ABOUT THIS REPORT

Davidson College’s 2011–12 Sustainability Report represents the work of student groups, academic departments, and campus staff—the college’s entire community—demonstrating the ways their efforts have yielded substantial change in and around Davidson. “Transition to impact,” a college-wide emphasis, aptly describes campus sustainability initiatives in 2012, as the college officially founded the Office of Sustainability and has seen major results from the Climate Action Plan.

The Office of Sustainability believes Davidson’s best ideas come from the students—so how can they be prepared to be innovative change makers both on and off campus? During its inaugural year, the office’s student programming focused on “transition to impact,” characterized by fostering knowledge, values, and skills so students can translate their learning into meaningful and informed action. This is demonstrated through four key programs: Sustainability Scholars, Eco-Reps, Green Grants, and school-year internships.

This report describes not only key programming spearheaded by the Office of Sustainability, but also incredible achievements of the Physical Plant, Environmental Studies Department, student organizations, and outstanding individuals.

Key parts of this annual report include:

- Letters from Vice President for Finance and Administration Ed Kania and Sustainability Fellow Allison Dulin
- Overview of Office of Sustainability programming
- Extensive updates on the four focus areas of our Climate Action Plan: Operations and Infrastructure, Transportation, Consumption and Waste, and Curriculum, Research, and Student Outreach
- Davidson students’ personal narratives about their roles in sustainability efforts
- A one-page projection of the good things to expect from Davidson in the future
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The 2011–12 academic year was an exciting time for Davidson College. Our multi-disciplinary Environmental Studies major and concentration, fueled by outstanding and committed faculty, continued to grow and to provide students with significant learning opportunities within and beyond the classroom. I am especially excited by the partnerships taking place among students, faculty, staff—including Physical Plant, Dining Services, and Civic Engagement—and alumni to expand our use of the campus and our broader community as a living laboratory for sustainability research.

Thanks to a generous gift from The Duke Endowment, we created the Office of Sustainability and are searching for our first director of sustainability. The office will be an important additional bridge between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the surrounding community to streamline sustainability initiatives, enhance our support for academic programs, and broaden Davidson’s sustainability presence on and beyond the campus.

We are preparing the land and infrastructure for the Davidson Farm. This is an amazing step toward increasing the amount of local and organic foods we serve without having to pass on any incremental costs to our students, and it does not displace any business from local farmers. The timing of the farm initiative has been accelerated through startup funds from The Duke Endowment.

Amidst the excitement, we know we need to communicate more broadly what is happening at Davidson College regarding sustainability. This inaugural annual report is an important step and symbolizes our ever-growing commitment to and celebration of the college’s commitment to sustainability. We hope it will serve as a resource for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and interested community members. I invite you to read it and share the excitement.

Sincerely,

Ed Kania
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Welcome to Davidson College’s 2011–12 Sustainability Report. This report, created by the Office of Sustainability, not only celebrates Davidson’s annual accomplishments, but also educates internal and external groups on Davidson’s sustainability initiatives. Over the past decade, Davidson students, faculty, staff, and community members have asked, “How can we build a more sustainable Davidson?” And recently, efforts toward sustainability have grown in impressive ways. Davidson College now has an Office of Sustainability, an extensive solar panel array, 4 LEED buildings, an Environmental Studies major, and a summer Sustainability Scholars program that places students with organizations across the city of Charlotte.

In 2007, Davidson College signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, which entered Davidson into a consortium of higher education institutions working to implement comprehensive plans in pursuit of climate neutrality. After signing this commitment, 34 Davidson students, faculty, and staff engaged in a rigorous process of generating a Climate Action Plan, which now serves as the college’s sustainability road map. This living document accelerates progress toward sustainability, and this progress is affirmed and celebrated in this report.

From 2011 to 2012, the Office of Sustainability focused efforts on an emerging college theme: transition to impact. Educational programs were designed to incorporate action, so students could experience and reflect upon real-world opportunities and challenges, while also making meaningful change. As a result, three new programs were created: Sustainability Scholars, Eco-Reps, and school-year internships. Additionally, the Green Grants program continued to provide seed money for innovative student projects.

“Transition to impact” also speaks to changes across campus. It is notable that Davidson is not applauding the accomplishments of one office, but the hard work and initiative of an entire community. This community is filled with inspiring change-makers. Alumni from our Sustainability Council generously support and advise campus sustainability efforts; talented Environmental Studies faculty prepare students to be well-informed advocates and problem solvers in this complex, interdisciplinary field of study; college staff—particularly in the Physical Plant—have contributed in a number of ways to the success of the Baker solar panel project and other facilities improvements. Additionally, student leaders model what it means to be effective activists for their community and infuse our initiatives with enthusiasm, perseverance, and creativity. This report tells the story of Davidson College’s collective efforts.

As always, we welcome your feedback on this report, our sustainability progress, and related issues.

Sincerely,

Allison Dulin
Sustainability Fellow
**Mission**

The Office of Sustainability catalyzes the development and implementation of policies and programs that support the triple bottom line of ecological integrity, economic prosperity, and social equity. The office strategically bridges efforts of students, faculty, staff, and the greater community to support collaborative and innovative approaches to sustainability.

**Goals**

- **Build knowledge, values, and skills** so students can fully participate in society as justice-oriented citizens
- **Cultivate a community of practice** to foster daily the behaviors and changes we wish to create in the world
- **Develop campus facilities** that serve as exemplars so others can learn about innovative sustainable systems and design
- **Bridge campus and community** to leverage the assets of both in a mutually beneficial manner
- **Enhance vocational preparedness** so students can translate their learning into a lifetime of leadership and service

**Sustainability Scholars (summer)**

Sustainability Scholars address critical sustainability issues through real-world, immersive summer projects. Working anywhere from skyscrapers in Charlotte to community gardens in food deserts, students integrate problem-solving skills through a wide range of community-based projects. Scholars also live communally in the Eco-House on campus, attend weekly sustainability workshops, keep a blog, and participate in group reflection sessions. The program provides scholars with a stipend and housing.

**Eco-Rep (fall)**

The Eco-Reps program trains incoming first-year students during their fall semester to be environmental leaders at Davidson College. Students learn about campus sustainability and apply their knowledge by leading peer education initiatives in the residence halls. Students go on behind-the-scene tours of the Baker Sports Complex solar panel installation and other campus facilities, participate in workshops, and learn firsthand from Davidson faculty and staff working on sustainability at Davidson.

**Green Grants (fall)**

Green Grants serve as seed funding for innovative sustainability projects. Students apply for the grants independently or work collaboratively with student organizations, faculty, or staff.

**Internships and Federal Work-Study**

The Office of Sustainability supports multiple federal work-study positions and internships. These students manage social media and communications, analyze energy and water data, create educational materials, work with local environmental organizations, and manage their own creative projects. Two interns each semester create projects focused on environmental justice in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region.
Supplemental Programming

The Office of Sustainability brings speakers to campus, hosts workshops on special issues, and coordinates community field trips. This past year, the office created an Environmental Justice Workshop Series, brought food activist and author Raj Patel to campus, hosted a sustainability career panel, and participated in a local farm tour. Students’ interests inform this programming, and leaders of student organizations are consulted for ideas.

Student Organizations

The Office of Sustainability advises and collaborates with student organizations across campus, including the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC), the Ecological-Cooperative House, Patterson Court Sustainability Council, Food Cub, and EcoTeam. These organizations focus students’ engagement with sustainability issues and catalyze many campus change efforts.

Climate Action Plan

As a member of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), Davidson College maintains a greenhouse gas inventory and follows its Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP serves as a strategic roadmap for the Office of Sustainability; as such, it informs all policy and programs. The CAP prescribes four focus areas: operations and infrastructure, transportation, consumption and waste, and curriculum, research, and student outreach.

The Sustainability Fellow convenes the Sustainability Council (alumni and community members) and the Sustainability Committee (staff, faculty, and students) to guide sustainability initiatives and maintain the commitment to the Climate Action Plan.

Contact Us

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Students view mountain top coal removal in Kentucky during a field trip to study coal mining and Appalachian culture.
Sustainability Scholars address critical sustainability issues through real-world, immersive summer projects. Working anywhere from skyscrapers in Charlotte to community gardens in food deserts, students integrate problem-solving skills through a wide range of community-based projects.

Through their projects this summer, students have:

- Created a plan for the City of Charlotte to implement an electric vehicles program
- Designed a sustainability village on behalf of the Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention
- Supported social entrepreneurial hub Packard Place in its goal to make the facility a living museum
- Worked to make healthy, sustainable food more accessible and affordable to low-income communities through community gardens and food stamp programs
- Launched a clean construction campaign with a local advocacy non-profit
- Utilized GIS to map sustainability features in Charlotte for use by Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte
- Analyzed Bank of America’s role and plan for a public-private energy reduction goal and explored the company’s commitment to growing demand for electric vehicle charging stations

Sharing Perspectives

Students are placed with community partners across many different sectors: corporate, government, and non-profit. They bring insights on the opportunities and challenges unique to their sector back to the group. Cross-sector sharing illuminates how these different organizations define and act upon sustainability, as well as how they can (and may already) serve as assets and allies for one another. Students also explore which sector best fits with their career preferences and goals.

Engaged Living

In educational institutions and in the workplace valuing the skills necessary to create a healthy community are too often forgotten. Therefore, students live intentionally with their group in the Eco-House and practice the skills necessary to build an inclusive community, constructively challenge each others’ worldviews, achieve deep levels of trust, and inspire creativity. This is not easy; building community may in fact be the hardest thing humans ever do. However, by practicing daily students can grow as compassionate and collaborative leaders, friends, and family members. And if students are going to build a more just and sustainable world—and work toward systemic change—it seems fitting to practice these values systematically in their own lives as well.

