares to Launch Paper Reduction Green Office Guidelines



After a successful year, the Mailman School of Public Health will now advance their paper reduction pilot project into a certification program. One year ago, the school began this pilot project to reduce the amount of print paper used on campus. [Read more.](#)

Awards & Recognition



Michael Gerrard Named New Earth Institute Faculty Chair

Columbia Law School Professor [Michael B. Gerrard](#) and director of the [Sabin Center for Climate Change Law](#), has been named [chair of the faculty of the Earth Institute](#). The appointment was made by Columbia University Provost John Coatsworth based on a vote of the Earth Institute's faculty. Gerrard, who succeeds Professor Peter Schlosser of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, will work closely with Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs and Executive Director Steven Cohen. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Michael Gerrard.



Columbia University Named a "Bike Friendly Business"

Columbia University has been named a "Bicycle Friendly Business" by the League of American Bicyclists, joining more than 1,000 visionary businesses from across the country. [Read more.](#)





Baker Athletics Complex Recognized for Sustainable Practices

Columbia University's Baker Athletics Complex was recently recognized by the [Professional Grounds Management Society](#) (PGMS) with a Grand Award – the highest honor – for exceptional athletic fields maintenance as part of the society's 2015 Green Star Awards competition. [Read more.](#)

Vetlesen Science Prize Celebrated at Columbia Gala

Stephen Sparks, one of the world's foremost experts on volcanoes, received the [Vetlesen Prize](#) for his groundbreaking scientific work at a ceremony held June 24 at Columbia University. The Vetlesen Prize is given for outstanding achievement in the sciences resulting in a clearer understanding of Earth, its history, or its relation to the universe. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Michael Purdy, right, Columbia University executive vice president for research, and Stephen Sparks. (credit: Michael DiVito)

Measuring Success

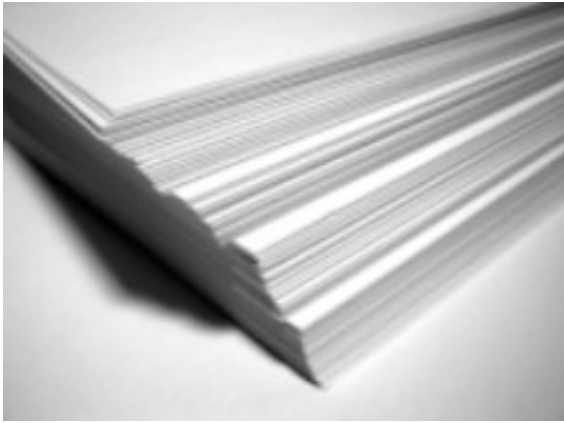


Solar Farms Power 75% of Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory

[Two solar farms](#) will soon be powering **75%** of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, whose high-tech laboratories are home to some of the world's leading Earth and climate scientists. The new power sources are expected to cut the campus's electricity bill by 20% and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by half. [Read more.](#)

Columbia Print Goes 100% Tree-Free

This September Columbia Print transitioned to **100% recycled paper** for black and white copies, which will save an average of over **1,000 trees** annually. [Read more.](#)



913 students Pledged to go Green Monday (Dine in the Dim)

Columbia Dining, Housing, and Environmental Stewardship collaborated on a Green Monday kick-off event in John Jay Dining hall on September 14th. *Dine in the Dim* featured sustainable eats, giveaways, and the famous smoothie bike. Lights were dimmed in the Dining hall to conserve energy. **913 students** thus far have pledged to go Green Monday! [Read More.](#)

Announcements

Environmental Stewardship will be offering internships for this Academic Year. Please check Lionshare in the coming weeks, or email environment@columbia.edu for more information.



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