

ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



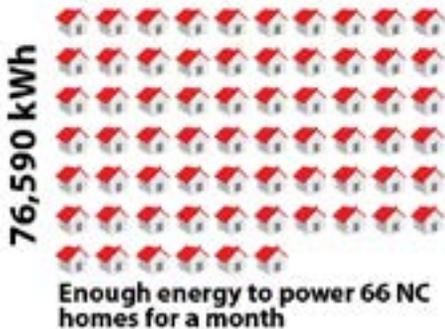
Fall 2013

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Fall POWERless Results

by Michele Guthrie

Elon's tenth [POWERless](#) competition, which encourages students to conserve energy in residential buildings, ended October 8th. During the three-week competition, Elon residents saved 76,590 kWh, enough energy to power 66 North Carolina homes for a month.



The competition divides residential neighborhoods into two divisions based on building size. The following are the winners of the neighborhood competition whose names will be engraved on the POWERless trophy that resides in the Moseley Center.

Oaks (Division I), 18% reduction
Historic, Academic Pavilions (Division II), 32.4% reduction

The following are the individual residence halls with the greatest energy reduction whose residents will be

placed in a raffle for an iPad mini and \$50 Phoenix Cash. Winners were announced at College Coffee on October 22.

Oaks A (Division I), 26.9% reduction
Kenan Honors Pavilion (Division II), 38.6% reduction

This year POWERless also featured a new component, [COMPETE to CONSERVE](#), in which students could compete with each other in small teams. Teams were eligible for prizes every week and the overall winning team receives an ice cream outing with Smith Jackson and a \$100 gift card for the team.

The winning team of the first ever COMPETE to CONSERVE competition was The Sustainables: Kerianne Doran, Theresa Gilligan, Shenandoah Lucero-Keniston, Janee Lomax and Avalon Fox!

Even though the competition is over you can still contribute to energy savings. View full competition results and stay up to date on the energy use in your building year-round with the [Building Dashboard](#).

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Faculty Profile: CJ Dickson

Environmental Ethics

by Michele Guthrie

As humans we sometimes question our surroundings. We ask ourselves what could be the purpose of the environment. What kinds of crises are environments facing? And what kinds of obligations do we, as human beings, have to protect our environment?



Professor CJ Dickson

photograph provided by CJ Dickson

These are the kind of questions that Professor CJ Dickson asks his environmental ethics class. Through readings, debate, discussion and service learning, students explore the questions of ‘how’ and ‘why’ when it comes to the environment. Dickson strives to create a class setting that will allow students to voice their opinions and participate in debate. He hopes that through his class students will learn how to use ethics as a tool to make informed decisions.

Dickson’s course is separated into three sections: philosophical issues, religious traditions and social issues. During each section of the course, Dickson works with his students to relate ethics back to the topic. For example, students use the history of western science to examine how human beings treat the environment and situate themselves in the environment. Furthermore, they examine different religions and the ways they are taught to relate to the natural world and the environment.

Students question whether or not certain religious practices are a source of harm, as well as how religions have become aware of ecological crises. Sustainability plays a role when the class examines social issues. They discuss specific concrete problems, such as poverty and over-population, and examine the questions behind what people can do to ensure viability of earth’s ecosystems, such as whether or not it is ethical to eat animals.

Additionally, Dickson’s students have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in the [Elon Community Garden](#), a garden that was started in an environmental ethics class in 2006 to foster education, spirituality, service, community discussion and sustainability. Dickson’s students are able to work in the garden and reflect on their experiences related to ethics.

Dickson’s passion for environmental ethics comes from a broader interest in ethics as a whole. He believes that one should think of ethics as asking how human beings should live. Ethics are about taking the time to step back and critically examine the choices we make in life. “Part of what it means to be a human being is to ask what effect all these things that we take for granted have on the environment,” Dickson said. “We need to ask if there are problems in the way we live our lives and what ways of life need to be acquired to preserve human beings and the environment.”

After just a few weeks of teaching at Elon, Dickson already finds joy in his students’ passion for life. He recognizes that Elon students are involved in so many things, and they have a genuine drive that keeps them going. Dickson hopes that his students will take away an ethical skillset from his class. “I don’t want them to take away a particular position on environmental issues,” he explained. “I want to help them realize that ethics give tools to make more informed decisions about what to do. I’m not teaching students what to do, but helping them see that if you ask the questions ethicists ask, you can understand all implications of whatever it is you decide to do.”



Elon University Community Garden

Staff Profile: Jan Pagoria

Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Elon

by Jessica Bilecki

In a single day, if all faculty and staff drove to work in a car, they would cumulatively travel just over 39,000 miles and emit over 700,000 lbs of CO₂ per day.

But by the time Jan Pagoria, Director of Internships in the Love School of Business, finishes her 110 mile round-trip commute she will have used just over a gallon of gas. Jan owns a hybrid electric car, and she can now recharge at Elon making it possible to power 80 miles of her commute with electric power.

Thanks to Elon's efforts to model more sustainable practices, Pagoria can now recharge at the newly installed ChargePoint Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station in the McMichael parking lot. The station is accessible to any member of the Elon Community with an EV and ChargePoint account.

Using EVs is better for the environment because it cuts down on carbon emissions from driving. For every gallon of gas burned (in a gas vehicle that gets 27.5mpg), 20 lbs of CO₂ are emitted. Whereas, for every kWh of electricity consumed 1.03 lbs of CO₂ are emitted. According to the ChargePoint website, "ChargePoint stations currently dispense

more than 1,243 Megawatt hours (MWh) of electric fuel each month; the annual equivalent of 3,000,000 gallons of gas avoided and 43 million lbs of CO₂ emissions prevented". In locations where electricity is generated with renewable resources, driving an EV has an even greater impact on carbon emission reductions.