Enrichment activities this year included:

- Weekly peer-facilitated reflection meetings focused on exploring interpersonal relationships, worldviews, and personal challenges and successes
- Weekly community dinners
- Career panel and discussion
- Resumé workshop
- Meeting with Mayor Anthony Foxx ’93
- Three-day trip to Kentucky to learn about mountain top removal and socioeconomic inequalities in Appalachia
- Lunch with City Councilman John Autry, Environment Committee chair
- Smart growth and transportation workshop with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department
Meeting with Duke Energy Sustainability Director
Tour of the Charlotte Motor Speedway Landfill and recycling center
Workshop on local water issues with Catawba Riverkeepers
WordPress Web development training

Beyond the Nine-week Experience

The immersive project, coupled with extensive enrichment activities, are designed to transform students academically, professionally and personally, and ultimately, to provide the tools for students to translate their Davidson experience into a meaningful career.

The Scholars

Blake Candler ’13
(French, Philosophy minor)

Served as facilitator for the Sustainability Scholars program. During the program, Candler worked for the Charlotte City Market, where he designed a plan to implement an Electronic Benefits Transfer Program. This program will increase the market’s accessibility to lower-income customers and improve the health of the community while reducing Charlotte’s carbon footprint.

Claire Naisby ’12
(Environmental Science)

Graduated with honors in Environmental Science. In spring 2012, Naisby interned for the City of Charlotte on its energy and sustainability initiatives, creating a plan for electric vehicles in Charlotte. During the Sustainability Scholars program, she served as the Energy and Sustainability Intern with the city, working with staff to take an inventory of Charlotte’s green house gasses, develop an internal sustainability plan and report, and serve as a project manager for Charlotte’s electric vehicle charging stations.

Kaitlin Roberts ’13
(English)

Served as Patterson Court Sustainability co-president, an executive member of the Food Club, and as a student board member for the Davidson Farmers Market. Throughout the school year Roberts worked with SEED20, a social entrepreneurship project. During the summer she designed a user-friendly iPad tour of the entrepreneurial hub Packard Place, showcasing its building, its individual start-ups, and artwork in its gallery.

Hartman Saylor ’15
(Undecided)

Worked with Charlotte-based non-profit Clean Air Carolina, an advocacy group for air quality policy. He researched university climate action plans and clean construction policies, specifically David-
“My experience as a Sustainability Scholar at Bank of America has encouraged me to apply classroom knowledge to decipher and solve real-world environmental problems. This newfound practical understanding positions me for a fruitful career at the intersection of my two majors.”

—Emma Park ’14, Environmental Studies and Economics

Marcus Carson ’13  
(Political Science, Environmental Studies concentration)  
Promoted sustainability initiatives by working with the United States Green Building Council’s Charlotte Region Chapter. He worked with the nonprofit in its role as co-convener (along with Envision Charlotte) for the Energy, Technology, and Community Sustainability Village, which will be featured at the Democratic National Convention. On campus, Carson works with the EAC and the Responsible Consumption Working Group.

Rebecca Merrifield ’14  
(Environmental Studies)  
Was an environmental justice intern at Davidson and an active member of the EAC and the Food Club, where she raised awareness about environmental issues, encouraged sustainable living, and supported local food. During the Sustainability Scholars program, Merrifield worked with Friendship Gardens and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council, pursuing her passion of ensuring food security and environmental justice. Through her internships, she researched the economic impact of growing local food in the region for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council, and she helped Friendship Gardens develop new urban farm sites within the city of Charlotte to increase access to fresh, local produce.

Stephanie Schauder ’15  
(Undecided)  
Worked with Mecklenburg Country Land Use and Environmental Services to document sustainable features of Charlotte. The County hopes to use this information for marketing, education, and baseline research for future sustainability initiatives. During her first year at Davidson, Schauder served as an Eco-Rep and organized Ditch & Dash, a program that collects and donates furniture and appliances from end-of-year move-out.
The Eco-Reps program trains first-year students to be environmental leaders at Davidson College.

**What Eco-Reps Learn**
- Strategies for effective peer-to-peer education and environmental leadership on campus
- How campus energy systems work, energy efficiency strategies, LEED buildings, and how the solar panels function
- How our campus food system works and ways it’s becoming more sustainable
- How to conduct a waste audit and about the recycling and composting programs
- Local water issues
- Examples and applications of environmental justice issues
- Best practices for student leadership from upperclassmen environmental leaders

**What Eco-Reps Do**
- Attend weekly meetings
- Create three educational displays in their residence halls during the semester
- Organize one sustainability-themed hall activity
- Write one *Davidsonian* article
- Contribute to campus sustainability initiatives

**Student Facilitator**
One upper-class student acts as a program assistant, supporting the Sustainability Fellow in all aspects of program management. Kara Jones ’12 (English) served as the program assistant this past year, and the experience informed her decision to pursue a career in education. After graduation, she will teach at a private school in Washington, D.C.

“Eco-Reps was as much an introduction to concrete sustainability issues at Davidson as it was an introduction to effective community engagement. I came away with the toolkit I needed to harvest my passions as an environmental leader.”

–Hartman Saylor ’15

*Environmental Studies*

![Eco-Reps show off the educational bulletin board they created for their hall. Eco-Reps make three bulletin boards throughout the semester to educate freshman halls on how to live sustainably at Davidson.](image)
GREEN GRANTS

Green Grants serve as seed funding for innovative sustainability projects. Students apply for independent grants or work collaboratively with student organizations, faculty, or staff. Green Grants not only make Davidson more sustainable, but also give students the opportunity to design, implement, and manage a project.

Green Grant Recipients

Josh Hengen ’14
(Environmental Studies)

Received a Green Grant to expand the EcoTeam into Charlotte elementary schools. While previously serving local elementary schools, in the fall of 2012, the EcoTeam expansion program will incorporate a curriculum of seven hands-on lessons into a Charlotte third-grade classroom. Hengen believes that long-term progress in environmental education and awareness must start at a grassroots level in elementary education to see lasting change.

Allie Cottle ’13
(Art)

Obtained a Green Grant to reduce the amount of food waste produced by Turner House. Cottle purchased an automatic composter to convert food waste into compost, used in the PCC garden. Since Turner House has significantly reduced their food waste, Cottle hopes that all PCC organizations will purchase automatic composters to convert all PCC food waste into soil for campus gardens.

Chai Lu Bohannan ’14
(Environmental Studies)

Used Green Grant funding to purchase local food for Turner House, lessening Turner’s environmental impact, improving nutritional content, and contributing to the local economy. Bohannan hopes that once the grant expires in 2013, members will feel inclined to incorporate these extra but minimal costs into their dues to continue enjoying local food.

Scott Sellers ’14
(Political Science)

Was awarded a Green Grant to provide SAE with local food, incorporating local ground beef, sausage, and strawberries into the fraternity’s weekly meals. Purchasing local food reduced SAE’s carbon footprint by lowering food miles, and also strengthened SAE’s relation with Davidson’s farmers. In addition, Sellers, Chai Lu Bohannan ’14, and Natalie Williford ’14 used Green Grant funds to establish a collaborative, centralized system to spread local food to other PCC organizations through local food menus and a bulk provisioning system.
Ashley Finger ’14  
(Physics)  
Used Green Grant funding to offer free local cooking classes for Davidson students. Members of the Food Club taught weekly themed cooking classes that paired basic cooking skills with education on local, sustainable food.

Jesse Alston ’14  
(Environmental Studies)  
Received a Green Grant to purchase green shaker water bottles for Phi Delta Theta fraternity. The fraternity implemented a new recycling system, including educational presentations on waste management.

Natalie Williford ’14  
(Environmental Studies)  
Was awarded a Green Grant for Local Food and Education for Rusk House. Williford started “Local Meat Week” at Rusk House, providing flyers and posters to educate members on reasons to eat local food. Courtney Spear, manager of the Davidson Farmers Market, sponsored a taste test between local vs. grocery store produce.

“Through our Green Grant project more classrooms can be served by EcoTeam, more elementary students can learn about being good environmental citizens, and more Davidson students can volunteer and get involved in EcoTeam’s sustainability effort, expanding sustainability at Davidson College and in the larger Davidson community.”

—Morgan Brown ’12, Chemistry
Any students who qualify for federal work-study can ask to be placed with the Office of Sustainability. These students manage social media and communications, analyze energy and water data, create educational materials, and manage their own creative projects.

**Environmental Justice Interns**

Two interns each semester focus on environmental justice in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. These interns collaborate with the Sustainability Fellow to establish a semester project that bridges the gap between social justice and sustainability. In the fall, Environmental Justice Interns Hayden Higgins ’12 (Anthropology) and Lorena Perez ’12 (Art) organized an interactive seminar for students on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of coal mining. The seminar featured a local journalist who writes on coal mining and related topics. Perez used charcoal to sketch images of mountain top removal and showed those images at the seminar and later displayed them on campus.

In the spring, Environmental Justice Interns Chai Lu Bohannan ’14 (Environmental Studies) and Rebecca Merrifield ’14 (Environmental Studies) built a Web site, Environmental Justice Education Initiative, to connect educators to resources and community partners working for environmental justice. Still in its beta stage, the site will be expanded by next semester’s interns and will eventually serve as a community asset map of how the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community works to alleviate environmental injustices.

As an Environmental Justice Intern, Lorena Perez (’12) created artwork out of coal. Each piece addresses inequalities from coal consumption.

