



## Coming to BC? Go Green!



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Facilities Management and Ecopledge have made great strides to create a more eco-friendly atmosphere and attitude on the Boston College campus. Moving forward, BC is committed to increasing awareness for all students and parents.

As you prepare for life away from home, you may want to consider “green” back-to-school options that are affordable and convenient.

Here are some tips for a more sustainable lifestyle when getting ready for college.

When using electronics like an iPod, laptop, window fan, or television, make sure everything is plugged into a surge protector so all can be easily

turned off when not in use. Appliances and electronics continue to use energy when plugged in, even if they are not being used. We recommend the Fire Shield Brand Surge Protector, which can be found at the BC Bookstore or Home Depot.

When it comes to buying books at the bookstore, buying groceries, or doing your laundry, stay away from plastic bags and instead consider using reusable cloth bags.

Invest in reusable containers and coffee cups instead of using disposable plates and cups. These will continue to be useful as you move forward in your college career. Also, try buying items that use reduced packaging or are sold in bulk.

Consider purchasing linens that are made from 100% organic cotton.

If you are bringing any lamps, use compact fluorescent light bulbs.

If you plan on bringing furniture, consider cost-efficient previously used furniture from family and friends instead of buying new furniture. Websites like Craigslist or Freecycle may be useful.

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## BCConserves Energy

- Student volunteers have changed over 800 incandescent bulbs in BC-owned lamps to compact fluorescent bulbs. CFLs use about 75-percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, last longer, and produce less heat. This saves about \$30 over the lifetime of one CFL.
- Installing a variable speed drive allows a motor to run at the speed needed using electricity more efficiently. VSD's in Conte and Higgins have reduced kWh usage by more than 650,000 kWh each year. Other conservation projects include Energy Star refrigerators, new air compressors, steam trap replacements and lighting projects.
- New high-efficiency, front-load washers installed in August 2006 use 8.8 fewer gallons of water per load, on average. LaundryView measures these savings on their website, which shows that Boston College has saved over 3 million gallons of water in less than 2 years.
- Lighting retrofits in the Beacon and Commonwealth Ave. garages use 350,000 fewer kilowatt hours per year resulting in a reduction of electric usage by 40%.
- Since 2004, all of the heating and air conditioning units in Ignacio and Rubenstein have been upgraded, resulting in savings of nearly one million kilowatt hours per year.
- Currently, all the residential halls have meters measuring electricity usage. BC plans on expanding this metering to include energy intensive buildings, such as labs and athletic facilities. This metering will help BC pinpoint areas of waste and inefficiency.



- "About ninety percent of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating water"  
- The Carbon Trust
- "An ENERGY STAR computer uses 70% less electricity than computers without this designation."  
- US Department of Energy

## Coming to BC? Go Green! *(continued from page 1)*

Contact your roommate ahead of time and decide who brings the refrigerator or microwave. Make sure these appliances are Energy Star approved.

Unplug chargers when they are not in use. They will continue to pull energy from the socket even when they aren't charging anything.

Whenever you go somewhere, walk, bike, shuttle or take mass transit (discounted MBTA passes are accessible on

[www.bc.edu/offices/transportation](http://www.bc.edu/offices/transportation)).

These easy tips are not only practical and affordable, but they are also great ways to help create more awareness for eco-friendly solutions. The more people who participate, the better our university and our world becomes. Welcome to BC!



*Go green by using alternative transportation!*

## Ecopledge: A Difference Maker

Ecopledge is a student-led organization focused on making Boston College a more sustainable campus. Ecopledge educates the BC Community about environmental issues by showing films, presenting lectures, and hosting annual celebratory events, like Harvest Fest and Earth Day.

Through the leadership of Ecopledge members, Boston College has participated annually in RecycleMania, a national intercollegiate recycling competition, and the Better Off Contest, a two-month energy conservation contest among the residential halls. In 2008, BC won 12<sup>th</sup> place out of 200 universities and 1<sup>st</sup> place out

of the ACC schools.

Ecopledge also runs campus-wide campaigns to promote water and energy conservation, and increase commingled plastic, paper, and food waste recycling.

*(continued on page 4)*

**Ecopledge was selected as the winner of the 2008 *Ever to Excel* Award and the 2008 *Heights Person of the Year* Award.**



Environmental Studies Program

[www.bc.edu/envstudies](http://www.bc.edu/envstudies)

617-552-2477

## Environmental Research and Education At BC

BC is committed to environmental education. Many BC student-faculty research projects are conducted from a field station on Sandy Neck Beach in Barnstable, Cape Cod. Current projects include the study of Diamondback Terrapin Turtles, Eastern Coyotes and American Crows.

Boston College is an active member of the Urban Ecology Institute, a research organization dedicated to the study of urban ecosystems. UEI works with community organizations to improve the urban environment and with the city of Boston on Grow Boston Greener, Boston's commitment to plant-

ing 100,000 trees by 2020.

