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ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

New Recycling Programs

By: Michael Ebaugh

Thin Plastics

Elon University recently partnered with the local Food Lion to launch thin plastics recycling in an effort to expand recycling options and reduce waste on campus. These bins are located in Moseley Center and residential neighborhood offices, and accept the items listed below. All items should be clean and dry.

Include

- Grocery bags and produce bags
- Food storage bags
- Plastic air pillows and bubble wrap
- Paper towel and bathroom tissue wrap
- Case wrap

Do Not Include

- Candy bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Six-pack rings
- Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- Pre-washed salad mix bags
- Frozen food bags

Textiles

In addition to thin plastics recycling, Elon University has partnered with Green Zone, a local North Carolina company that helps communities divert textiles from landfill waste into reusable goods. We encourage you to stop by and drop off your unwanted textiles for them to be reused or turned into a new product. Bins can be found in Moseley Center as well as in residential neighborhood offices.

Textiles include: cloth, fabric, natural or synthetic materials used to make clothing, clothing accessories (e.g., shoes, belts) and household items (e.g., towels, curtains). Any clothing or household textile is accepted as long as it is clean and dry. Worn, torn or stained items are accepted.



Faculty Spotlight: Randy Piland

By: Kaitlynn Dixon

Randy Piland, Chair & Senior Lecturer within the Communication Design department in the School of Communications, has worked diligently throughout the years to incorporate sustainability into the classes he offers, both on campus and abroad. Specifically, within his Corporate Publishing course, Professor Piland designates the class's final project to creating an infographic using data from various topics connected to sustainability. Throughout the years, these have ranged from ocean pollution to sustainable prison complexes, and at the end of the semester, the best designed graphics are sent to the Office of Sustainability to be utilized around campus. Going



further than educational initiatives for sustainability on campus, Piland also blends communications with sustainability in a global context by leading iMedia classes in Panama, Guatemala, and Cuba. These courses focus on creating interactive websites for organizations that use sustainable and organic farming practices; restoration methods for saving architecture, art, and culture; and groups that help save marine wildlife.

Professor Piland's interest in sustainability first stemmed from his time as a Boy Scout. He has cultivated a growing appreciation for environmentalism and attention for growing environmental concerns since his high school days. In 2014 Piland was selected for the Sustainability Faculty Scholars program, which is an annual program for a small cohort of faculty members from a variety of disciplines who exhibit a compelling interest in sustainability and are committed to teaching it in their courses. By combining the field of communications with sustainability, Professor Piland has shown the importance of prioritizing sustainability throughout his own area of expertise in media and advertising. His work also creates awareness for sustainability in general and how his students can inform the public in order to address the issues facing us.

Staff Spotlight: Paul Tongsri

By: Bella Martin



Paul Tongsri, Director of Student Care and Outreach, seeks out opportunities for improved sustainability in his daily life and adapts his habits to reduce his impact. At another institution, he noticed an initiative to centralize and separate waste stations and expressed an interest in implementing this at the Center for Leadership. Tongsri connected with the Office of Sustainability and Dave Worden, the Director of Environmental Services. Together they addressed all the practical and economic concerns of removing individual office trash cans and establishing centralized compost, recycling, and landfill bins for the building. The Center for Leadership eagerly accepted this change to their daily routines. They also entirely

Staff Spotlight Cont.

switched from disposable utensils to silverware, which is collected and washed by office members at the end of every week. “Ultimately the goal would be to reduce the number of waste stations we have,” said Tongsri.

Tongsri is always evaluating his lifestyle, at work and at home, and striving to be more sustainable. At home he uses compostable trash bags, separates his recycling and compost, and is even adding solar panels to his roof. He makes an effort to inspire his children by “getting them involved in service and teaching them to have sustainable habits as they grow up.” Tongsri constantly refines his habits to create a system in his own life that is sustainable and efficient. As a member of Elon’s Environmental Advisory Council, he connects his passion for working with students and his dedication to implementing sustainable systems. In his daily commitment to sustainability, Tongsri demonstrates the importance of individual action. He makes conscious choices in his own life and inspires others to do the same so that we can minimize our community’s resource consumption and increase waste reduction.

Student Spotlight: Robyn Lane

By: Keelan Baldwin

Robyn Lane is a senior public health and psychology double major who has a love for sustainable practices. She has always identified with the peace nature can provide whether that may be through horseback riding, gardening, or exploring new cultures. Robyn enrolled herself in Professor Michael Strickland’s Gardening course in Fall 2018. Robyn stated, “this course gave me a huge appreciation of how hard it is to grow food and the variability that exists within the environment that can affect the productivity of your crops”.



She enrolled in the Spring 2019 Gardening course since she wanted to continue expanding her knowledge of gardening. Today, she is the Teacher’s Assistant and the Gardening Club’s treasurer. Robyn can articulate her expertise for new students in the classroom and through the club. Additionally, she spent her summer working on Loy Farm fixing the irrigation system. She is immensely proud of her work since agriculture tends to be a male dominated field that involves intense manual labor. Robyn said, “it does involve manual labor, but that does not mean that I could not do it”. She challenged her academic mind by conducting research on the maintenance of gardening at Loy Farm. Her research has sparked the interest of Klondike Seeding Company. The company has become involved in her research by using Loy Farm as a test subject. Robyn plans to remain resilient and dedicated to sustainable practices after she leaves Elon and for the rest of her life.

GET INVOLVED

Submit to the Database!

What is it?

Online platform of past or current student projects related to sustainability

Why submit?

This is an opportunity to showcase your work and offer research ideas to interested undergraduates

How to submit:

Either e-mail Keelan Baldwin (kbaldwin7@elon.edu) for assistance or:

1. Go to "[The Sustainability Projects Database](#)"
2. Log in with Elon username & password
3. *Click* "To add a project click here"



Contributors

Elaine Durr
Director of Sustainability

Kelly Harer
Assistant Director of Sustainability for Education and Outreach

Keelan Baldwin '20
Outreach Intern

Kaitlynn Dixon '21
Sustainability Intern

Michael Ebaugh '20
Waste Reduction Intern

Gibson Field '21
Communications Intern

Bella Martin '20
Volunteer Coordinator



Elon has partnered with UCapture, a green-tech company that funds environmental projects and applies coupon codes, at no cost to you, when you shop with over 7,500 online stores.

How Does It Work?

When you shop using UCapture, partner stores pay commissions. UCapture uses 66% of these commissions toward high-quality, third-party verified carbon offset projects, which are then retired in Elon's name, reducing Elon's carbon footprint.

Follow These Steps to Utilize UCapture

Step 1: Visit www.ucapture.com/elon

Step 2: Click 'Add UCapture' to install the browser extension on your computer and set-up your account

Step 3: Activate UCapture when you shop with 7,500+ partner stores

Campus Sustainability Week Winners

Neighborhood Winner

- Danieley Center

Faculty and Staff

- 1st: Kelsey Bitting
- 2nd: Ashton Croft
- 3rd: Barb Carlton

Students

- 1st: Grace Meyer
- 2nd: Paola Kalb
- 3rd: Jakob Reuter