

LIVING the GREEN life

→ Concern for the environment was an issue of growing importance on campus. Student organizations had worked to bring environmental concern to the forefront for a few years, but with the administration's establishment of the Committee on Sustainability (COS), students and faculty became more aware of what they could do to decrease the College's environmental footprint.

As a member of both the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) and the Steering Committee of the COS, sophomore Lauren Edmonds was committed to reducing the environmental impact of the College, particularly through reducing the impact of each individual. "While it's important for the College as a whole to reduce its impact, a lot of the change has to come from students on a personal level," Edmonds said.

Many focused on reducing their personal energy consumption and waste production and took the initiative to live more sustainably. Changes to daily lifestyles included purchasing compact florescent light bulbs instead of incandescent light bulbs, using reusable bags in place of plastic bags at the

grocery store, and recycling bottles and paper products rather than simply throwing them away. Student organizations such as SEAC encouraged these changes through efforts such as distributing compact florescent light bulbs to all incoming freshmen.

These practices were easy enough that a large majority of students were able to adopt them. Even students who were not active in the environmental movement in other ways saw the importance of living a green lifestyle. "You don't have to be radical to be an environmentalist. It's a habit, like brushing your teeth, but instead of battling plaque, you're saving the world," sophomore Carrie Crow said.

Regardless of a student's level of involvement in the movement to make the campus more sustainable, most agreed that action was necessary. They demonstrated their support for environmental initiatives by altering aspects of their personal lives in order to follow that common mantra: reduce, reuse and recycle.

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During a late-night trip to Java City, sophomore Stephanie Gans places her purchases in a reusable bag. In keeping with a trend in many retail stores, both Java City and the Student Exchange sold reusable bags and encouraged students to use them as an alternative to plastic bags.

Campus maintenance workers clean up the trash bags on display in the Crim Dell Meadow at the end of the day. Workers had been collecting the smelly trash bags around campus and piling them up in the Meadow in an effort to shock students at the amount of trash produced in one day at the College.



Before studying for an exam, junior Hillary Nebhut installs a compact florescent light bulb in her Ludwell apartment. Switching from incandescent to compact florescent light bulbs was one way for students to reduce their personal energy consumption.