**Work-Study**

Any students who qualify for federal work-study can ask to be placed with the Office of Sustainability. These students manage social media and communications, analyze energy and water data, create educational materials, and manage their own creative projects.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

In 2011–12 the Office of Sustainability hosted a workshop series titled Environmental Justice and Grassroots Change. This series discussed how environmental issues disproportionately affect the powerless and the poor, and how regional grassroots changemakers respond. The workshops were designed to be used by students as a springboard into environmental justice and community-change initiatives in the Davidson-Charlotte area and beyond.

Workshop Topics Included:

*Introduction to Environmental Justice and Grassroots Change*

Students explored frameworks of environmental justice and grassroots change in a participatory workshop. They also discussed the assets students bring to issues of environmental justice and grassroots change.

*Food Deserts and Food Justice*

Students examined the social, economic, and environmental factors leading to food deserts in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. They visited community leaders involved in alleviating food deserts and transforming our food system, including the Davidson Farmers Market, Sow Much Good, and 7th Street Public Market. These leaders shared their philosophies, motivations, and ideas with students. Students also completed a short service project in a school garden with Sow Much Good.

*Coal Mining: The Response of Grassroots Journalism*

Jeff Mittelstadt ’99 facilitated students through his interactive documentary *Coal: A Love Story*. Students developed a basic understanding of the economic, social, and environmental dynamics of coal mining. Mittelstadt also discussed the value of journalism in telling the stories of people who are often not heard. A key goal of this session was for students to appreciate the importance of perspective when trying to understand a complex issue such as coal mining.

*Grassroots Change and Next Steps for Action*

Sherrill Hampton, director of the Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development at Johnson C. Smith University, discussed topics of grassroots development and community organizing in Charlotte, and the role students can have in both. She shared best practices for student-community relations from JCSU and recommended next steps for Davidson students.

Students used the second half of this workshop to create action plans in break-out groups to translate what they learned from the workshops into action.

Robin Emmons, founder of Sow Much Good, a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating socio-economic, racial and ethnic health disparities resulting from lack of access to nutritional food, educates students about the organization’s programming and community-based initiatives.
OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

This year, the office focused on building relationships with students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. These relationships have grown our capacity to implement the Climate Action Plan and cultivate more interest and investment in sustainability efforts.

UPDATE ON ACUPCC AND CAP

Davidson College completed three of the seven tangible actions suggested by the ACUPCC. The college established a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Silver standard or equivalent; adopted an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGYSTAR-certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist; and participated in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopted three or more associated measures to reduce waste. The remaining actions include establishing a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by Davidson College; encouraging use of and providing access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors at Davidson College; begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of Davidson College’s electricity consumption from renewable sources; and establishing a policy or

TRANSITION TO IMPACT

A college-wide emphasis, aptly describes campus sustainability initiatives in 2012, as the college officially founded the Office of Sustainability and has seen major results from the Climate Action Plan. Additionally, support for sustainability continues to grow at Davidson, both on campus and through our alumni community.

AMERICAN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS’ CLIMATE COMMITMENT AND THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

In 2007, Davidson College signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), committing Davidson College to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. As a member of ACUPCC, Davidson College maintains a greenhouse gas inventory and follows a Climate Action Plan (CAP). Davidson College’s sustainability efforts focus on incremental reductions through on-campus initiatives. The CAP serves as a living document of Davidson College’s commitment to the ACUPCC with both long-term and interim goals that will be reviewed and revised over time to account for new technologies, developments in climate policy, and the evolution of the campus culture. The CAP has four main categories: operations and infrastructure, transportation, consumption and waste, and curriculum, research, and student outreach.
a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where Davidson College’s endowment is invested.

Davidson College’s greenhouse gas production has decreased by 2.8% since 2008. If the college continues to lower its greenhouse gas production by 2.8% every two years, Davidson will reach its goal of a 10% reduction by 2020, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

DUKE ENDOWMENT FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Davidson College’s sustainability efforts have been catalyzed in recent years by significant support from The Duke Endowment. In 2008, The Duke Endowment launched an initiative to help the four colleges and universities that it supports find ways to become more environmentally sustainable. The resulting grants have enabled Davidson to perform a comprehensive energy audit and to place solar panels atop the Baker Sports Complex. Additional funds have been awarded for the hiring of Davidson’s first Sustainability Director. In 2012, the four schools began collaborating on ways to enhance local food systems at and near their campuses, and The Duke Endowment awarded grant funding to help start a three-acre campus farm at Davidson.

ALUMNI SUPPORT

Davidson alumni generously support programs run by the Office of Sustainability. Alumni provide funding for Green Grants and the Eco-Reps program. Alumni—including Sustainability Council member Jeff Mittelstadt ‘99—generously gave their time to host educational workshops with students. Additionally, Davidson alumni regularly provided career advice and assisted students in professional networking.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Student involvement inspires and informs sustainability initiatives, programs, and policies on campus. Student engagement is perhaps the strongest asset in positive change efforts at the college. In addition to the established student organizations such as the Environmental Action Coalition, Food Club, and EcoTeam, Davidson welcomed a new environmental student organization, the Responsible Consumption Working Group (RCWG). RCWG is an organization of students dedicated to studying the environmental and social impacts of people’s consumption habits and to working toward reducing the resulting consequences. Student organizations not only encourage collaboration on broad environmental and social justice issues, but they also host events and workshops, and foster sustainability on campus and in the greater community.

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

The Sustainability Council brings together alumni and members of the Davidson College community to share their expertise and interests in sustainability and guide the college in the development and implementation of our Climate Action Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

An advisory group for the president and Office of Sustainability on sustainability issues, the committee assesses the feasibility and logistics of project and program ideas brought forth by members of the campus community. The committee encourages sharing ideas about sustainability initiatives across departments. Furthermore, committee members help educate their departments about Davidson College’s commitment to sustainability.
“I came to my first Environmental Action Coalition meeting during my first month of Davidson, and I was a member until I graduated. During those four years Davidson’s sustainability scene grew immensely. I’ve been able to be involved in environmental activism on so many different levels through Davidson. I worked with the administration to plan for Davidson’s sustainable future, even attending a conference in Jacksonville, Fla., over the summer after my junior year. I joined with student leaders around the southeast to try to form a cohesive movement for real food and a new energy economy. I even became involved in sustainability in the Town of Davidson by organizing the Seventh Annual Green Ball, which raised more than $2,000 for the Davidson Lands Conservancy. In all of these areas I know I made a concrete difference. But the change I am most proud of happened right at home on Davidson’s campus, amongst its student body. In 2008, Davidson received a C- overall from the College Sustainability Report Card, and little mention was made of student efforts. By 2011, Davidson received a B+, including an A in the Student Involvement category. I couldn’t be more proud.

“Where did this difference come from? From students—we organized Greenstock, the celebration of environmentalism in Davidson. We attended weekend seminars on coal mining and weeknight meetings on responsible consumption. We envisioned how laundry services could cut down on waste, and we demanded higher levels of quality in our food. We’ve become the first generation of Environmental Studies students.

“Sustainability is a way of doing things, as much as it is a final state. At Davidson, we’ve shown that means pushing ourselves and our institution toward ever higher standards.”
Energy use at Davidson College—between electricity, natural gas, and fuel oil—is a substantial portion of the campus’ GHG-emissions. In 2011–12, Davidson College began to transform its energy consumption by installing solar PV and solar thermal panels on the roof of Baker Sports Complex. This fall, Davidson will open a new LEED silver residence hall while planning for a future college farm.

In 2011, Davidson College installed 378 solar PV panels and 64 solar thermal panels on Baker Sports Complex. Davidson predicts the panels annual production will yield 129,196 kWh from the solar PV system and 84,270 MMBtu from the solar thermal system, saving the college around $25,000 a year in energy expenses.
OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

Duke Energy’s Renewable Portfolio Standard states that 3% of power from Duke Energy is now from renewable sources. While Davidson purchases the majority of its energy from Duke Energy, the college now generates 0.0052% of campus consumption from in-house solar panels on Baker Sports Complex. Additionally, Davidson’s natural gas consumption has decreased from 53,060 BTUs in 2010 to 47,841 despite increase of square footage on campus.

SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION ON BAKER SPORTS COMPLEX

In 2011, Davidson College installed 378 solar PV panels and 64 solar thermal panels on Baker Sports Complex. Utilizing the campus’ best placement for solar energy, the two sets of panels’ cover 75% of Baker Sports Complex’s southern-oriented flat roof surface and 60% of the pool roof’s surface. Davidson predicts the panels annual production will yield 129,196 KwH from the solar PV system and 84,270 MMBTU from the solar thermal system, saving the college around $25,000 a year in energy expenses.

The photovoltaic panels convert sunlight into electricity to power the Baker Sports Complex. The solar thermal panels heat glycol in pipes that run through the solar thermal panels, transferring heat to the water in Cannon Pool and in Knobloch Tennis Center’s showers.

The total cost for the project was $670,648. Davidson received $200,000 funding from the North Carolina State Energy Office and $50,000 from The Duke Endowment. Davidson applied a $200,000 State Energy Office grant toward the solar PV panels.

The solar panels are also an educational asset. The planning and implementation of the panels brought together students from diverse disciplines such as economics, physics, environmental studies, and anthropology to witness and document the installation process, consult with professionals in energy fields, and learn about the challenges and opportunities in solar energy. In the future, Davidson hopes to build on this engagement of disciplines across campus.

DUKE ENERGY STUDY

Through the Smart Building Advantage Program, Davidson College is conducting a multi-year study with Duke Energy to explore energy efficiency, load shifting, and renewable energy. Smart-Grid research informs Duke Energy on Davidson’s connected load, or how customers consume the electricity provided. Previously, Duke Energy could only measure the amount of electricity used and compare the amounts by time, but the Smart Grid measures which devices are using the electricity. This information helps Davidson shift electricity use to reduce peak time demand. By lowering the electricity peak and spreading consumption equally over time, the Smart Building Advantage Program can decrease costs and reduce production demand.

