



Dear First Year Students,

Welcome to Bates! Over the next four years you will find your own unique journey through the maze of challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. You will also find that you are part of a living, breathing community, inextricably tied to each other, to faculty and staff, and to the natural environment surrounding us. Just as it shapes you, you will shape this community.

The world is at a turning point. Our dedication to mitigating climate change will shape the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I urge you to be proactive in making our future sustainable. You will find that you have the power to change the world starting here and now. Here's how:

- 1. Get involved.** There are several student organizations on campus you can join including the Bates Energy Action Movement (BEAM), the Environmental Coalition, and the Outing Club. The College has two Environmental Theme Houses you can be involved with even if you don't live there this year. The Office of Sustainability has programs throughout the year focusing on energy, recycling, transportation and education. Attend events and participate in programs!
- 2. Make everyday efforts to be more sustainable.** Recycle your bottles & cans, mixed paper, cardboard, etc. Turn the lights off. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. Buy local, buy organic, and buy recycled products. Drive less. Replace disposable items with reusable ones... Start the Low Carbon Diet and see how big an impact you can have!
- 3. Talk the talk.** Educate and encourage your peers. Persuade your friends to recycle if you see them throwing recyclables into the trash or trash into recycling bins. Remind people to turn off lights as they leave the room. Suggest walking or biking instead of driving across campus. The more visible and audible sustainability is, the more it will become part of peoples' daily lives. Check out what's going on at [www.bates.edu/sustainable-bates.xml](http://www.bates.edu/sustainable-bates.xml)

I look forward to meeting each of you. It's going to be a great four years!

Sincerely,

*Julie Rosenbach*

Environmental Coordinator