

# Green Campuses, Green Programs

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Some recent “green” news from colleges and universities across New England:

The **University of New Hampshire** is distributing free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to all students living in residence halls on campus. More than 1,700 energy-saving, 13-watt CFLs—which are equivalent to 60-watt incandescent bulbs—will be distributed. In addition, UNH purchased one thousand CFLs for built-in fixtures in residence halls. It is estimated that the bulbs will save the university \$17,250 in energy costs, and the school’s greenhouse-gas reduction will be the equivalent of not driving 11.3 passenger cars for one year.

**Saint Joseph’s College of Maine** will build a center for the study of environmental sciences that will open in fall 2009. The building will be LEED-certified, a national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

**St. Joseph College** in West Hartford, Conn., was awarded \$481,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy to serve as a demonstration site for the use of alternative energy sources. The college will install a solar thermal system on the roof of its O’Connell Athletic Center to heat domestic water for the building, including its six-lane, 25-yard swimming pool in the Bruyette Natatorium.

**Eastern Connecticut State University** is opening a new science building, which includes a 150-seat lecture hall with state-of-the-art visual systems, a computer science suite, greenhouse and dedicated science library. Included in the building are day-lighting controls in all classrooms and offices, a glass-encased atrium, a “grey-water” system, chilled beams for cooling office space, variable-speed drives on lab hoods, recycled steel

beams, indoor air-quality monitoring equipment and recycled/renewable content in the carpeting, flooring and casework.

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute** in Massachusetts launched an environmental studies bachelor’s program designed to provide students with intensive technological and social policy training and geared toward solving complex environmental problems and educating future environmental professionals.

Two separate million-dollar gifts will help the **University of Massachusetts Lowell** advance the study of environmentally friendly plastics through teaching, research and laboratory experiences. Each gift includes a \$500,000 match from a \$20 million state trust fund that supports the creation of endowments related to the environment.

**Colby College** in Maine received a \$4 million donation from the Diamond Family Foundation to support interdisciplinary study of the environment, energy policy, climate change and sustainability.

Through a \$1.5 million U.S. Department of Energy grant secured by the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges and supported by U.S. Rep. Peter Welch (Vt.-D) and U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy (Vt.-D), seven independent Vermont institutions—the **College of St. Joseph** and **Burlington, Green Mountain, Goddard, Marlboro, Sterling and Woodbury** colleges—will have the opportunity to improve energy efficiency on their campuses and educate their students on the importance of reducing carbon emissions. The schools will have three to five years to use the money as they wish, although they must match 50 percent of the grant money. Some will perform energy

audits, improve efficiency of old buildings and design new projects, while others plan to explore the possibility of implementing new technologies such as installing solar panels or harnessing wind power.

**Bowdoin College** in Maine has reached a three-year agreement to purchase renewable energy certificates from a utility-sized wind farm run by First Wind, formerly named UPC Wind. Bowdoin is offsetting approximately 70 percent of its campus electricity use with voluntary renewable energy certificates produced in Maine; 31 percent of its competitive electric supply is from renewable sources.

**Babson College** in Massachusetts, plans to install a residential-scale wind turbine on the school’s campus as a demonstration project, becoming the first college in the Greater Boston area to utilize wind power through an on-campus installation. It is estimated that the turbine will produce enough energy to supply 60 percent of the annual energy needs at the school’s entrepreneurship gallery after planned lighting renovations are completed within the space.

Colleges and universities throughout the nation are stepping up their environmental accountability. All 50 states are represented in the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, a “high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse-gas emissions and accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize Earth’s climate.” Nearly 90 presidents of New England institutions have already signed the pledge.

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