Three years ago Davidson College committed to introduce renewable energy sources to campus on a larger scale. Now, solar PV and solar thermal panels installed on Baker Sports Complex create clean energy and reduce operating costs. Additionally, renovations to the campus boiler plant improved natural gas efficiency.
PEAK TIMES AND CENTRAL ENERGY SYSTEM

Power companies must have generation capacity equal to the maximum momentary demand of its customer base. At all other times, power companies have excess capacity. Therefore, billing accounts for commercial customers include higher rates during the peak times as disincentive to use, and lower rates during non-peak times as an incentive to shift the demand away from the peak. In the southeast, the peak demand of the customer base is typically associated with air conditioning loads, and usually occurs between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. each day in the summer months.

Davidson College controls a portion of its energy cost by managing its peak energy consumption and shifting loads to alternate times of day. Davidson employs a central energy management system and its central chilled water plant to accomplish this. As the campus approaches its peak consumption each day, the energy management system manipulates the settings of all campus thermostats, raising the set-points by a fraction of a degree. The aggregate temperature satisfaction of the campus allows the central chilled water plant to slow down its production of air conditioning supply momentarily, conserving electricity during the peak. As the peak demand subsides, temperatures are restored and the plant responds, consuming in off-peak mode. Other control capabilities and strategies include limiting air exchange in buildings during peak consumption hours, staging pumps and motors to avoid simultaneous consumption, and reducing some lighting levels in buildings.

CENTRAL CHILLER PLANT AND CENTRAL STEAM PLANT

Davidson’s central chilled water plant is designed for energy efficiency, regardless of the time of day. A variable speed, primary pumping loop delivers exactly the chilled water that is needed by the campus at any one moment, without creating surplus. The control system automatically calculates the most efficient combination of machines to deliver chilled water, and makes adjustments as the parameters change throughout the day. In addition, each

SOLAR PROJECT TEAM

A student team constructed a mobile solar education cart to inform the campus community about solar energy. The cart demonstrates how solar panels transfer sunlight into energy and discusses solar technology on Davidson’s campus. The team organized this educational project in response to the installation of solar PV and solar thermal panels on the roof of Baker Sports Complex. At campus events, the solar cart will generate electricity to power speakers. Environmental Studies classes and K-12 educators will use the cart to demonstrate how solar produces energy. The cart resides in the Outdoor Classroom (adjacent to the E.H. Little Library), where it can be used by Davidson College faculty, staff, and students to power laptops and other mobile electronic devices.
component of the central chilled water plant was selected for its efficiency rating.

Similarly, Davidson has a central steam plant for the production of heat for the campus. Four large boilers consume natural gas to make steam, and the steam is piped to each building for use as building heat, hot water, humidification, and some cooking and industrial processes. The same energy management control system surveys the campus heating needs and controls the boilers to generate the exact momentary supply. The central boiler plant is also equipped with multiple energy recovery devices to ensure that all heat is captured and utilized.

ENERGY AUDITS
The Duke Endowment funded a campus-wide energy audit performed by Advanced Energy that subsequently targeted Baker Sports Complex as the best place to install solar panels. Baker Sports Complex met such solar panel requirements as a large roof surface area, correct orientation to the sun, a new roof to support each panel, and an efficient connected load, which allows the thermal energy to connect to various devices. In 2011, the Eco-House conducted an energy audit on their house, which led to retrofitting and insulation replacement to increase energy efficiency.

LED LIGHTING
In 2011–12, Davidson conducted several retro lighting projects around campus for energy conservation. In the Cannon Natatorium at Baker Sports Complex and over the courts in the Knobloch Tennis Center, Davidson changed the high-energy lighting to T-5 fluorescent lighting with motion sensing and daylight harvesting controls. Vail Commons installed LED lighting in their main dining room. Davidson installed LED lights in the William H. Van Every, Jr. Gallery of the Visual Arts Center, and is currently installing LED lights in the Edward M. Smith Gallery. In the remodel of Hood and Julia Johnson Houses, Davidson installed LED bulbs in the conference and computer rooms.
OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

In addition to a scheduled completion of a LEED Silver residence hall in fall 2012, Davidson College has completed six Energy Efficiency Retrofit Projects since signing the ACUPCC, with five additional retrofit projects planned. Cunningham Fine Arts Building and Davis Residence Hall received LEED Silver status.

Additionally, the new Davis Dormitory achieved LEED Silver Certification this past winter.

NEW SOPHOMORE RESIDENCE HALL

A new residence hall with a total occupancy of 251 residents is currently under construction. The anticipated LEED Silver residence hall will be divided between two buildings, which are connected via a central commons. All newly constructed buildings must pass LEED Silver certification, as stated in the Climate Action Plan. According to the LEED checklist, Davidson received high marks in Indoor Environmental Quality, Water Efficiency, Innovation and Design Process, and Regional Priority Credits.

ECO-HOUSE

The Ecological Cooperative House is Davidson College’s first sustainable living option. Ten students practice community living with an environmentally conscious mindset. Residents make weekly trips to the Davidson Farmers Market, cook with local and organic food, use environmentally friendly cleaning products, are mindful of water and electricity use, maintain their own garden, and compost regularly. Each resident assumes a specific role, such as local food coordinator, resident-adviser, compost/garden manager, or community builder. The Eco-House hosts biweekly community dinners, where all are invited to engage in conversation over a communal meal. The Eco-House maintains a vegetable garden, compost-site, and a cob solar oven.

RENOVATION OF IRWIN, AKERS, KNOX

During the 2009–10 Campus Master Planning Process, Davidson identified Irwin, Akers, and Knox as buildings to renovate for junior and senior students. While the exterior of the buildings will not change, the building layouts will be altered to promote more community-oriented spaces. Updated finishes will reduce wasted energy. Kitchens, study rooms, computer rooms, laundry, and interior bike storage will be added to the three residence halls.

BUILDING UPGRADES

In the past three years, Davidson retrofitted Baker Sports Complex, Richardson, Watts, and Sentelle residence halls with new controls. New retrofitting controls were also recently installed in the Knobloch Tennis Center and in the Center for Teaching a Learning, located in the E.H. Little Library.
After the student-initiated energy audit at the Eco-House, Hands4Hire renovated and weatherized the Eco-House to decrease air leakage, reducing the home’s utility cost by 30-40%. Hands4Hire conducted a blower door test and infrared thermography to identify which areas of the Eco-House needed weatherization. Adding 12 inches of blown cellulose (recycled newspaper) to the attic, and adding fiberglass insulation to the floors caused a 61% reduction in air leakage, bringing the CFM (Cubic Air Flow per Minute) from 4800 to 2913 or the ACH (Air Changes per Hour) from .75 to .45. The weatherization renovations will also increase the comfort level for heating and air conditioning in the Eco-House.

CLEAN CONSTRUCTION

Hartman Saylor ’15 worked with Clean Air Carolina on their NC Clean Diesel Campaign to convince universities to adopt Clean Construction policies. Diesel emissions from non-road construction equipment are responsible for harmful particulates that pose a direct threat to both public health and climate stability. If Davidson chooses to employ contractors who use only new or retro-fitted construction equipment, lethal particulate matter will be reduced by 90%, protecting the students, employees, visitors, and environment that Davidson cares about so much.
“During the spring semester of my sophomore year, Prof. Annie Ingram’s Environmental Literature class ignited my interest in sustainability at Davidson. Inspired by the minds of Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, and W.S. Merwin, I came to understand the beauty and importance of the environment. Now, literature is not where I am pursuing my passion for sustainability, but it is where my journey started, and it’s where I return when I lose my way. It was that poetic appreciation for the environment, which I found in Ingram’s class, combined with my interest in political science that brought the sustainability picture together for me.

“Davidson’s growing number of environmental studies classes across disciplines has helped me realize that I respect sustainability as an approach because it means looking at the whole system and creating a balance. In a political atmosphere where it’s commonplace and, in many cases, respected to venture toward extremes, sustainability is, I think, an essential way to create perspective, and it is the most responsible way to pursue change and development through policymaking.

“Fueled by this academic understanding of sustainability, I have been able to participate in organizations on campus such as the Environmental Action Coalition and the Patterson Court Sustainability Council with a full understanding of the issues and topics we are addressing in those groups. And this combined academic and on-campus action understanding of sustainability has helped prepare me for my internship with the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) with the Sustainability Scholars Program. The USGBC and its LEED Certifications focus on creating buildings and communities that are economically affordable, environmentally responsible, and socially equitable. My experience with the USGBC has allowed me to take the leap from on-campus knowledge of sustainability to the real-world application of its principles, and I hope I can take that newly gained experience and use it to help build on the strides that Davidson College is making in sustainability.”

spotlight
marcus carson ’13
political science
natural environment

Student-designed gardens and educational programs for Davidson’s arboretum exemplify Davidson’s commitment to preserving the natural environment and educating the campus about nature conservation. Since 1982, Davidson has planted three trees for every one removed.

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

Currently, Davidson’s campus is approximately 30% organic, and the college plans to increase the use of organic materials over the next five years. Davidson College practices integrated pest management and implements LEED landscape guidelines on all buildings.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAILS

In June 2012 goats came back to remove kudzu from Davidson’s cross country trails. Returning for their second spring-cleaning, the goats made headway reducing kudzu, an invasive weed. Rebecca McKee ’14 partnered with Charles Jolly, assistant director of grounds, to initiate the project. McKee’s research, conducted for an independent study class, found that due to the severity of the kudzu problem and the long-term intervention required to reclaim...
the area, it would be cost effective and academically beneficial for Davidson to rent a small number of goats to periodically eat back the kudzu.

