



ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

On November 15th, the Office of Sustainability hosted the 2nd Annual Sustainability Fair on the Gorham campus. Attendees had the opportunity to try food samples from local vendors, experienced how pollution ends up in our waterways, learned all about where our food waste and trash/recycling goes from ecomaine and Garbage to Garden, played games made from recycled items, and even turned old t-shirts into tote bags. If you missed it this year, they will be hosting again next fall. In the meantime follow them on social media for spring event announcements!



ENERGY UPGRADES COMING TO GORHAM

The University is the midst of working with an energy services company named Trane to complete an investment grade energy audit of two student-centric buildings on the Gorham campus: Bailey Hall and Anderson Hall. The audit is aimed at finding opportunities for thermal, electric, and water savings through upgrading mechanical systems, adding insulation, and exploring the installation of a solar photovoltaic system. The audit is due to conclude at the end of February, after which the University will begin plans for construction to implement the carbon savings measures. The savings are projected to reduce carbon by upwards of 20% in the two buildings. If the project is successful, the University will ask for Board of Trustee approval to move to phase two of the project, which would cover half of the square footage of campus.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Contact USM's Sustainability Education & Outreach Coordinator
chelsea.malacara@maine.edu



RESIDENTIAL FOOD WASTE STUDY

The USM Food Studies Department surveyed 166 student residents about their interest in a residential food waste collection program. Of those surveyed, 80% indicated that they would be interested. Another 15% stated they were unsure mostly due to uncertainty about what types of food can go into a collection bin. Based on this information, the Food Studies Dept. in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability will conduct an 8 week pilot program during the spring semester. We are looking for all interested students, and specifically ones that live in Upper Class Hall to participate in this study. Materials will be provided. Please contact Lauren Olson, lauren.olson@maine.edu or Eric Day eric.s.day@maine.edu, for more information.

MEET OUR SPECIALTY COORDINATORS



Tom Dolloff

-Eco-Rep for 2 years

-*Hard to break habit:* Plastic packaging for food items like meat and cheese.

Sustainability Tip

Invest in reusable products wherever you can. Look into where you are spending money on disposables (containers, cups, bags, wrapping material) and you will find alternatives that will pay for themselves to help you and the environment. You can also consider where you can cut out products altogether to eliminate waste.

Abram Marr

- Eco-rep for 3.5 years.

-*Hard to break habit:* Using a single occupancy vehicle. My busy schedule during the school year does not bode well with the current public transit options available to me.

Sustainability Tip

Always look to buy locally and compassionately raised meat; it is expensive because you're paying the real price of meat not the artificially low price due to an industrialized system of factory farming.

