

**2011-2012**

# Campus Sustainability at SLU



**Annual Report**

**Saint Louis University**

**2011-2012**

## **2011-2012 Annual Report - Campus Sustainability**

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## **Executive Summary**

At Saint Louis University, a vital partnership developed between the Center for Sustainability and Facilities Services to advance various dimensions of sustainability on campus. This partnership and close cooperation has helped the University to embrace sustainability as an ongoing, holistic and interdisciplinary venture, which is being integrated into the University's vision.

Sustainability encourages departments, schools, organizations, etc. to consider their actions and balance their efforts in relation to the bigger picture. It breaks down walls or silos and creates greater unity in functioning for the common good. As the topic of sustainability has seen increased traction across the country and in the higher education sector, Saint Louis University has taken the opportunity to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. The University aims to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency and become a better steward of the environment. Although there are many different sustainability efforts that have occurred on campus, they were not always identified or promoted to the University community or external partners.

Saint Louis University has increased its focus on sustainability during the past few years. Many of the activities have happened due to the increased attention on sustainability based on the University's strategic plan, Facilities Services' strategic plan, the introduction of the Center for Sustainability and increased expectations by SLU students.

In this first edition of our campus sustainability annual report, we will primarily showcase the efforts of the Center for Sustainability and Facilities Services. The intention is to increase the communication and transparency of the ongoing efforts to make SLU more sustainable. With all of the strides made during the past year, many new faces, ideas, and accolades have come together, building the momentum to create and enhance a better SLU for today and for the future.

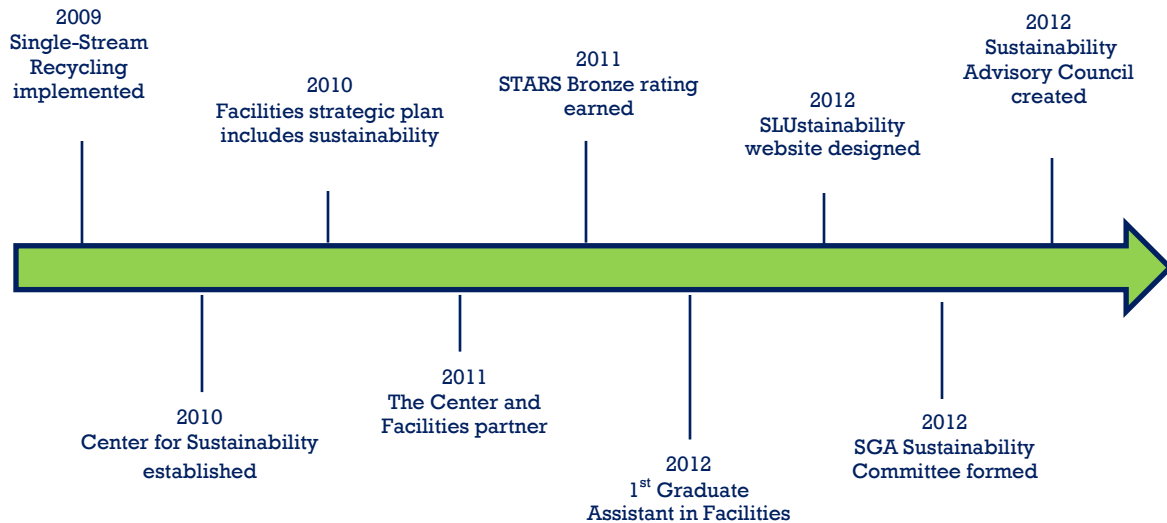
## Background

### Sustainability Defined

Sustainability can be defined as, “Meeting the needs of today’s generation without compromising the potential for future generations to do the same.” (United Nations, 1987)

Sustainability is foremost an ethical framework for daily decisions to be aligned with a shared long-term vision for stability. The “Triple Bottom Line” (TBL) consists of three Ps: profit, people and planet. It aims to measure the financial, social and environmental performance of the institution or development over a period of time. Only an institution that considers the TBL is taking into account the full cost involved in doing business. A focus on sustainability allows us to bring together the University community and break down silos to ensure that SLU becomes known for its consideration of the Triple Bottom Line.

