

## DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

WHITE PAPER NO. 4

*A white paper promoting sustainability on campus focusing on recycling, composting, and biking to build a more eco-friendly campus and community.*

### **Introduction**

Sustainability has been a working issue here at DePauw. With the implementation of the “2020 Plan,” DePauw has embarked on an ambitious quest to improve the university so that it might “become a leading, national liberal arts college and school of music”. In July of 2013, DePauw furthered its commitment to enhancing the student experience both by switching to a well-renowned food service provider, Bon Appétit, as well as implementing a 1-acre Campus Farm with hopes of expansion this summer. The Campus Farm’s mission is “to enrich DePauw’s educational environment, to provide a living example of sustainability principles, and to provide sustainably grown produce to the campus and community.” Both of these mottos, as well as recent achievements, push to instill progressive principles regarding sustainability among DePauw’s atmosphere. An emphasis on improving recycling, composting, and DePauw Campus Bikes has been initiated.

### **Achievements in Sustainability on Campus**

Sustainability has become an increasingly more valued topic at DePauw University than in years past. It keeps developing, but more students need to become aware in order to keep up with the “environmental movement.” The following are improvements that DePauw staff, administration, faculty and students have made in order to keep up with the hype on the environment:

- The Campus Farm has kicked off using organic methods to supply seasonal food to both the Greencastle food pantry and Bon Appétit.
- Environmental Fellows have made plans to re-construct the Campus Farm house into a 100% carbon-neutral house in order to educate students as well as introduce permaculture, fruit trees, a greenhouse, bees and livestock in the near future.
- Bon Appétit, which has been sourcing and promoting sustainable foods and practices, has now begun composting in their kitchen.
- Students have been able to rent community bikes at The Inn at DePauw at no cost.
- The new Hoover Dining Hall will be built with a serious focus on sustainability, with LEED Silver or Gold.
- Class curriculum has been focused more toward issues in sustainability and current world problems involving environmentalism. Such classes involve cooking, learning about local and healthy foods, eco-cities and urban studies, and topics including environmental issues and awareness, human nature, and animal/human relations.

### **Suggestions for Future Initiatives**

## **Short-term:**

- **Recycling.** Additional and well-placed recycling bins in dorms, university housing, and outdoor locations must be provided. A recycling bin needs to be next to every trash can with necessary information regarding what to recycle, indoors and outdoors, in order to promote awareness and provide convenience.
- **Composting.** Composting services are at a standstill due to a broken composter by Longden Hall. Additional funds should be allocated to address this issue. Composting barrels on campus need to become available near trash cans during the growing season. These will have to be maintained by rotating and checking carbon to nitrogen ratio.
- **Biking.** In years past, DePauw students have regularly driven instead of walking or biking to get to class faster. By becoming a biking campus, we can simply instill further promotion of exercise. Therefore, additional bikes should be provided near the Union Building in addition to The Inn at DePauw by providing rental service through the Hubbard Center.
- **Awareness**
  - Framed recycling signs in the dorms and university buildings should be installed to create more awareness and to provide helpful information about recycling statistics and what can be recycled.
  - On the DePauw website under Sustainability, information needs to be provided to students regarding where to buy certain local goods to build the community. This information is currently found on the Greencastle Chamber of Commerce website.
  - Students need easy access to information on how they can rent community bikes and the benefits of using them available in the Union Building.
  - Small gardens on campus need to be implemented, specifically in South Quad, to further educate students and to create additional aesthetic appeal. These could be partially maintained by the students starting when students arrive on campus to create collaboration.

## **Long-term Future Improvements:**

- A further commitment to long-term sustainability needs to be stressed by continuing to fund sustainability initiatives such as Eco-reps, the Campus Farm, and the Sustainability Office.
- Native landscaping, including trees and aesthetically appealing plants, around the new Hoover Dining Hall, the Nature Park, and other parts of campus need to be revised to reduce further carbon emissions and combat the reduction of trees planned to occur on campus in the near future.
- Eco-city technologies, including solar, wind, geothermal, biofuel, green roofs, and cisterns for collecting rainwater need to be implemented.
- The Campus Farm needs further support and improvement using developed plans from students and faculty mentioned in the Achievements section of this white paper.
- Hot Composting provides the ability to compost year round, decrease contamination, and

reduce maintenance. This should be discussed in order to improve composting practices already implemented.

**Conclusion:**

During the past few years, DePauw has seen significant positive changes in sustainability and constructive thinking that not only enhances DePauw's atmosphere, but also the individual's perspective. These improvements reflect DePauw's attitude toward necessary change and encourage an academically focused and thought-provoking environment for students and faculty. Even though the university has taken a few steps in the right direction, DePauw and its students have the ability to make a profound impact for future years by deeply engaging and promoting essential sustainable action.

Motion by: Ryan Pranger

Seconded by: Dione Gordon

Aye: 14

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Nay: 0

0

Abstain: 0

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Walker Chance, President

Attest:

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Colleen McArdle, Secretary