

Taking the Lead in Campus Sustainable Development

It was just a year ago that Yale, under the leadership of President Levin, voiced its commitment to take action in response to the unprecedented environmental circumstances in the world today. This commitment took the form of one of the most aggressive and comprehensive strategies in the country: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2020. Since then, the University's Office of Sustainability has helped launch the initial purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates, the use of 20% biodiesel in the Yale fleet, the Carpooling program, and the Green Cleaning pilot project. With the support of graduate research assistants, the office has also strengthened the existing efforts of Spring Salvage and Energy Conservation outreach. **Julie Newman**, director of the Office of Sustainability (www.yale.edu/sustainability), notes that all freshman packets now include an "Off to a sustainable start" letter that encourages students to be "smart consumers and responsible citizens" as they prepare to move into their assigned colleges. She also points out that the success of Yale's sustainability programs is due not only to dedicated student groups, but also to her office's growing partnerships with staff and faculty from all corners of the University.

Yale's leadership role in campus sustainable development will be underscored in the fall when it hosts the third annual Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference (NECSC; www.yale.edu/sustainability/consortium) November 2-4. College and university sustainability professionals from the Northeast and Canada who are committed to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (www.gdrc.org/sustdev/un-desd) will attend the conference chaired by Newman and opened by President Levin. Yale is adding an international aspect to its national leadership by hosting the first International Association of Research Universities (IARU) symposium on November 4 and welcoming sustainability experts from Europe and Asia.

Successful Spring Salvage Reaches out to New Haven Community

The fifth Spring Salvage for Yale University undergraduate students was successful in making itself a very visible effort by increasing its capacity to two collection trucks, focusing on large items and expanding partnerships with the Office of Sustainability, Custodial Services, Grounds Maintenance, and Recycling staff. **Walter Debboli**, manager, Grounds Maintenance, and **C.J. May**, recycling coordinator, Facilities, and their staff contributed greatly to the success. Thirty-eight tons of furniture, clothes, books, appliances, and kitchen

supplies were collected, sorted, and later donated to charities—twice the amount collected in 2005. New Haven's Salvation Army, Rainbow Recycling, and the New Haven Book Bank were three of the local non-profits who came in during a day-long event during which 90 New Haven non-profits were invited to collect much-needed items. Communities in both Guatemala and the Dominican Republic were also recipients of the largesse.

Green Cleaning Pilot Project Is a Team Effort

A committee of building supervisors, Custodial Services, Facilities, and the Office of Environmental Health & Safety launched a number of pilot programs over the summer. The pilot programs investigated the efficacy of environmentally friendly disinfectants, glass cleaners, and floor finishes. While the results are not in, the committee is confident that significant changes will be made to reduce any potential harmful impact on custodians and the environment. Pilots were conducted in the Hall of Graduate Studies, Forestry & Environmental Studies, Malone Engineering Center, Old Campus, the Divinity School, and 155 Whitney. A pilot designed to increase the University's recycling tonnage is planned for early fall.

Bob Young, director, Custodial Services, **Robert Klein**, associate director, Environmental Health & Safety, and **Julie Newman** provided leadership for the pilots. Conducting the pilots were **Richard Bache**, **Paul Catalano**, **Nick Celone**, **Ben Holder**, **Bea Lytel-Martin**, **CJ May**, and **Marilena Stephens**.

Biodiesel and Bikes Bust Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Yale's continued commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is reflected in its Carpooling program which boasts the participation of 123 staff and faculty riders which has created 60 carpools. Supporting this measure are the advances in alternative fuels as reflected in Yale's Biodiesel Project which has students converting vegetable oil waste from Yale's dining halls into biodiesel to fuel shuttle buses and heating the Bethany Observatory. During graduation week, one of Yale's shuttle buses ran entirely on B100 or 100 percent biodiesel.

According to **Ed Bebyn**, manager, Yale Parking and Transit (at right), all buses are currently running on ULSD B20, a mix of 20 percent biodiesel and ultra low sulphur diesel. Ed is doing his part toward reducing emissions with the recent purchase of an "office bike" an added benefit of which is hassle-free parking. He and the Office of Sustainability have begun a dialogue with other departments about creating a true bike infrastructure at the University.

Wind and Sun Support Renewable Energy

Yale finalized the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) following a 10.2 percent reduction in energy use achieved by two student-group initiatives: Light 4 Light and Yale Unplugged. Yale's purchase of the RECs offsets two-thirds of collective residential electricity use. Associate Director of Utilities **Sam Olmstead**, who has been overseeing the REC efforts, said Yale purchased 10,000 megawatt hours of wind energy from Sterling Planet, generated in Oklahoma. While Olmstead has been in charge of harnessing wind for Yale, **Tom Downing** (at right), Yale's Energy Manager, has been supervising the installation of solar panels on the roof of Fisher Hall Dormitory at the Divinity School. The 42kW array is the largest installation in the Ivy league and will provide about 45,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually. This will provide about 2/3 of the peak electrical demand of the dorm during daytime hours. The benefits of this renewable energy source also include a CO2 emissions avoidance of about 20 tons per year, and avoids burning over 600 gallons of oil annually.