### Timeline



## Collaboration

Much of the advances in sustainability within the past year could not have been accomplished without the heightened awareness and communication among members of the campus community on the topic of sustainability. Saint Louis University recognizes that creating and sustaining an environmentally responsible campus requires the commitment and engagement of *all* stakeholders. To that end, numerous partnerships have grown during the year that will position Saint Louis University to make enormous strides in the future.

### AASHE STARS – Bronze Rating

In October 2011, Saint Louis University earned a Bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (**AASHE**). The association's Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System program, more commonly known as **STARS**, recognizes colleges' and universities' efforts in not just eco-friendliness, but also social and economic sustainability.



The Center for Sustainability collaborated with Facilities Services and numerous other departments on campus to assemble a comprehensive sustainability assessment that earned Saint Louis University national recognition in addition to the Bronze STARS rating. The **SLU STARS report** is publicly available through AASHE's website. STARS tracks sustainability efforts and achievements across four primary categories: education and research, operations, planning and engagement, and innovation.

## Education & Research

### The Center for Sustainability

#### Organization

##### *BANPU Endowed Chair*

In 2011 the Banpu Endowed Chair was established with a \$2 million gift from Banpu Public Company Limited of Thailand. This generous donation broke the record as the largest international gift in SLU's



history and enabled the Center for Sustainability to begin the exciting search for its new leader. The person selected for this prestigious position will be expected to build and manage the vibrant multidisciplinary graduate program in sustainability and master's in urban planning and real estate development, build a robust research portfolio, enhance relations with a variety of organizations operating in the energy/sustainability sector, and build local, national, and global partnerships.

##### *Expansion of the Center for Sustainability*

In spring 2012 it was announced that the Urban Planning and Real Estate Development Program (UPRED) would move from Public Policy Studies to the Center as a second degree program. Two faculty members, Dr. Sarah Coffin and Dr. Joanna Ganning, would transfer to the Center starting July 1, 2012. With an increased emphasis on sustainability within planning programs, this move positions both degree programs to share resources and to provide the only planning program housed in a sustainability center. Both Dr. Coffin and Dr. Ganning will bring grants to the Center and will partner with other faculty who teach in the Center for new grant submissions in FY13. Additionally the Center for Environmental Sciences, which is directed by Dr. Jack Fishman (Earth and Atmospheric Sciences) and co-directed by Dr. Jason Knouft (Biology), was scheduled for a July 1, 2012, move to the Center to further enhance research efforts. Drs. Fishman and Knouft will hold secondary appointments in the Center. The Center embarked on three faculty searches, two for assistant professors and one for the Banpu chair, to expand the faculty assigned to the Center. A grants administrator position and an administrative assistant were also scheduled to be hired in FY13.

## Programming

### *Accelerated Master's Program*

In February 2012 the Center for Sustainability announced the official launch of its Accelerated Master's Degree in Sustainability. The accelerated degree gives undergraduate students the opportunity to get a head start on graduate coursework in sustainability. Exceptionally qualified undergraduate students can begin taking courses in the department during their junior and senior years. Students can complete up to one full year of graduate coursework prior to entering the program.

### *The First Master's Degrees in Sustainability – Inaugural Graduating Class*

The Center for Sustainability graduated its first class in May 2012. As leaders in the growing field of sustainability, many of these individuals have already gone on to make significant contributions to sustainability in the fields of higher education, business and technology, engineering, and government. The inaugural class was instrumental in helping to shape the sustainability degree program at Saint Louis University, and the Center for Sustainability is grateful for their energy and enthusiasm and proud of their accomplishments. The inaugural graduates are:

<b>Master of Science in Sustainability</b>	<b>Master of Arts in Sustainability</b>
Thomas David Edwards	Brett Hector Markwort
Gary Dishno	Katherine Michele McAnnar
Annsih Samu KesMaa-Serud	Sarah Michelle Vilimek
Laura J. Mannix	
Michael Charles Milster	
Eric Joseph Mueller	
Maurice K. N. Muia	
David E. Webb	
Deborah A. Williams	
Michael David Wohlstadter	