NATURAL GRASSES

In May 2012 Davidson College planted dwarf native grasses in front of the press entrance to Baker Sports Complex. Natural grasses advance Davidson’s environmental goals because they eliminate mowing, irrigation, and replanting. Jim King, director of grounds, hopes to plant native grasses on campus sites where slopes exceed 33 degrees.

UPDATE ON BEE HIVES

In October 2011 Davidson’s Bee Club moved the college’s original two beehives to the Davidson College Farm to pollinate plants at the farm and add additional beehives. Over winter break, one hive collapsed from an unknown cause. As a result, the Bee Club successfully split the larger of the two hives, reestablishing two functioning hives. In April 2012 the Bee Club purchased two nucleus colonies of Russian bees. Since May 2012 the four total hives have produced the largest amount of honey to date. The Bee Club uses the hives to familiarize students, faculty, and staff with the practice of beekeeping, using beehives as a learning tool.

CAMPUS GREEN SPACES

Jessie Blount ’13 worked with Jim King and Prof. Larry Ligo to design a garden behind Vail Commons. In spring 2012, Blount studied Earth Art with Ligo. In this course, each student designed a garden for either the Town Green or the President’s House lawn. These designs were theoretical and not meant for implementation, but the Monastic Garden plan that Blount created for Earth Art served as the basis for the design plan for the Vail Commons garden, including orchard aspects and parterre patterns. Next year, Blount hopes to design and transform the garden space beside the Belk Visual Art Center in an independent study.

ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

Students and faculty established the Davidson College Ecological Preserve in 2001 to provide unique experiences in teaching and research. The preserve, encompassing 100 acres of forested land adjacent to the Davidson College campus, includes a variety of habitats, and houses numerous plants and animals. The preserve offers trails for jogging, walking, biking, and bird watching, as well as large tracts of habitat for ecological studies.
More than 3,000 trees are labeled across Davidson College’s arboretum, which stretches over 100 acres and is located on the main campus of Davidson College. The arboretum began in 1855, when “a few ladies of Davidson College” proposed landscape remodeling in a letter to the Board of Trustees. In 1869, the faculty sent a proposal to the Board of Trustees “to make the Campus in its contents represent in time the forest growth of the State, and, if possible, the general botany of the region.” In the years since, an implicit if not stated goal of the school’s grounds supervisors and landscape architects became populating the college’s campus with all sorts of exotic as well as indigenous fauna. Even future U.S. President Woodrow Wilson is rumored to have planted a tree during his time as a student at Davidson. In 1982 Henry M. Cathey, a former Davidson student serving as director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., suggested to Davidson College President Samuel R. Spencer, Jr. that the college take the steps necessary to become a national registered arboretum. Cathey’s suggestion came at about the same time as a generous gift to the college from the family of Edwin Douglass, who had previously said that his two loves in life were Davidson College and forestry. Spencer subsequently assigned Douglass’s funds to the arboretum project. Aerial surveys were made, trees catalogued, gardens mapped, and in 1986 Davidson announced itself as a full-fledged arboretum, complete with a detailed booklet with sketches.
Overview of Annual Accomplishments and Major Programs

The new Boiler and Chiller Plants have decreased Davidson’s total energy consumption cost from $547,258 in 2009 to $328,760 in 2011. Additionally, the Chiller Plant reduces Davidson’s AC electrical consumption by 50%. AC is one of the biggest uses of water on campus, so these changes have saved water, energy, and money.

Boiler/Chiller Plant

Davidson controls heating and air conditioning through the Boiler and Chiller Plant. The 3,200-ton chilled water plant provides centralized air conditioning for 75% of the campus. The award-winning engineering design uses a primary circulation loop with a variable flow rate. The system balances chilled water generation with campus demand. To provide air conditioning, heat is removed from piped water, creating cooler temperatures. The water plant cut Davidson’s AC electrical consumption from .85 kW per ton to .42 kW per ton of cooling.

The Boiler Plant collects and reuses 90% of the water that circulates through campus. The plant turns the collected steam back into water, obtaining the remaining 10% from the city water makeup. The Boiler Plant maintains 100psi in the fire tubers and circulators to ensure maximum efficiency.

The Chiller plant condenses campus water, lowering the returning temperature from 52° to 42° through the refrigeration process. This process involves condensing (releasing heat) and refrigeration (lowering temperature) in a closed loop, maximizing the machine’s efficiency.

Gray Water Management

Davidson College uses gray water—water not clean enough to drink, but clean enough to reuse for alternative purposes—for the motor pool carwash. Gray water reuse is a potential area for growth in the future.
“I believe that every person should have the ability to live sustainably. Yet sustainable living is not always feasible for those who suffer from environmental justice issues such as food deserts, highly priced items, and lack of education. These disparities encourage me to empower others to make choices for which they can feel proud.

“Through conversations held at the local farmers market and at the Charlotte food festival, I learned that it is so much more difficult to be a humane farmer than it is to submit to corporate farming practices. It is my responsibility as a consumer to support farmers who produce sustainable products. Organic farming helps the environment because it necessitates raising animals and growing crops in the manner that they were naturally intended to grow. I minimize my use of energy and water, remembering that the earth was created to serve all of humanity, not just myself. During a tour of the Physical Plant, I learned small actions that I can take to reduce my own consumption. There is so much about this world that I do not yet understand; therefore, I have no authority to steal its resources because I do not know the long-term implications of my actions. Although I am an idealist, I understand that society needs to use natural resources to function. Thus, I reduce my overall consumption to decrease producing unnecessary waste.

“I know that I cannot enact change immediately, but I hope that I will not be disheartened by the multitude of problems facing our world, and instead focus on one issue at a time. Ultimately a small difference is better than nothing at all.”
Davidson’s commitment to the college’s Climate Action Plan includes reducing GHG-emissions from airfare, automobile, public transportation, and alternative fuel/electric vehicles. Davidson College hopes to reduce campus mileage by introducing the WeCar program and campus electric vehicles.

This summer, Claire Naisby ’12 developed an implementation plan for the Electric Vehicle program in the City of Charlotte through the Sustainability Scholars Program.
OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Davidson continues to add hybrid vehicles and electric golf carts to its transportation fleet. With the addition of two new WeCars, Davidson College not only provides greater access to transportation, but also discourages students from bringing cars to campus.

WE CAR

Starting in the fall of 2012, Davidson College will implement the WeCar program. WeCars are communal cars that can be rented by students, faculty, and staff at an hourly or daily rate. A car-sharing program has the potential for environmental benefits—students who want access to a car would not necessarily bring their own car from home—and takes an estimated 10 cars off the road for each WeCar provided by Davidson College.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

In 2010, Physical Plant replaced three gasoline-fueled utility carts with electric carts. Thus, since July 2012, Physical Plant has 15 electric utility carts in their fleet (41% electric). Of the remaining 29 carts in the campus fleet, 9 are electric (31%). Athletics, Dining Services, ITS, Campus Police, the Residence Life Office, and the College Union operate these electric carts. The electric carts are able to serve with the same power and torque as their gasoline equivalents. The carts operate on a charge from one of the campus charging stations. If charged overnight, each cart can run all day without a recharge.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Numerous forms of public transportation are accessible to the Davidson community. Students can ride to downtown Charlotte aboard the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) bus 77x. Express buses connect Charlotte suburbs and shuttle to the city center.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSIT OPTIONS

Kara Jones ’12 (English) and Jeannie Kinnett ’12 (English) researched and compiled information on various sustainable transportation options for Davidson students. During the team-taught ENV 490: Environmental Capstone Seminar of Thomson Professor of Environmental Studies and Professor of English Annie Ingram and Associate Professor of Chemistry Cindy Deforest Hauser, Jones and Kinnett streamlined local cycling information and public transportation options. The students also performed an educational outreach program by talking to several community members who regularly bike and use Charlotte’s public transit system as part of the students’ community-based learning project.
consumption and waste disposal

Davidson takes a holistic approach to reducing our consumption and using sustainable waste disposal strategies, looking to source sustainable food, and also to compost it. Consumption is not only about preserving environment, but about the health and well-being of the community. Davidson focuses not only on traditional recycling, but also on purchasing sustainable products and finding creative ways to reuse them on campus.

Our industrial composter is at work. Davidson converts more than 90% of Vail Commons food waste into compost.
Dining Services, with the help of student research, increased the percentage of food expenditures for local, sustainable food. The partnership between Dining Services and students has created impressive changes to the campus food system in the past year.

**OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS**

Dining Services allocates 30% of food expenditures toward local, organic, or environmentally preferable food. In 2011–12 Dining Services hosted monthly sustainably themed meals, including weekly Meatless Mondays, monthly Carolina Days, and Harvest Meals sponsored with the Food Club. The College Union’s Davis Café serves local items such as Big Oak Beef burgers and Grateful Growers’ sausage grinders.

**DINING SERVICES IMPLEMENTATIONS**

Since 2011-12, the hamburger patties served in Vail Commons are all-natural, vegetarian-fed, 100% USA Real Angus cattle sourced from more than 250 family ranches. Dining Services follows the guidelines of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program for seafood purchases. The Davis Café sells Divine Candy Bars, a certified Fair Trade chocolate, and Dining Services assisted in protesting Hershey’s Chocolate to improve chocolate-producing practices. Currently, Vail Commons diverts 77% of its total waste from landfills through recycling and composting. Vail Commons’ dedication to recycling places Davidson in the top 10% of dining operations in colleges and universities.

**FOOD CLUB**

The Food Club seeks to bring local and sustainable food to Davidson College. In addition to hosting movies, panels, speakers, and cooking classes, the Food Club oversees the campus organic vegetable garden and manages the college’s Food Cart, which sells local, sustainable food on campus. The Food Club works directly with Dining Services to discuss transitions in food suppliers and improve dining choices. The organization co-sponsors events with other campus organizations to address global food issues such as food justice and the global food market.