BC offers numerous classes in the Biology, Chemistry, Geology & Geosciences, Environmental Studies, and Sociology programs that allow students to study and discuss pressing environmental issues.



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## Recycling Made Convenient

In an effort to become eco-friendly, Boston College has made great strides when it comes to recycling. These efforts are crucial because of the amount of waste universities produce.

Boston College recycles commingled glass and plastics, mixed office paper, food waste, yard waste, furniture, IT equipment, metals, hazardous materials, and construction materials.

BC students have partnered with the Red Sox to provide a recycling green team for Red Sox home games. Students walk through the stands recycling plastics and paper.

Starting in the fall of 2008, BC will provide every residential room on campus with in-room recycling totes for commingled plastics and paper.

At the end of every academic year, students can donate their unwanted items to a program

called "Cleansweep". Cleansweep relies on the volunteer work of students, faculty, and staff of BC to collect and sort the items. At the end of the collection period, Cleansweep donates these items to local non-profit agencies. Since 1992, Cleansweep has helped over 182 agencies.

It is clear that many people at BC are committed to recycling and sustainable living, fulfilling the BC tradition of "Men and women for others."



*In the spring of 2008, five new solar powered trash compactors were installed in areas with high volumes of trash.*



*This tote makes it easier to recycle and serves as a great reminder:*  
**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

## The Master Plan and Sustainability

Over the past year, Boston College has been working to brighten the future of the university by developing a plan that looks to enhance and beautify the campus.

The plan calls for construction of new buildings and facilities on Main Campus and the recently acquired Brighton Campus.

According to Chapter 10 of the "Institutional Master Plan", the university plans to create and adopt an official Sustainability Policy and Plan within one year.

The university will make sure that all new buildings will achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The U.S. Green Building Council

will verify compliance with LEED standards.

Within two years, BC is planning to develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the existing and proposed structures on campus. This will help the university reduce its carbon footprint.

As the university expands, another major consideration is transportation. BC plans to maintain its transportation demand management system. And as gas prices rise, the school plans to expand the alternative fuel and hybrid vehicle pilot program.

As a Jesuit Catholic university, BC is proud of its heritage of community and service. Because of this tradition, BC plans to focus on education,

awareness, and outreach in regards to the sustainable philosophy and principles of BC. Through sustainable construction, Boston College will create healthier living for both its immediate college community, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.

The next 10 years will be an exciting time of change as the university looks to develop its campus.



*Proposed sketch of Lower Campus.*

**Interested in learning more about the Master Plan? Visit the official website!**

<http://www.vhb.com/bostoncollege/imp/default.asp>



## Did you know...

- Zipcar is easily accessed from Boston College, with one new car directly on campus and seven cars near campus. Additionally, Zipcar offers Boston College employees and students a discounted annual membership of \$25, a savings of \$150!
- Dining Services serves Certified Fair Trade and Fairly Traded coffee exclusively at all restaurants; varieties include organic shade-grown from Starbucks, Peet's and New England Coffee. It also serves 100 percent rBST-hormone free milk from a local dairy processor who contracts with local dairy farmers within the New England region.
- Dining Services composts food waste behind the scenes in Stuart, McElroy, and Corcoran Commons.
- Boston is fortunate enough to have one of the freshest and best tasting water supplies in the world. The Massachusetts Water & Reservoir Authority (MWRA) supplies and regulates the supply of water to Boston, including Boston College's campus. "Boston is one of just five cities in the country with tap water so pure that it's exempt from Environmental Protection Agency filtration requirements..." [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/07/22/pure\\_water\\_right\\_on\\_tap/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/07/22/pure_water_right_on_tap/)

Get your BC SIGG water bottle at the BC Bookstore and try some Boston water!



2008 BC Earth Day T-shirt  
designed by Ecopledge

## Ecopledge: A Difference Maker *(continued from page 2)*

Ecopledge members often go beyond the campus, participating in local community clean-ups, national environmental conferences, and hiking and camping outings throughout New England.

Ecopledge has worked to decrease the university's carbon footprint, by advocating for outdoor recycling bins, on-campus composting, and an organic garden.

Ecopledge has made its mark at BC and it is always looking for new members. This September, look to join Ecopledge at Student Activities Day and help make BC a more sustainable campus!



## Boston College Facilities Management

Deirdre Manning, Director of Sustainability and Energy Management

[deirdre.manning@bc.edu](mailto:deirdre.manning@bc.edu)

St. Clement's Hall 203  
140 Commonwealth Avenue  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**We're on the web!**

[www.bc.edu/sustainability](http://www.bc.edu/sustainability)



## Taking Sustainability to New Heights!



The Facilities Management Department seeks to provide the Boston College community with superior services, modern facilities, and a healthy environment.

Please visit our website for additional information on the services provided by the Facilities Management Department. <http://www.bc.edu/offices/sustainability/>

Students at Boston College are committed to sustaining the environment and raising campus awareness about the issues our world is facing today. Students are an integral part of BConserves, and are highly active throughout the campus. To become part of student efforts or to see what activities students are par-



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