### *Curriculum Development*

As with any new program, the curriculum continues to evolve. In the summer of 2012, the Center for Sustainability reengineered the curriculum based on extensive research on best practices in sustainability education at other leading institutions and a thorough analysis of



market demand. Since its inception in 2010, the Center for Sustainability has surveyed its students and faculty members to gain valuable feedback on the program. This input helped the Center to restructure the curriculum to be more competitive in the burgeoning sustainability market while being sensitive to the needs and interests of students and instructors. The Center now offers three graduate degree programs: a Master of Arts in Sustainability, a Master of Science in Sustainability, and a Master of Arts in Urban Planning and Real Estate Development.

## Research

### *Sustainability Research Fund*

The Center for Sustainability established the Sustainability Research Fund (SRF) to support promising research projects that have strong potential to attract external grant funding. Consistent with the Center's mission, the Sustainability Research Fund supports projects that promote multi-disciplinary approaches aimed at first discovering the causal factors of sustainability-related issues and, second, identifying integrated solutions. The first SRF grant call was issued in June 2012 and received more than a dozen responses.

### *The St. Louis Ozone Garden*

Located in Forest Park, the St. Louis Ozone Garden is a featured activity within Saint Louis University's Center for Environmental Sciences, now part of the Center for Sustainability. It has been established as an education and public outreach project that demonstrates the impact of air pollution on living systems. In collaboration with the St Louis Science Center (SLSC) and the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Ozone Garden was planted in May 2012 in a highly trafficked location near the entrance to the SLSC's McDonnell Planetarium . This garden is a prototype for NASA's Air Quality Applications Science Team, and it is envisioned that similar gardens will be planted in other locations in future years. Another component of this garden and future gardens is the collection of high-quality ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and meteorological data that can be used to provide scientific insight into the relationship between high O<sub>3</sub> concentrations and foliar damage.





## Partnership & Engagement

### *Sustainability Partnership with the City of St. Louis*

Thanks in large part to support from the Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University, the City of St. Louis was chosen as one of only 10 cities nationally to participate in the development of the STAR Community Index software platform, a tool that local governments across the globe will use to help create the sustainable cities of the future.



From left, Catherine Werner, sustainability director for the City of St. Louis, John Sondag, president of AT&T Missouri, Tim Keane, former executive director of the SLU Center for Sustainability, Mayor Francis Slay and Paul Dickinson, executive chairman of the Carbon Disclosure Project, announced a research project to test a new sustainability software platform designed to help the city develop a comprehensive sustainability plan.

The developing organization was founded in 1990 as the “International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives” (ICLEI) at the United Nations' first "World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future.” It now goes by the name “Local Governments for Sustainability” but has retained the “ICLEI” acronym. Since its founding, ICLEI has grown to represent more than 1,200 local governments across 70 countries in sustainable development initiatives such as the creation of the STAR Community Index software.

The city's participation in the STAR Community Index project is being supported by the Center for Sustainability at SLU with seed funding, as well as hands-on research through the "REAL Partners" program, an initiative that provides research support from the Center's graduate students. The STAR Community Index software will help the city's sustainability efforts through the measuring and tracking of local sustainability assets and barriers, with the goal of integrating the data into a long-term sustainable development plan for the region.

### *Global Reporting Initiative*

Global Reporting Initiative's Focal Point USA held its first Conference in St. Louis on May 22-23, 2012, with the support of Saint Louis University's Center for Sustainability, the Emerson Ethics Center, and the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.



GRI Focal Point USA provides guidance and support to local organizations, driving GRI's mission to make sustainability reporting standard practice. According to research, more than 75 percent of the top 100 companies in the United States report on their corporate responsibility performance. There are three key drivers behind this statistic: ethical considerations, economic considerations, and innovation and learning.