**DAVIDSON COLLEGE FARM**

Davidson College is formulating a strategic plan to create an 18-acre internal farming operation that will supply food to Dining Services. Currently, professors use the farm for academic classes and educational purposes. Pam Hay, associate professor of biology, and her botany class planted spinach in different types of compost to test compost efficiency at the Davidson Farm.
“It is hard to believe how much has changed with regards to food during my time at Davidson. Dining services made some notable changes like transitioning to cage-free eggs; serving local, grass-fed beef and local, pasture-raised pork in the Davis Café; and utilizing a small garden near Vail Commons. More significantly, there has been talk and research to make the Davidson Farm a reality. Although less tangible, the awareness of the impact of food choices on campus has grown exponentially. Thanks to classes and events such as Raj Patel’s and Vandana Shiva’s visits and education events by Food Club, the Davidson community realizes the serious effects our food choices have on our health, the environment, and the community. Davidson must strive to make food choices that benefit the Office of Sustainability’s triple bottom line. Davidson has taken steps toward changing the college’s food system, so I’m eager to follow Davidson as they realize local food goals through the Davidson College Farm.”
FOOD CART

In 2011, the Food Club received a Green Grant to construct a campus food cart. Over the summer of 2011, Davidson staff members in the carpentry shop built the food cart based on student-proposed blueprints. The Food Cart sells local, sustainable produce and non-perishables purchased from the Davidson Farmers Market or the Bradford Store to students at market price. The Food Cart also serves as an educational tool, informing students about community farms and how purchases affect the local economy.

SGA 5% LOCAL PLAN

In 2012, the Student Senate passed a resolution presented by the Student Government Association’s Director of Environmental Affairs and the Auxiliary Services Committee Chair requesting that Dining Services increase the overall amount spent on local and sustainable food to 5% of their total budget. Meetings with Director of Dining Services Dee Philips have already taken place, and the SGA’s movement to increase affordable local and sustainable food options on campus continues to expand.

HEALTH FAIR

The annual campus Health Fair invites students to engage with health-conscious campus organizations, facilities, and community partners. Each organization provides reading materials, product samples, and demonstrations of their services. Students can receive acupuncture, massages, local food, medical information, and HIV tests from vendors.

During the 2012 “Be Their Partner” Health Fair, Vail Commons’ chefs provided cooking demonstrations, and students raised money for a Charlotte domestic shelter.

GREEN GYM

The “Green Gym” (Nisbet Fitness Center) originated from multi-year student initiatives. After receiving a Green Grant and then a $10,000 Brita Grant, Alexis Valauri-Orton ’12 introduced energy-generating elliptical machines (ReRev), which capture the energy created during a workout and convert it to usable electricity. In turn, student workouts help power the Alvarez College Union. In spring 2012, students in the ENV 490: Environmental Capstone class designed infographics for the ReRev elliptical trainers. During Greek Week 2012, Patterson Court Council organizations competed to generate the most electricity by operating the elliptical trainers.
OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

Davidson developed a sustainable, joint purchasing group to secure better pricing for “green” office, custodial, and facilities supplies. PawPrint, a print management system, reduced annual paper consumption by 23%. Now, both the admission and first-year housing processes are paperless. Davidson College uses 50–100% recycled content paper, and specific college offices use remanufactured printer cartridges.

BUSINESS SERVICES

In 2011–12, Business Services went paperless for paychecks, W-2 forms, customer and student invoices, vendor invoices, and vendor payments. Since 2004, Davidson has used a shredding service, shredding and recycling the contents of 14 consoles and one roll-out container each month. Twice a year, Business Services offers a “campus shred” to all faculty and staff. Since 2004, Davidson has saved more than 1,500 trees through the Shred-It program. Additionally, all of Davidson’s stationery and business cards are printed on 100% recycled-content paper.

CAMPUS PURCHASING RE-USE PROGRAM

While Davidson College already purchases new Energy Star appliances, Director of Purchasing Beth Christenbury’s reuse program allows Davidson to repurpose previously discarded items. College offices contact Christenbury when they plan on discarding office supplies, and in turn she e-mails faculty and staff offering the unwanted items to the first bidder. Davidson not only values reusing college supplies, but also reuses and repurposes buildings before constructing new facilities.

CAMPUS COMPOSTING

Davidson continues to divert more than 90% of Vail Commons’ food waste (accounting for more than 75% of campus food waste) to compost. Davidson College uses an in-vessel composting system, Green Drum, a commercial-grade composter from BW Organics, to process the daily influx of yard and food waste. Davidson’s composting project collects yard waste from across campus, and food waste from Vail Commons, the Davis Café, the Outpost, the Wildcat Den, and Carnegie Guest House. After 5–7 days tumbling in the Green Drum, combining carbon (food waste), nitrogen (yard waste), oxygen, and moisture, the resulting compost is odorless, free from pathogens, and unattractive to pests. After resting for 3–6 months in a curing yard, the resulting mature compost nourishes Davidson’s landscaping.

DINING SERVICES

For 2010–11, Vail Commons generated 94.02 tons of solid waste. Of this total, they recycled 20.64 tons (22%) of glass, cardboard, plastics, metals, and paper. Vail Commons composted 48 tons (51%) of food material gathered from tray waste and kitchen waste: reduce, reuse, recycle

Davidson’s annual waste diversion rate is 22%, including an impressive 77% waste diversion rate in Vail Commons (90% food waste diversion rate). This places Davidson in the top 10% of colleges and universities.
processes. Thus, Vail Commons diverted 77% of its waste from the landfill. Dining Services donates leftover, unused, prepared foods to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Dining Services’ waste pulper grinds and mixes organic matter (such as food scraps, cardboard, and paper) with water to extract moisture, producing a dry pulp. The pulping process not only reduces waste volume up to 85%, but also reduces the number of trash pickups, minimizes labor needed to haul waste to pick-up areas, and eliminates sorting paper from food waste. Dining Services donates their used fryer oil to Davidson staff employee Ed Daugherty, who uses the waste oil to run his pick-up truck.

**CHARITY RECYCLING**

Ditch & Dash, a program run by the Environmental Action Coalition, collects students’ unwanted items and donates clothes, furniture, and food to local charities. Ditch & Dash reduced end-of-year waste by more than 20% and raised $14,000 for the local Goodwill.

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**PCC SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL**

The Patterson Court Sustainability Chair oversees the PCSC, which consists of a sustainability representative from each Patterson Court organization. The PCSC advises PCC organizations on environmental practices such as recycling, energy use, composting, and water consumption. Through the PCSC’s efforts, PCC organizations purchase local meats, incorporate compostable utensils and solo cups, and cultivate organic vegetable gardens. The PCSC requires each PCC organization to have a sustainability representative.

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*Students took a field trip to the Mecklenburg Recycling Center. Students learned about the energy intensive process of recycling, and why it’s important to reduce and reuse first, and then recycle.*
“For the past two years, I have coordinated Ditch & Dash, Davidson’s end-of-year clothing and furniture drive. I got involved with Ditch & Dash as a freshman interested in environmental issues and committed to reducing waste on campus. Spring move-out seemed like the perfect place to start, since Physical Plant collects more than 125 tons of trash during the last two weeks of school. Ditch & Dash has seven nonprofit partners in the Charlotte area. This year, we collected and donated 110 50-gallon trash bags full of clothes, 5 bags of shoes, 12 couches, several TVs, mini-fridges, microwaves, printers, and more. At Martin Court, Goodwill received donations worth more than $14,000. We also recycle within the school, giving items to the Dean Rusk International Students office for incoming international students. Last year, we launched a Facebook page where students could post photos of their unwanted items for sale as part of an effort to promote reusing and reselling items within the student body. My ultimate goal is not just to give students an easy way to give back to their community, but to help people think about where all their ‘stuff’ ends up. Ditch & Dash has allowed me to combine sustainability and environmentalism with community engagement and has been one of my most rewarding activities on campus.”
CATCARD SERVICES

Rather than discarding and printing new cards, CatCard Services re-encodes old, undamaged Cat-Cards. CatCard Services sends 90% of their daily reports in electronic form, with a goal of entirely eliminating paper reports. Employees send any inter-departmental transfers or Summer Program invoices electronically to campus offices.

CARNEGIE GUEST HOUSE

The Carnegie Guest House has initiated numerous sustainable strategies. Physical Plant replaced the Guest House’s original windows with double-paned insulated glass. Also, the Guest House serves only breakfast using china and silverware. The Guest House began researching the feasibility of creating rooftop gardens on the house’s two porch roofs. These gardens would remedy standing water and heat build-up below the porch area. Partnering with Physical Plant, the Guest House is now determining the most effective and efficient way to heat and cool the building.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION

The EAC is a student-run organization that seeks to engage, advise, act, and educate its members and the campus community about regional and global environmental issues. In action, the EAC conducts events about conservation, food, water, energy, waste, policy, and environmental justice. The EAC aims to develop a sustainably run Davidson, as well as educate and prepare student leaders for environmentally conscious lives after college. While recognizing the multifaceted nature of environmental issues, the EAC co-sponsors events with other campus organizations, and also engages with administrative and governmental authorities on environmental policy issues.
DAVIDSON COLLEGE BOOKSTORE

In Fall 2011, the Davidson College Bookstore gave away reusable, non-plastic bags for the first 1,000 customers who purchased more than $100 worth of merchandise. Besides giveaways, the bookstore replaced canister lighting with fluorescent. The bookstore not only sells recycled note cards, paper, and notebooks, but also reuses all packing material and cardboard boxes for Web and phone order fulfillment.