Another benefit of operating an EV is cost-savings. For example, Jan's vehicle gets about 40 miles per charge and takes 4-5 hours to charge completely. Depending on electricity rates and agreements with where she is plugging in, Pagoria may pay \$0 - \$1.50 per charge. Compare that to paying \$5.09 to go the same distance in a car that gets about 27.5 mpg with gas that costs \$3.50 per gallon.

When asked why she purchased an EV, Pagoria commented that it was for the benefits but also to invest in the technology. By installing an EV station and being open to install additional stations if demand grows, Elon is also investing in a technology that is better for people and the planet. Pagoria commented, "I believe that taking this step demonstrates, once again, just how much of a leadership role Elon plays in the local and global community."



Jan Pagoria

photograph provided by Elon University

How Can You Do Sustainable Food?

1. Eat Locally

Source foods from the Elon area to support the local economy and eat healthy.

2. Eat Seasonally

Enjoy root vegetables and hearty greens in the fall and winter; and leafy greens, fruit and tomatoes in the summer.

3. Preserve the Harvest

Try canning, dehydrating, freezing and lacto-fermentation.

4. Buy Fair-Trade

Look for products labeled "Fair-Trade". TransFair USA ensures that farmers are treated justly and paid fairly for their work.

5. Cut Back On Meat

Meat production has a direct correlation to greenhouse gas emissions. Do your part by going meatless once a week.

6. Make Your Own

Learning to cook your favorite foods using local ingredients can really make all the difference. Plus, you can be proud of a home-cooked meal.

7. Limit Processed Foods

When you buy processed foods, you are purchasing packaging, preservatives and transportation. Fruits, veggies and nuts are just as portable as a granola bar, but they'll use fewer resources and fill you up more.

For more info, check out [our resources](#).

Student Profile: Jill Capotosto

Climate Change Awareness Across the Globe

by Emily Forinash

The Internet is an amazing thing. In an instant, an average person can gather tons of information from all across the globe. Governments also utilize the Internet to present their positions on major issues to their citizens and to other countries. One such issue is environmentally focused: How do countries present themselves in terms of climate change awareness? Jill Capotosto, a senior Honors Fellow, is conducting research to learn the answer.

Capotosto is an Environmental Studies and Strategic Communications double major. She took an internship with Environment Texas, an advocacy group in Austin, her hometown. There she became very interested in how people talk about the environment; specifically she wondered how messages are created for the general public. By incorporating her interests in international affairs, Capotosto thought of a thesis research project comparing different countries' government environmental websites and how they present climate change.

Capotosto has partnered with Dr. Barbara Miller, an Assistant Professor of Communications, for her thesis research. She decided on four countries to compare: Norway, China, Costa Rica and the United States. These four countries have different levels of environmental performance along with very different cultures. Capotosto is using two scales to judge the countries' methods of communicating about climate change. The individual vs. collective scale ranks countries based on individual-focused activities, such as doing things for self vs. doing

things for a common good. Masculine vs. femininity ranks countries based on levels of focus on achievement and success or nurturing. Capotosto also is looking at how the countries' websites discuss the blame or causes of climate change, their levels of response, general themes and environmental values. This cross-cultural analysis is far from over; Capotosto is still researching and plans to finish in March 2014.

Capotosto states that this research has helped shape her future career goals and interests. Working with Environment Texas "alerted my interest in research...it solidified my interest in government speech on climate change." For the future, Capotosto is considering working around climate change, either in policy analysis or crafting climate policy.



Jill Capotosto

photograph provided by Jill Capotosto

What's Coming Up?

October 23rd Campus Sustainability Day

Day to recognize the innovation of sustainability on our campus. Participate in the [Sustainability Walking Tour](#).
Campus-wide

November Recycling Month

Stay tuned with the Office of Sustainability to learn more about recycling and recognize National Recycling week, Nov. 11-17.

October 24th National Food Day

Join ARAMARK for a local lunch in celebration of National Food Day.
Colonnades, 11am-2pm

Enterprise CarShare

by Michele Guthrie

This semester Elon adopted a new car-sharing service to replace the Zipcar program. [Enterprise CarShare](#) provides lower vehicle rental rates and a local service team to maintain the vehicles. Four fuel efficient vehicles are available for use, and reservations can be made online 24/7 for hourly, daily or overnight usage.

Car-sharing is ideal for students who do not have a vehicle on campus or faculty and staff who carpool or bike to campus and need to use a car during the day and/or for short business trips. The Enterprise CarShare program at Elon currently has over 190 approved members.

Zipcar members have the opportunity to join Enterprise CarShare for free through mid-November. Students without



Zipcar membership can join the Enterprise CarShare program for a \$35 annual membership fee, which includes \$35 in driving credits.

Faculty without Zipcar membership can join the Enterprise CarShare program for a \$25 application fee. Faculty and staff using the program for business use must be on the university's approved driver list. To inquire about the approved driver list, contact Valerie Cheek. To have a department established in the Enterprise CarShare system for business use, contact [Elaine Durr](#).

Semester Highlights

photographs provided by Elon University, Jessica Bilecki and Michele Guthrie



1. The Numen Lumen Pavillion received LEED Silver certification. 2. Students assisted with composting at orientation weekend events. 3. Students committed to reduce energy at College Coffee during POWERless. 4. Elon opened the first electric vehicle charging station located behind McMichael Science Center. 5. Corinne Haywood '15, Michele Guthrie '14, and Emily Forinash '14 attended the 2013 AASHE Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. 6. More than 2,000 pounds of waste were diverted from the landfill during orientation weekend.