Herman Mulder, Chairman of Global Reporting Initiative, kick-started the conference with a talk about the future of reporting. More than 300 delegates, speakers and students gathered to share stories and experiences, explore trends in reporting and gain new expertise. GRI master classes helped to further equip delegates with the practical knowledge needed to advance sustainability reporting in their organization, while providing SLU students with valuable skills to advance their studies and professional pursuits in growing field of sustainability.

#### *Webster University Sustainability Conference*

As a hub for sustainability education, research and engagement, SLU Center for Sustainability students, faculty and staff often participate in sustainability-related conferences and events throughout the St. Louis region. In April 2012, Webster University in Webster Groves, MO, accepted a Center for Sustainability-authored presentation titled, "The Gateway to Green: Sustainability Transformation at the Speed of Light," for its inaugural Sustainability Conference. The theme for the conference was the state of sustainability in higher education and its role in society and the advancement of responsible global citizenship.

David Webb, Program Manager for the Center and graduate of the inaugural master's class in sustainability, delivered the presentation. The presentation chronicled the evolution of sustainability at Saint Louis University and highlighted key achievements within the last couple of years. Included in these achievements was Saint Louis University's completion of the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) in October 2011, which earned SLU a bronze rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the opportunity to represent SLU on the national stage at the 2011 AASHE Conference and Expo in Pittsburgh.

Also representing Saint Louis University was Beth-Anne Yakubu, Assistant Director of the Center for Sustainability, who served as a panelist in the Sustainability Reporting Breakout Session. Maurice Muia, another graduate of the inaugural master's class in sustainability,

presented a poster highlighting his research into alternative fuel production using discarded sugar cane stocks in Haiti.

### *Sustainable Disaster Recovery Conference*

In May 2012 the Center for Sustainability began laying the groundwork for a national sustainability conference to be held October 29 and 30. What started with a brief conversation with Daniel Wallach, co-founder and executive director of Greensburg GreenTown and GreenTown Joplin, blossomed into a full-scale, national conference with more than 40 speakers and hundreds of registrations.

A collaborative effort between the Center for Sustainability, Greensburg Greentown and GreenTown Joplin, the conference is designed to help disaster-stricken towns rebuild strong, livable communities by weaving the principles of sustainability and energy efficiency into the recovery effort. It will serve as a forum for all towns to learn more about disaster preparedness and how they might incorporate “green” design and development into efforts to renovate and revive their own communities.



The two-day conference will bring together leaders in the fields of disaster response and recovery, government, urban planning, design, public and private enterprise, green building and sustainability. It features an impressive lineup of speakers and exhibitors eager to share stories and resources designed to help individuals and communities rebuild efficiently in the wake of a natural disaster and to be better prepared for any type of calamitous event in the future.

The Center for Sustainability intends for this to become an annual event and the premier national/international conference for sustainable disaster recovery. More details about the conference are available on the Center for Sustainability’s website at <http://green.slu.edu>.

## Operations

### Awareness

#### SLUustainability Website

During the spring of 2012, the sustainability awareness action team created a website designed around sustainability under the Facilities Services web page. The intention of the SLUustainability website is to ensure that the operational aspects of campus sustainability are made visible to the university community. The website includes information regarding: Buildings and Grounds, Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction, Purchasing, Utilities, Transportation, Environmental Health and Safety, Initiatives, News, Tips, FAQs, Reports and Awards and a Calendar of Events. To visit the page go to [fs.slu.edu](http://fs.slu.edu) and click on *SLUustainability* in the navigation bar on the left.



#### Digital Media & Marketing

##### *Universitas Article*

In the past, Facilities Services operated mostly behind the scenes. This spring, Facilities Services partnered with MarCom to develop an article in *Universitas*. The article titled, “Sustainability: Saint Louis University is Going Green,” demonstrates some of Facilities Services’ sustainable initiatives, plans and activities occurring across campus.

##### *Digital Signage*

Digital signage was introduced this past spring to help broadcast Facilities Services sustainability tips, facts and messages across campus. This information was a first step in the process of getting the sustainability message to students, faculty and staff. Signage was posted in the Residence Halls, Busch Student Center, Simon Rec and Des Peres Hall. More signs will be utilized going forward.