LAUNDRY SERVICES

In addition to packing students’ laundry in reusable cloth bags, the Lula Bell Houston Laundry continued to develop their sustainable goals. Laundry Services uses high-efficiency front-loading commercial washers and dryers in the main production area. In order to conserve water, Laundry Services runs only full loads of laundry. Laundry Services conducts routine maintenance—cleaning lint screens, lubricating equipment, and checking for leaks in steam, gas and electric equipment—to ensure their equipment runs at peak efficiency. In addition to eliminating phosphate products and using low-VOC detergents, Laundry Services also replaced chlorine bleach with activated oxygen bleach.

Students show off their green laundry bags. For decades, laundry was wrapped in brown paper. These laundry bags are great step towards reducing the amount of paper consumed on campus.
“As the chair of Patterson Court Sustainability Council (PCSC), I am in charge of educating, guiding, and motivating Patterson Court (PC) organization representatives to take on projects within their organizations to make PC a more sustainable community. PC provides the perfect stage for experimentation, since it is almost completely student run, includes a large percentage of the student population, and funds itself, enabling it to support its own projects. With support from members and monetary support from Green Grants and PC funds, students have researched and carried out their own projects to find ways to make PC more sustainable in the future. This year, PCSC received two Green Grants to purchase local food for Turner House as well as an automatic food composter. It is our hope that these funds will encourage members to purchase more local food in the future and significantly reduce the amount of food waste that is produced.”
The American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment states that institutions will “take actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.” In 2011–12, Davidson’s Environmental Studies department thrived with new professors, courses, and study abroad opportunities. Students and professors apply the liberal arts approach to immediate issues facing the community.
Since Davidson approved the Environmental Studies major, the Environmental Studies Department has introduced new courses, research opportunities, study abroad options, and interdisciplinary coursework. These opportunities allow students to approach sustainability from a variety of viewpoints and disciplines.

In the 2011–12 academic year, 11 students in the Class of 2014 declared ENV majors, with the potential for a total of 24 ENV majors in the Class of 2014. In fall 2011, biology professor Chris Paradise led an environmentally focused semester abroad in India. Outside of the classroom, community-based learning classes provide hands-on experience.

**OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS**

In the 2011–12 academic year, 11 students in the Class of 2014 declared ENV majors, with the potential for a total of 24 ENV majors in the Class of 2014. In fall 2011, biology professor Chris Paradise led an environmentally focused semester abroad in India. Outside of the classroom, community-based learning classes provide hands-on experience.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR**

The framework for the Environmental Studies major consists of overview courses, breadth and depth components, and a senior capstone project. Students may choose from one of three tracks (Environmental Sciences, Environmental Social Sciences, or Environmental Humanities) or self-design a Depth Component, subject to the approval of the Environmental Studies faculty. The Class of 2014 will be the first to graduate with an Environmental Studies major.
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION

In 2011–12, Davidson had six senior Environmental Studies concentrators and nine junior Environmental Studies concentrators. Davidson predicts an even higher number for the Classes of 2014 and 2015. The concentration gives students a broad exposure to a range of environmental issues. Both the major and concentration use multiple disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to address the complexity of environmental studies today, from local concerns to national policies to global problems and their solutions.

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COURSES

Students continue to demand more Environmental Studies courses, exceeding the ceiling in courses such as Environmental Social Sciences and Environmental Humanities. Courses outside of the Environmental Studies department include ANT: Imagining the Earth, BIO: Ecology, BIO: Cases in Environmental Health, ART: Earth Art, HIS: History of Scientific Knowledge & Skill, PHY: Physics of the Environment, and REL: Humans & Other Animals. Courses such as these fulfill depth or breadth components for the various Environmental Studies tracks (Natural Science, Social Science, or Humanities).

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROFESSORS

The Environmental Studies department consists of 10 core professors and 12 affiliated professors. The core faculty stems from the Political Science, Chemistry, English, Economics, Biology, Religion, and Anthropology departments. Davidson professors incorporate their coursework into various disciplines. For example, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies Graham Bullock’s 2011–12 courses—ENV 202 Environmental Social Sciences, POL 338 Environmental Politics, and POL 472 Citizens, Consumers, and the Environment—all relate to sustainability, but fall under the Political Science department.

STUDENT AND FACULTY RESEARCH

Faculty Research

Annie Ingram
Thompson Professor of Environmental Studies, Professor of English, and Thomas Jefferson Award winner

Continued work on her book manuscript, Flora’s Interpreters: Nineteenth-Century American Women and the Culture of Flowers. In late February 2012, for the English Department Colloquium, Ingram gave a presentation based on this work titled “Beyond Their Bindings: Unruly Flower Books and the Women Who Made Them.” In March 2012, with the generous financial support of the Thomson Professorship research funds, Ingram spent a week doing research in the special collections of the New York Public Library. Some of that research culminated in a conference paper in May 2012 at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association; the paper was on “Thoreau: A Botanist Among Botanists.”

Brad Johnson
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

Took two Davidson students to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado to examine landslides that occurred after the last glacial maximum. Johnson’s research focuses on understanding the timing of large landslides and the climate conditions under which they occurred. In order to determine timing, the students cored bogs located on the landslides, sampled boulders on the landslides for cosmogenic radionuclide dating, and dug soil pits to examine relative soil development. Johnson also applied for external funding to work on dune migration in northern Michigan. Additionally, Johnson is named on an NSF grant that aims to determine the timing of the Ozark Dome Uplift. His contributions examine soil development on stream terraces in the area.

Mark Stanback
Professor of Biology

Has collaborated with Esther Cline ’09 to research how cooperative breeding of Brown-headed Nuthatches impacts their competitive relationships with bluebirds and chickadees. Stanback’s lab focuses on interspecific competition for nest sites in urbanizing environments, particularly competition
between Eastern Bluebirds, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Carolina Chickadees on suburban golf courses.

Matt Samson
Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Added an environmental aspect to his research on religious change in Guatemala and Latin America. Samson’s research ties to research on human and cultural rights as well as social change in the Americas. Thus, the larger rubric for his research is human-environment relationships. Samson presented “‘Oxygen for the World’: Social Change, Maya Identity, and Human Environmental Rights in a Mesoamerican Community” at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society.

Student Research

Community-Based Learning Projects

Annie Ingram (Environmental Studies) and Cindy Deforest Hauser (Chemistry) team-taught ENV 490: Environmental Capstone Seminar on the topic of “Investigating Climate Change.” Students conducted the following community-based learning projects:

Office of Sustainability Integrated Social Media Network

In consultation with the Office of Sustainability, Cameron Kemp ’13 (Psychology), Amelia Montgomery ’12 (English), Charlie Toder ’13 (Anthropology), and Ben Wilde ’13 (Economics) designed a Facebook page, Twitter feed, and Tumblr Web site to showcase Davidson’s sustainability achievements.

Capitalizing on the Educational Opportunities of the Green Gym

Following up on a class project begun in the Introduction to Environmental Studies course in fall 2008, Madeleine Dick-Godfrey ’12 (Anthropology), Lucy Hedley ’12 (Biology), Layne Piper ’12 (History), and Lexi Valauri-Orton ’12 (Biology) designed infographics on the ReRev elliptical trainers in the Nisbet Fitness Center. These three elliptical trainers have been retrofitted to generate electricity from human-powered workouts.

Alternative Transit Options for Davidson Students

Kara Jones ’12 (English) and Jeannie Kinnett ’12 (English) compiled information on various sustainable transportation options for students and have
developed two brochures, one on biking in Davidson and one on public transportation options. This information will also appear on the Office of Sustainability Web site.

**Ethnographic Writing and Research**

Matt Samson (*Anthropology*) taught ANT 371: Ethnographic Writing. These students conducted environmental ethnographic research projects in order to complete course assignments.

*Caitlin Keaton* ‘14 (*Anthropology and Environmental Studies*) explored the idea of place within a family farm and business in Mecklenburg County, N.C. Her ethnography was titled, “The Operation of Land Ties Within Food-Based Social Movements: The Bradford Store as a Case Study.”

*Genna Reed* ‘13 (*Anthropology*) explored the lack of ethnic and racial diversity in the local farmers market as a function of contemporary social factors and historical factors within the Davidson community. Her ethnography was titled, “Not Quite a World Market: Racial Accessibility at the Davidson Farmer’s Market.”

*Madison Rogas* ‘14 (*Anthropology and Spanish*) explored ideas of community in the local food movement, and new agrarianism through the lens of an organic pig farm located in the Charlotte area. Her ethnography was titled, “Grateful Growers Farm: An Ethnographic View of Local Farm Communities.”

**Theses Research**

Each student presented his or her thesis at the Social Science Poster Fair. Also, portions of each thesis were presented in the session “Environment I: Resources and Culture Change” at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society.

“Thirst in the Garden City: The Right to Water in Cochabamba, Bolivia” by Hayden Higgins ‘12 (*Anthropology*)

“Sembrando Semillas: Understanding Community Gardening amongst Charlotte Hispanic Immigrants” by Rachel Mullins ‘12 (*Anthropology*)

“Back in the Dark, Again:’ Rural Solar Electrification in Nicaragua” by Claire Naisby ‘12 (Environmental Science). Naisby’s thesis was one of two that won the best thesis award in the Center for 2011–12. This thesis also was the co-winner of the undergraduate student essay competition at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society.

“Jumpstarting the Motor City: An Ethnographic Account of the Redevelopment, Restoration, and Reinvention of Detroit” by Ian Tupper ‘12 (*Anthropology and Economics*)

**Political Science and Environmental Studies Research**

**Responsible Consumption Working Group**

In spring 2012, Dr. Graham Bullock, students, and staff created RCWG, which focuses on researching the environmental performance of various products. Through research and analysis, RCWG enables members to make personal decisions on the nature of responsible consumption. Topics researched by members include running shoes, gas stations, chocolate, beer, electric vehicles, and composting pulpers.

