

The Bates Sustainability

guide

Bates College is taking huge leaps forward in the field of sustainability. Here are twelve initiatives that you may not know about.

12 Bates Sustainability Initiatives

1. Switching the Central Heating Plant to Renewable Fuel



This Fall, Bates will be switching its central heating plant away from heating oil and natural gas, and on to a renewable fuel made from residual tree offcuts. Called Renewable Fuel Oil, it has a carbon footprint 85% less than natural gas, and is a completely renewable resource.

2. Solar is Coming to Bates.



We will be installing a new solar array at our Shortridge property. And we actually mean we. Together with Revision Energy, Bates students will have the opportunity to put up the panels themselves.

3. Our Dining Hall is putting the rest of us to shame.



In addition to providing amazing, local food, Dining is also able to divert over 80% of their waste away from the landfill - sending it instead to local farmers for composting and to raise pigs.

4. Energy Efficiency is the way to salvation.

Energy Manager John Rasmussen is working on energy efficiency measures which will cut our emissions in half over the next five years. These include LED lighting upgrades, insulation, and building controls.



5. Drive electric?

Bates is partnering with Tesla Motors to install electric car chargers for Bates students, faculty, and staff. Look for them across from Smith, and at our new dorms!



6. Recycling can be fun! (mostly)

We are piloting a bunch of new recycling systems on campus - from a campus-wide composting system, to new and improved signage, to brand new bins that allow students to divert more of their trash away from the landfill.



7. Methane Digestion!



Bates send roughly 16 tons of brown grease from the dining hall to a methane digester, rather than send this cooking by-product to the dump. Methane digestion is like composting in the absence of oxygen - with the added benefit that natural gas is produced, and can be used as a fuel. Ask Safety Jim about it - it's pretty cool.

8. New Sustainability Website

Mostly just a mirror of our own narcissistic egos, the EcoReps have created a totally new sustainability website for Bates College. Complete with interviews, energy updates, and (you guessed it!) infographics, the new site is a great place to find out what Bates is doing in the sustainability arena.



9. Clean Sweep & Mini Clean Sweep



Feeling overly materialistic? We are working to give students more opportunities to get rid of their stuff in a responsible manner - especially around moving times. Keep an eye out for collection stations at the end of semesters. These donation bins will help your unwanted stuff fund local nonprofits that do great work around the state.

10. Used Fryer Oil to Biodiesel

Used grease from the dining hall is sent to a local biodiesel plant to turn our used vegetable oil into biodiesel - a diesel fuel substitute. Oakhurst Dairy buys this biodiesel to run in their trucks, which deliver milk to the dining hall. The circle of life.



11. Our New Dorms



With a LEED Silver equivalent rating, highly insulated thermal envelope, all LED lighting, and thoughtful use of building controls and daylighting, our new campus ave dorms set the bar for efficiency on campus.

12. You!

Bates is too big a place for just one person to make it more sustainable. It's got to be all of us. If you are interested in finding out more or helping out, please do - talk to an EcoRep or another member of a sustainability club at Bates. There's a lot of great work happening here, and you could be a part of it!