## Ongoing Efforts

### Energy Reduction

Facilities Services completed a number of energy-saving projects this year, including lighting retrofits and HVAC system upgrades. LED retrofits were performed in Tegeler Hall - Carlo Auditorium and DuBoug Hall's Sinquefield stateroom. These two projects produced a total wattage reduction of 17,095. In addition, time clocks were changed to astronomical clocks, which produced a total wattage reduction of 270,047 watts and approximately \$6,000 year in savings.

All mechanical systems have been retro-commissioned throughout both Morrissey and the Allied Health buildings.

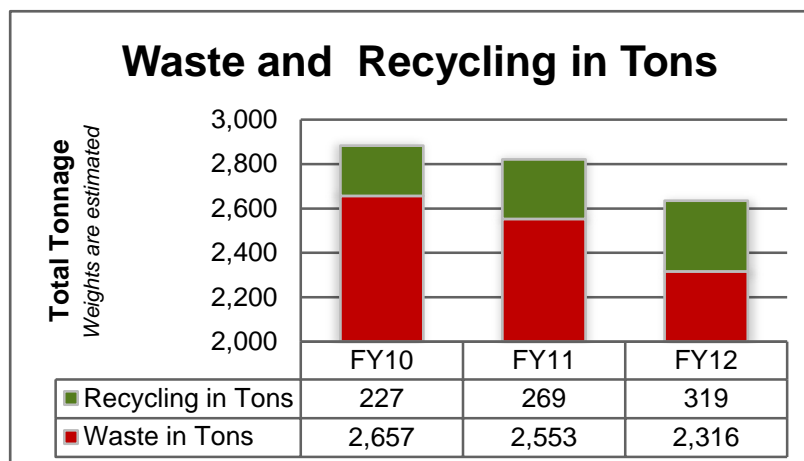
### Waste Minimization

#### *Waste and Recycling Metrics*

Saint Louis University's Grounds and Custodial departments have been hard at work trying to increase awareness of recycling services on campus. Each year, an increase in SLU's recycling tonnage reduces total waste sent to the landfill, as well as a decrease in waste hauling costs, saving the University money while helping the planet.

During the past year, Facilities Services has increased overall waste diversion on campus from 11 percent to nearly 20 percent at year's end, when including all materials that have been recycled and reused. SLU has increased its recycling tonnage by 92 percent during the past four years. In FY12 alone there was a 30 percent increase in recycling tonnage collected.

The following table shows the breakdown of waste diversion on campus from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012:



Diversion Category	Tons Diverted
Reuse – Distribution Services	56
Student Move Out	2
Yard Compost	21
Lamps and Ballasts	2
Electronic Waste	24
Construction Materials Recycled	24
WM - Recycling	319
WM - Garbage	2,316

The Saint Louis University community was able to take the equivalent of 238 cars off the road monthly using comingled (single-stream) recycling.\*

\* Equivalent calculated through StopWaste Partnership Greenhouse Gas Reduction Calculator at <http://www.stopwaste.us/partnership/calculator/>

*RecycleMania 2012*

SLU's participation in the national *RecycleMania Challenge* at the beginning of 2012 marked the University's second year in the challenge. RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. During a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data, which are then ranked according to the school that collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita or has the highest recycling rate.

For 2012, SLU posted a 20 percent waste diversion rate during the competition and in the following categories placed:



- **Ninth out of ten Missouri schools with 21.08 percent** in the Grand Champion category, which combines trash and each of the core recyclable materials to determine a school's recycling rate as a percentage of its overall waste generation
- **Fifth out of nine with 11.24 lbs/person** in the per Capita category, where schools compete to see which will collect the largest combined amount of paper, cardboard and bottles and cans on a per person basis.
- **Third out of ten with 190,860 pounds in** the Gorilla Prize category, which recognizes schools that recycle the highest gross tonnage of combined paper, cardboard and bottles and cans regardless of campus population.