**Environmental Social Sciences (ENV 202)**

In Dr. Bullock’s class, students worked in groups to research contemporary environmental issues and controversies. Each group focused on one of eight topics, including the tar sands pipeline, Post-Kyoto climate policy, and China’s energy policy. Students analyzed their topic from a specific social science perspective (political science, anthropology, economics, and other social sciences) and proposed specific policy recommendations.

**Environmental Politics (POL 338)**

For Dr. Bullock’s environmental politics class, students wrote detailed policy memos on an issue in environmental politics such as hydraulic fracturing, impacts of wind energy on bat populations, Cuba’s offshore oil drilling, and overfishing of tuna fisheries. In their memos, students explained the problem, described relevant stakeholders, defined policy options, and developed their own policy recommendation.
Citizens, Consumers, and the Environment (POL 472)

During Dr. Bullock’s seminar, students wrote research papers on the role of consumers, citizens, and an environmental topic of their choice. Several students chose topics relating to food, transportation, water, climate, energy, and household living. Some students conducted original research through interviews and primary data collection, while others focused on case studies. The papers focused on the role of citizens with regard to the topic, and also focused on applying concepts relating to citizenship and consumption to the research-based paper.

Environmental Science (ENV 201)

Dr. Brad Johnson (Environmental Studies) instructed students to work on a number of class projects. Specifically, students examined local stream systems, looked at landslide hazards in the mountains of western North Carolina, tested slope stability in lab experiments, identified river forms in satellite images and in physical models, and learned basic surveying and map skills.

Summer Student Research 2012

Christina Fonda ’15 was awarded a Stone Fund grant through the Center for Civic Engagement to install nest boxes at Abersham Park, northeast of Davidson. Fonda conducts research on how bluebirds respond to cues of nest vulnerability with Mark Stanback (Biology).

Under the direction of Mark Stanback (Biology), Jenna Ptaschinski ’14 (Biology) researched the cost of reproduction in tree swallows.

Cakey Worthington ’13 (Biology) and Corinne McCullough ’14 (Biology) researched the effects of land use patterns on the biodiversity of wasps, bees, and butterflies under Chris Paradise, associate professor of biology. Paradise’s laboratory primarily researches the factors that affect biodiversity, including the impact of landscape-scale factors.

Nick Wilder ’13 (Political Science, Environmental Studies Concentration) researched the role of sustainability ratings and certifications in higher education, building on research on information-based environmental governance strategies that Graham Bullock (Political Science and Environmental Studies) worked on over the past several years.

Fall Research 2012

Helen Cho, associate professor of anthropology, received a DRI grant to take students in her ANT 275 course “Monkeys, Apes & Humans” to Nicaragua over the 2012–13 winter break. Cho’s students will work on primate conservation projects on Ometepe Island for two weeks.

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

In fall 2011, Chris Paradise (Biology) led “Ecology and Environment in India,” a sustainably focused study abroad semester in Chennai, India. This program allowed students and faculty to broaden their understanding of global concerns while immersing themselves in a specific environment. Students studied BIO 100 and BIO 360, “Conservation of India’s Biodiversity;” BIO 100 and BIO 360, “Ecology of Indian Ecosystems;” and ENV 200, “Environment and Culture in India.” Since biological activity exponentially increases after the monsoon season, Davidson hosted the program during the fall semester.
“It is often hard for me to label ‘sustainability’ as a mere action, statement, or result. Instead of condensing and compacting this tricky word into a defined behavior, I like to embrace it as a dynamic lifestyle. In the typical liberal arts fashion, my major has jumped from history to studio art to biology. It was not until inspecting mangrove forests off the coast of the Andaman Islands that I realized that sustainability is what I want to invest my time in. My study abroad experience in India ignited my interest in connecting ecological processes to the people living amongst them. With a skyrocketing population and a delayed start to development, the Indian landscape is a unique place to study such connections. Although reluctant to leave Asia, I came back to Davidson and pursued my sustainable studies by devising a curriculum comprised of ecology, environmental science, and humanities. This summer also presents an exciting opportunity to study Davidson’s commitment to sustainability. I am working with Prof. Paradise to analyze the biodiversity of local butterfly populations, an often-overlooked yet vital part of our parks and nature preserves’ health. While my interests and hobbies change frequently, my eagerness to discover the perfect balance between humans and the environment remains steadfast. The consistent yet flexible manner of sustainability ties together my love of nature, desire to travel, and dedication to improving environmental health—a true lifestyle.”
community engagement

Students and faculty partner with community organizations to develop innovative strategies to sustainably serve their community and to also eliminate social disparities associated with environmental issues.

OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MAJOR PROGRAMS

New initiatives and community partnerships encouraged students to engage in situations that enhanced their understanding of community engagement and environmental preservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

Started by two sophomores, the EJEI is a resource tool for students, community members, and organization leaders interested in increasing awareness about environmental justice issues and collaborating with one another to confront environmental injustices in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg County area. The EJEI exists to bring individuals in the community together for meaningful and necessary change via the EJEJ Web site.
“Social and environmental concerns occupy a fair amount of my spare time. After volunteering as a roofing supervisor for Habitat for Humanity in high school, and continuing roofing with them around Davidson, I appreciate their shift toward green-certified homes. Teaching environmental science at local elementary schools through Eco Team has been a real joy for me because I am so inspired by the students’ growing environmental consciousness. After co-directing the program my sophomore year and studying in France my junior year, I am thrilled to continue with Eco Team my senior year. I served on Davidson’s Sustainability Council after proposing the new paperless option for Davidson’s laundry and receiving a Green Grant for my fraternity, SAE. I enjoy leading Alternative Breaks with both social and environmental missions throughout the school year. During the last two summers I have interned and worked for vendors at the Davidson Farmers Market, done Abernethy research on the ethics of service, and led Service Odyssey groups in volunteering for Habitat, food banks, and local farmers. This summer I am a Sustainability Scholar, and through the program I will combine my passion for the community and environment working for the Charlotte City Market. My goal there is to design a plan for implementing an Electronic Benefits Transfer Program to increase the market’s accessibility. This summer I also plan to brainstorm with my fellow scholars to determine how best to use my National SAE Service Award to advance Davidson’s sustainability.”
VAIL COMMONS GARDEN

Vail Commons maintains an organic herb, fruit, and vegetable garden to produce food used in the dining hall’s kitchen. Vail Commons turns their food and yard waste into usable compost for their kitchen’s garden. Vail Commons’ open kitchen policy allows students to watch the kitchen staff as they prepare each dish.

GREENSTOCK

Greenstock is an annual spring festival hosted by the Environmental Action Coalition. The event educates Davidson students, faculty, and community members about various sustainability efforts.
in the community. The event features live music performed by Davidson students and faculty, games and activities, and booths run by community partners such as Davidson’s Lands Conservancy, Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Peace Corps, Barbee Farms, the Town of Davidson, and Healthy Home Market.

**DAVIDSON FARMER’S MARKET**

The Davidson Farmer’s Market—a producer-only, year-round market featuring more than 35 farmers and local producers from within a 100-mile radius—partners with student organizations to advise and provide local, sustainable food. The Davidson Farmer’s Market also presents a summer internship to a qualified Davidson student, supported by the Center for Civic Engagement.

**DAVIDSON LANDS CONSERVANCY**

Davidson’s Environmental Action Coalition hosts an annual silent auction and Green Ball to raise funds for the Davidson Lands Conservancy. DLC’s mission is to provide the citizens of Davidson and surrounding areas with alternatives to urban living by protecting natural lands and other open spaces for ecological and aesthetic purposes.

**DAVIDSON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Students from the Food Club and other environmentally conscious organizations partner with the Davidson Community Garden to tend and harvest the all-season, organic garden, using no pesticides or chemicals. The garden functions on a “tend some, take some, share a lot” policy, in which residents may take produce after tending weeds or watering crops. The Davidson Town Community Garden also donates harvested produce to Ada Jenkins’ Loaves and Fishes Program, which provides a week’s worth of nutritious groceries to families in a short-term crisis.

*People from the Town of Davidson gather at the community garden. The garden functions on a “tend some, take some, share a lot” policy, in which residents may take produce after tending weeds or watering crops.*
looking forward

The Office of Sustainability will continue to settle as a new department, build relationships on and off campus, and pursue programming and initiatives in accordance with the Climate Action Plan. Davidson also will hire a sustainability director to spearhead those developments.

This next year, the office will grow strategically to both broaden and deepen Davidson’s “sustainability portfolio.” After receiving a compost permit; building new LEED silver residence halls; launching a renewable energy project; and hiring new Environmental Studies faculty; Davidson now looks to pursue local, sustainable food. In fact, a strategic plan for an 18-acre internal sustainable farming operation that will supply food to Davidson’s Dining Services is already underway and the College hopes to hire a farm manager in the next few months.

Areas of previous emphasis—the solar panels, Environmental Studies Major, and Sustainability Scholars Program—will also continue to mature. Davidson College looks forward to maintaining the partnership with Duke Energy to learn more about the solar panels’ efficiency, offsets, and how to integrate solar energy into the Environmental Studies curriculum. The Environmental Studies Department is excited to announce that 11 students in the class of 2014 declared ENV majors, with the potential for 24 ENV majors total in the class of 2014. And due to the success of the Sustainability Scholars program, the Office of Sustainability will seek funding to finance the program for years to come.

Environmental Studies Professor Dr. Stanback studies interspecific competition for nest sites in urbanizing environments, particularly competition between Eastern Bluebirds and Carolina Chickadees at Davidson’s lake campus.
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