

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



## A Successful Semester for Taste Not Waste

The Taste Not Waste fall 2019 data collection results are in! As it has previously been made known, Concordia's goal is to reach 50% plate waste reduction by 2020. As of last spring semester, we were at 37% reduction. Our current percent of reduction remained steady at 37%, which is the most we have ever been down in a fall semester! The table below shows data calculated in comparison to fall 2016 data. We compared similar time frames in order to notice trends in customer counts and waste totals.

Measures	October 2016	October 2019	Difference
Average daily plate waste	329 lbs	207.81 lbs	Decrease of 121.19 lbs
Average waste per person	2.45 oz/person	1.89 oz/person	Decrease of 0.56 oz/person
Total customers	4,287 customers	3,510 customers	777 fewer customers

With this data set, we conclude that the Taste Not Waste program is still proving to be successful. Our partnerships with Dining Services, the Athletic Department, Orientation, Residence Life, the Office of Ministry, and our working group of faculty and staff have allowed the campaign to flourish on campus. When looking at the data, it is important to note that while we have fewer customers compared to 2016, the average waste per person has continued to decline each year. This indicates that our message is being received and customers are wasting less.

The Taste Not Waste Advisory Board and all of those involved in the program would like to thank everyone for their efforts toward reducing food waste in DS and looks forward to seeing even more improvement in the coming months!

## Resilience Efforts Charge Forward

On Tuesday, November 12th the Moorhead Community Resilience Task Force (a group of community members convened by Concordia College to consider and develop a plan to increase resilience in the Moorhead community) came to campus for a workshop on resilience planning. Concordia alumni, Paul Lillehaugen spoke at the workshop, providing valuable insights based on his experience working with 100 Resilient Cities, a former international initiative to support resilience efforts on a global scale. Following the workshop portion of the event, the Task Force was organized into working groups which will take a deeper look at resilience opportunities for the Moorhead community.

Additionally, at the end of November, the Moorhead Resilience Task Force was awarded a two year, \$200,000 Bush Community Innovation Grant to support its resilience planning work. Ken Foster (Political Science Faculty), Tim Hiller (Community Engagement Coordinator) and Jillain Veil-Ehnert (Director of Foundation Relations and Grants) spearheaded and led the grant application process.



## Zapping Res Hall Energy

Concordia's annual Residence Hall electricity competition took place this November. The competition was spearheaded by the EcoReps team who hoped the competition would reduce energy use in the Res Halls and build campus awareness of energy savings measures through a friendly competition. The EcoReps tracked the electricity meter data for each Res Hall over a two week time period. They then analyzed the percentage change to see which residence hall reduced the most. This year the winner was Park Region!

## 2019-2020 Sustainability Interns

Every academic year, the Office of Sustainability builds a team of over 12 student leaders who are passionate about involvement in developing sustainability on campus. The student leaders occupy a wide range of positions such as: Garden Interns, EcoRep Coordinator, Programming Interns, Taste Not Waste Intern, and many more. The positions ensure that Concordia continues to work towards being a sustainability focused campus while providing opportunities for students to learn and grow through applying knowledge and skills. This year, the interns have been hard at work accomplishing awesome things such as clothing swaps, harvesting produce from the garden, promoting the Cobbikes program, reducing plate waste, getting first year students involved in sustainable practices, and more! The Office of Sustainability owes a great deal to our student leaders who make sustainability a priority as well as create a campus culture revolved around living ethically.



## Donations Needed for Annual Office Supply Free Sale

Do you have office supplies cluttering your space that you no longer use? The Sustainability Office wants them! From January 13 - 15 you can bring unwanted office supplies to Jackie Maahs at the Sustainability Office (KCC 245). The items will be used to stock the Office Supply Free Sale which is put on by Concordia's Green Office Program. The Free Sale will take place on Friday, January 17th in the KCC Atrium.

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## Sustainability Student Leader of the Month:

### Leo Smith

This month's Sustainability Student of the Month is Concordia junior, Leo Smith. Leo Studies biology and environmental studies with an emphasis on humanities. Leo is involved in SGA as the Sustainability



Advocate, a member of Student Environmental Alliance, and works with the local community for climate action. Leo has been working on promoting climate change events as well as starting "climate conversations" events which focus on campus conversations about sustainability matters. He is very passionate about promoting the urgency of climate action to ensure we can make changes necessary for a livable future. When asked what sustainability means to him, Leo stated, "To me, sustainability means the ability to continue an activity for a long period of time without compromising the future. That means keeping the Earth habitable for future generations of people as well as animals and plants. This is important because I think our fundamental relationships with people and nature need to change in order to address the root cause of ecological destruction."

## Moving Out of the Dorms?

If you are moving out of the dorms this semester please place any gently used items that you no longer need in donation boxes located in the lobby or lounge of your dorm. The EcoReps will collect the boxes on Saturday, Dec. 14th and will place the collected items in the Free Store to be reused by other Cobbers!

## Coming up!

- Holiday Crafting Party - Sunday, Dec. 15th 6-8pm in KCC Atrium (Hosted by EcoReps and SEA)
- Spring Break HILT Proposals Due December 15th - email [jmaahs2@cord.edu](mailto:jmaahs2@cord.edu) for more info
- Office Supply Free Sale - 10am-2pm January 17th in the KCC Atrium
- Keep your eye out for RecycleMania in the spring!