## Electronics Recycling Drive



In our effort to promote sustainability, Facilities Services and Athletics teamed up with Midwest Recycling to offer a FREE electronics/appliance recycling drive for the SLU community. This event marked the second year Saint Louis University has hosted an e-waste drive for the campus. Midwest Recycling Company recycles "anything with a cord" and even collected TVs and monitors for free this year.

A total weight of 48,791 pounds (or 24 tons) of electronics equipment was kept from entering a landfill. This is an increase of more than 36,000 pounds over last year's event total of 12,350 pounds (or 6 tons).

## Initiatives

### *"No Idling" Implemented*

Facilities Services, in partnership with Clean Air Saint Louis, is working to improve the air quality in the St. Louis area. In 2010, the City of St. Louis passed an ordinance (612.340) reducing the allowable idling limit from 10 minutes down to five minutes.

It is a public health hazard to allow vehicle engines to idle for any length of time. With this in mind, 'No Idling' signs were placed on campus. The installation targets campus loading docks and curb cut-outs, where most offenses occur. An additional aspect of the initiative instructs all vendor vehicles to also adhere to the ordinance while on the Saint Louis University campus. Current sign installations can be found at the following locations:



Earhart Dock	Earhart Parking Area	Schwitalla Dock	Salus Dock	Pius Library Loop
Salus/Water Tower Inn Loop	DuBourg Hall cut-out	BSC Loading Dock	Searls	DRC Loading Dock
Georgetown Loop	Ritter	College Church	Bannister House	McDonnell Douglas



### *Eco-clamshell Dining Program*

In January 2012, Billiken Dining Services began a program that offers the option of purchasing a reusable to-go container at both Griesedieck and Reinert locations. Instead of using a traditional disposable container, diners make a one-time purchase of an eco-clamshell for \$5. This allows them to take their meal on the go in an environmentally friendly way. When they return they just bring their container back and exchange it for a clean one, ensuring a sustainable loop that keeps to-go containers from entering landfills.

## **Projects and Initiatives**

### Pius Library Renovation

During the renovation of Pius XII Memorial Library, Distribution Services partnered with various organizations, such as St. Louis Green and St. Louis Modern Chinese School, to ensure that the outdated furniture was donated and put to good use. Items have even been used to furnish



classrooms of a new school and have been kept out of area landfills, diverting 67,342 pounds of potential waste. In addition to furniture, the Billiken Construction Crew installed 9,000 square feet of PatCraft EcoWorx carpet and recycled 48,600 pounds of metal, 1,845 pounds of electronic ballasts and 2,271 mercury-containing fluorescent lamps over the course of the renovation.

### Solar Panel Installation

Facilities Services is looking into opportunities for placing solar powered panels on various buildings around campus. In an effort to learn more about various programs and vendors, SLU sent a team of employees to participate on a solar tour of St. Louis organized by MOSEIA (Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association). Many different programs exist today for Missouri businesses to take advantage of rebates and buy back incentives through the federal and local level. SLU specifically is looking into a leasing option to strategically place panels on designated buildings around campus. In FY13, Facilities Services will prepare to send out a request for proposal on this initiative.

## Exterior Recycling Campaign

As Saint Louis University creates a more sustainable campus environment, the need to develop a fresh comprehensive recycling plan became evident. Facilities Services understands the importance of waste diversion, and a plan for the implementation of exterior recycling has been developed. This project has been a collaborative effort and is set for its debut by the end of November 2012. Facilities Services is actively working to obtain recycling receptacles and determine their strategic placement on campus.

## Recognition

### Green Purchasing Award



During the Environmental Awareness seminar held on April 26, Jeff Macko, Director of Grounds and Custodial Services, accepted an award on behalf of the University from SCA Tissue, the University's paper towel and toilet tissue vendor. The award was to honor Custodial Services' commitment to the purchase and usage of EcoLogo™ certified paper and tissue products. EcoLogo™ is a third party certification program managed by TerraChoice and launched by the Canadian government in 1998 to certify environmentally sustainable products.

