



GREENING YOUR LAUNDRY

Over the course of three weeks this semester, Eco Reps who work on Environmental Health sustainability initiatives delivered a laundry detergent pilot in Upton Hastings residence hall. Their goal: to get students to commit to trying a free homemade, low-toxic laundry detergent for at least one load of laundry. Over 70 residents committed to using the detergent. Some highlights from the post-survey that was conducted are as follows:

~Out of those who tried it, 40% stated that the primary benefit to using an alternative to detergents like Tide was that it was better for the environment.

~89% percent of those who tried the detergent also said that if the residence halls were to provide low-toxic laundry detergent that they would be somewhat to very likely to use it.

~66% of those who **did not** try the detergent stated that they would be somewhat to very likely to use low-toxic laundry detergent provided by the residence halls.

The Eco-Reps will be handing over a report of their findings to Residential Life with recommendations on how to make doing laundry at USM a more environmentally-friendly and cost effective activity.



METRO HUSKY CAMPAIGN



What's happening?

A METRO Campaign is a program to get students, faculty, and staff to ride the METRO by providing information about events that one can attend by riding the METRO

What's the goal?

The goal of the campaign is threefold: 1) To increase mobility options for students on campus by teaching them how to ride the METRO to destinations that they didn't know they could use it for, 2) To reduce the carbon footprint of USM, and 3) To reduce parking congestion

Where can I find more information?

Outreach for the campaign will be multi-fold in that there will be some campus-wide emails that are packaged with existing campus-wide emails such as the Monday Missive and the events notifications, there will be some social media blasts, and there will be some in-person handing out of quarter sheets.

Is riding the METRO Husky Line free?

YES! All USM students, staff, and faculty can now access all Greater Portland METRO lines for free with your USM Campus ID Card!

ECO-NEWS

SUSTAINABLE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WRITTEN & CREATED BY:



APRIL 2019

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AT USM

 @usmecoreps

 @sustainability_usm

<https://usm.maine.edu/sustainability>

AMERICORPS

The AmeriCorps program has been working on many projects and events this semester to engage the community in sustainable practices. So far, they have presented at the Maine Educators conference and worked with elementary school students, doing energy activities. They have also partnered with a local group of seniors to plant and grow a garden. Recently, the AmeriCorps hosted a Trivia Night on the topic of energy and climate. Throughout April they will be working on an energy audit in the dorms.

THE PATH TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

When many people hear about the University's goal of becoming carbon neutral by the year 2040, their first question is usually "how the heck do you plan to do that?". The answer is that it's tricky for sure, but it is possible with some creative thinking.

The Office of Sustainability aims to take a major step toward the neutrality goal, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from heat and electricity by 35% by the year 2025. And, the way they aim to accomplish that is primarily through third-party financing arrangements, where the University makes arrangements with external partners to pay for, design, and build energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on campus. The Office is on the cusp of launching the first of these creatively financed projects: referred to as the ESCO project.

The Energy Services Company (ESCO) project is intended to reduce our energy consumption and in turn to lower or constrain our operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions. An ESCO will likely be hired by this summer.

The Board of Trustees has already approved phase one of the two phase project last November. Phase one includes retrofitting Bailey and Anderson because they are large energy sinks and because the University wants to improve the buildings that directly serve students. If phase one is successful, then the University will ask the BOT to approve phase 2.

Early analysis suggests that the project will reduce emissions by at least 20% in any buildings that it tackles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Film screening

April 22nd, 6:30pm

Bailey 10

Co-hosting with Russel Scholars & ESP Student Group

Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Annual Conference

June 17th and 18th

Abromson Community Center

Students, sustainability professionals, and faculty welcome

Visit our website for conference and registration details

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Contact USM's Sustainability Education & Outreach Coordinator
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SUSTAINABILITY TIP

Tune Up Your Bike

Warm spring days are perfect for biking around campus. Stop at your local bike shop to get a quick tune-up before hitting the open road!

