Trinity College Sustainability Task Force
Annual Progress Report
Fall 2008

The Trinity College Sustainability Task Force (STF) has been active for a year now. Formed last fall as a result of President Jones’ signing of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (PCC), the STF has been meeting routinely, developing a baseline for the College’s environmental management efforts, and working towards planning for future sustainability efforts. Membership includes faculty, staff, students, and Chartwells.

This report is meant to briefly outline the status of the action plan developed last fall to work toward meeting those goals outlined in the STF Mission Statement. Below are the priorities and their status:

♦ Conduct a College-wide environmental audit, the purpose of which is to:
   ➢ Assess the College’s environmental footprint.
   ➢ Recommend short- and long-term actions that the College should take to meet the requirements of the PCC.

**Status:** The STF hired Nexus Environmental Partners in the summer of 2008 to determine the College’s environmental footprint and begin to draft a Climate Action Plan.

♦ Adopt a green building policy. This policy will apply to all new building construction as well as major rehabilitations and refurbishments.

**Status:** The STF drafted a Green Building Policy which includes new construction and renovations. The Policy is under review by senior management. Under the requirements of the PCC, President Jones committed in June 2008 to design all new construction to LEED silver standards.

♦ Work with College’s recently named sustainability coordinator to implement smaller but more immediate College sustainability initiatives while at the same time planning longer-range actions.

**Status:** Karen Misbach, the College’s Environmental Health & Safety Manager, has accepted the responsibility of Sustainability Coordinator for the College, working towards making connections, both internally and externally, with stakeholders and resources. The Sustainability Coordinator has been tracking and reporting greenhouse gas inventory data under the PCC.

♦ Develop and pilot the student-based Recycling Task Force (RTF). The RTF will consist of six students whose primary tasks will be to:
   ➢ Educate the campus on what items are recyclable at Trinity and how to properly dispose of them
   ➢ Regularly monitor and inspect recycling and trash bins in one of six designated areas on campus to ensure that they are being used correctly. Each of these six areas will include residence halls, academic buildings, and administrative offices.
**Status:** The RTF was organized this fall and began working on developing signs and flyers to educate the College community about recycling. Over 400 new recycling collection containers were purchased and are being distributed throughout campus. The RTF continually monitors recycling collections on campus and promotes recycling in all campus buildings.

In addition to the above mentioned objectives, the STF has also accomplished the following:

- Under the requirements of the PCC, President Jones committed in June 2008 the College to purchase only energy star appliances wherever possible.
- A Sustainability mini-grant program was created this fall through a $10,000 commitment from President Jones. The goal of this program is to enable members of the Trinity community to undertake relatively small-scale projects that will advance the College’s desire to be a more environmentally, sustainable institution. The STF will start accepting grant proposals on Campus Sustainability Day, with a November 15th deadline.
- The STF, in partnership with IT, has developed a web-based carpooling site which will be unveiled at Campus Sustainability Day. The website will allow interested parties to view on a map, locations of Trinity employees and facilitate conversations and connections for carpooling.
- The College will realize a 60,700 kwh per year reduction in energy as a result of incorporating conservation measures during renovation of the Long Walk. This equivalent to an annual avoidance of 45.5 tons of carbon.
- Over 94% of construction and demolition waste materials from the Long Walk project were recycled.

**Campus Dining Services:**

- Project Clean Plate is aimed at reducing food waste in Mather Hall. When reduction goals are met, local shelters benefit by receiving food donations equivalent to the amount of waste the Trinity community has reduced.
- Trim Trax is a program that monitors waste in the production process of food on campus.
- Mather Hall has gone “trayless” to help reduce the carbon footprint on campus by reducing the use of chemicals, electricity and water. This program also reduces food waste.
- We purchase as much Connecticut-grown produce as possible. Last year we purchased over 78,000 pounds of Connecticut-grown produce.
- Last year campus dining services recycled over 38 tons of cardboard.
- Chartwells has many other policies and practices that support the sustainability mission of the College including: Cage Free shell egg policy, Sustainable Seafood policy, exclusive use of Zero Trans Fat cooking oil, use of fair trade coffee, rBGH-free dairy products, and the use of PLA packaging in our Outtakes program. PLA packaging is made from 100% renewable resources. For more information on any of these policies and practices please visit our website [www.dineoncampus.com/trinity](http://www.dineoncampus.com/trinity)