The EcoLogo™ program is an international product certification program that is recognized as a Type-I Eco-label by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), certifying environmental leaders using sustainable products. To receive certification, products are compared to others within specific categories and scientifically tested by relevant criteria throughout their lifecycle.

For more information, visit <http://www.slu.edu/facilities-services-home/slustainability/purchasing>

### GreenGuard Certification

Since the beginning of 2012, a total of six buildings on campus have received GreenGuard Certification. The *GreenGuard* program, overseen by the GreenGuard Environmental Institute, is an indoor air quality certification that incorporates the Standard for Cleaning Products and Systems.



Certification can only be obtained if the cleaning products used in the building have met the

strict criteria for chemical emissions limits. Building audits are done to ensure that the cleaning products, training and systems are being utilized appropriately and effectively.

Saint Louis University has partnered with Johnson Diversey to implement the Healthy High Performance Cleaning program (products, tools and procedures), which enables the buildings to meet the requirements for certification. This partnership and program will continue to be implemented across campus as part of the ongoing effort to increase indoor air quality on campus.

For more information, visit <http://www.slu.edu/facilities-services-home/slustainability/purchasing>

## Integration

### Applied Learning

#### *Graduate Assistantship*

In January, Facilities Services hired their first ever Graduate Assistant, Caeden Sweet. The position was established to bridge education and operations, with the hopes that in doing so Saint Louis University would increase campus sustainability. As Facilities began to develop more sustainable practices into the strategic planning process, the door opened for a partnership between the Center for Sustainability and Facilities Services. This partnership has been fruitful with the addition of the Graduate Assistant position, allowing for an increased focus on the ways in which Saint Louis University can further its sustainability efforts.

#### *Sustainability in Action*

The goal of the graduate degree program in sustainability is to provide an integrated learning environment that emphasizes sustainability as a unique discipline. The program takes a systems-based approach to understanding the complex and interconnected challenges that cut across environment, economy and society. Critical to the success of such a program is the application of knowledge to address real world



From left, Michael Vladkov, Caeden Sweet, Amber Jackson, David Webb Program Manager of the SLU Center for Sustainability, Randall Lewis of Walsh & Associates Inc., Laura Lock and Alex Minnella, get a first-hand look at the solar array atop Walsh & Associates Inc.' building during a field excursion offered by the Center for Sustainability for Master's of Sustainability students.

problems. Courses in the program such as the Capstone and Field Solutions provide opportunities for students to partner with local institutions to apply what they are learning in the classroom.

The Center also strives to provide opportunities for students to see sustainability in action by organizing field trips and tours related to the sustainability topics covered in the curriculum. Past events have included field trips to a superfund site in Weldon Springs, the Audubon Society in West Alton, IL and the Chesterfield Valley to examine flood levies. In the fall of 2011, the Center organized a full-day tour of Monsanto's Biotechnology and Breeding & Agronomics facilities to learn more about one of the world's largest agriculture companies is doing in support of sustainable food systems.

On March 10, 2012, Randall Lewis, Director of Operations for Walsh & Associates Inc., took SLU sustainability graduate students on a tour of his company's "green" warehouse. Students had the opportunity to see and ask questions about the 100 kW solar array on the roof, as well as the Solatubes, energy inverter, HVAC Units, and low-energy lighting fixtures employed in and around the warehouse. Randall's work with Walsh & Associates demonstrates that sustainability and economic viability, with a little help from technology, are not mutually exclusive concepts.

### *Solar Golf Cart*

Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology hosts the S.U.R.E. program, a research experience for undergrad students. Through this program, Parks College and Facilities Services teamed up to tackle the challenge of making one of SLU's golf carts solar powered. It is through partnering in these projects that both students and the University benefit. Now Facilities Services has a *green* golf cart to showcase its commitment to sustainability on campus.



## Campus Community

### *Student Government*

Facilities Services partnered with SGA representative Beth Alberty to develop a new committee in SGA (Student Government Association) focused on sustainability. The intention of this committee is to unify the green-minded students on campus into one group. The chair of this committee will also have a spot on the newly created Sustainability Advisory Council.

### *The Sustainable Planet Learning Community*

Facilities Services partnered with a new learning community on campus designed around sustainability. This group was created to establish a focus of a floor in Reinert Hall for students to actively engage in sustainability efforts on campus and teach them about what they can do. A “Greening your Residence Hall” webinar was arranged between Facilities Services and this community to learn more about what can be done. To further increase engagement, Facilities Services has become a stakeholder in this group’s planning process.

## Strategic Planning

### University-Wide

This year, the University-wide strategic plan has identified several critical success factors (CSF), one of them being CSF-4, Campus Infrastructure and Environment Index. A major element of the CSF-4 is the focus on Environmental Sustainability, which consists of a matrix that outlines the various factors that will help to determine how the University ranks on its sustainability efforts. The system used to determine this progress will be the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS).

### Facilities Services

When Facilities Services implemented the FY2011- FY2015 Strategic Plan, environmental sustainability was indicated as a key pursuit. In this process, Environmental Resource Optimization was defined as a strategic initiative. During this year, three action teams were re-organized to focus on sustainability: Integration, Initiatives and Awareness. For more

information on Facilities' strategic plan visit the web page at fs.slu.edu and click on *About Us* in the navigation bar on the left.

### *Sustainability Advisory Council*

The process of developing a Sustainability Advisory Council, a joint effort of the Vice President for Facilities Services and the Director of the Center for Sustainability, has been organized. The Council, which will consist of a diverse group of stakeholders University-wide, is charged with organizing and directing the SLU community in sustainability endeavors. This venture will allow collaboration and unity to increase among the faculty, staff and students around this shared, common goal. The Council will be co-chaired by the Vice President for Facilities Services and Director of the Center for Sustainability. Next year's agenda will focus on the Council's working groups and the prioritization of campus initiatives.

### *Sustainability Logo*

The Center for Sustainability and Facilities Services are partnering with MarCom to develop a new University-wide sustainability logo. Although both entities have employed their own logos in the past, it was realized that a unifying logo would be beneficial, serving as a recognizable symbol of University-wide collaboration around sustainability efforts. The new logo, which is still being drafted, aims to represent sustainability across campus in a way that inspires and increases pride in Saint Louis University's dedication to addressing the pressing challenges of our time.

## **Engagement**

### *Environmental Awareness Seminars*

Throughout the year, Facilities Services' sustainability awareness action team hosted multiple environmental sustainability seminars. The goal was to help educate the SLU community on what Facilities is doing to make SLU more environmentally friendly. Seminars were provided by Staples (office product provider) on how to be more sustainable in an office environment, Waste Management (waste and recycling hauler) on what to recycle, Xpedx (cleaning and paper supply provider) on green cleaning and sources of supplies, and finally with Ameren Missouri (utility provider) on how Ameren is being more energy conscious and what SLU can do to join the effort.

*Health and the Environment Speaker Series: An Introduction to Sustainability*

In the spring of 2012 the Center for Sustainability partnered with the School of Medicine and School of Public Health to assemble a panel of experts from Saint Louis University and the throughout the St. Louis region to discuss topics that affect health, communities and the natural environment. This speaker series explored the connections among medicine, public health and economics. Topics in this first series included heavy metal exposures in air and water, “green” health care and medical waste.



*Battle for the Boot*



Saint Louis University came out victorious in the first ever *Battle for the Boot* competition against Washington University. The two schools competed to collect the most unwanted shoes for donation to Shoeman Water Projects, an organization based in Fenton, MO that uses money gained from donated shoes to drill wells that provide clean water in Africa.

SLU collected 5,223 pounds of shoes, surpassing the original goal of 3,000. Combined with Washington University’s total of 4,996 pounds, the two schools together were able to donate 10,219 pounds, a new St. Louis record. The amount collected between the two schools alone allowed Shoeman Water Projects to drill a shallow well in the western part of Africa.

Starting with providing a source of clean water, residents receive hygiene education, sanitation and the ability to water their crops. In the *Battle for the Boot*, shoes are not just shoes but clean water, healthy food, education and hope!