

Co-Curricular Sustainability Education at UVM

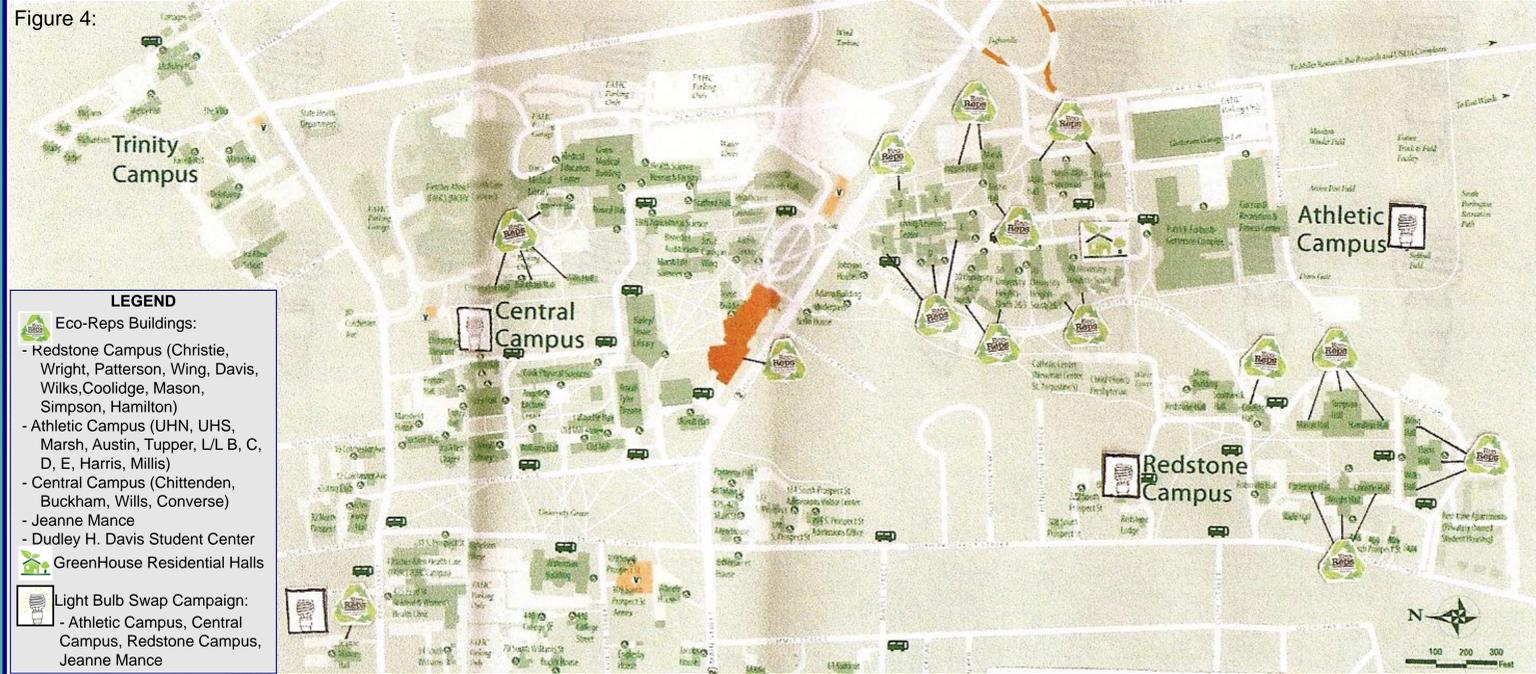
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CO-CURRICULAR EDUCATION

- The aspect “co-curricular education” looks at the relationship between the campus and the environment.
- It focuses the amount of education the campus is given in terms of their environmental impact and what student body and staff can do to help reduce it.
- Co-curricular education entails the efforts to provide sustainability education opportunities to students outside of the classroom.
- This aspect is important to the overall sustainability efforts at the University of Vermont
- By helping to make changes in day-to-day life to benefit the environment, the University is playing its role in being a sustainable institution.

Figure 4:

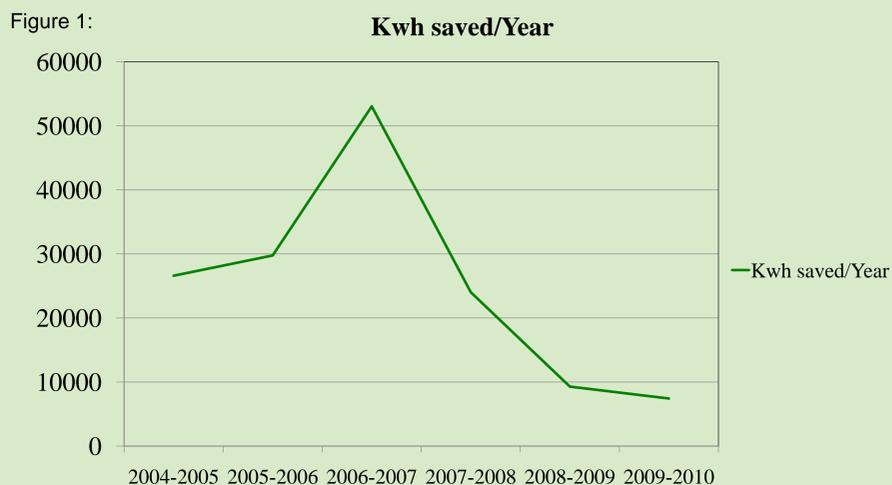


OUTREACH CAMPAIGN: LIGHTBULB SWAP

Existing light bulbs were exchanged for compact florescent light bulbs, since CFLs are more energy efficient and last longer.

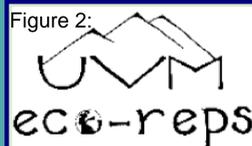
Figure 1 shows the trend of kilowatt hours use change over the years from 2004 through 2010. Over the years, the use has fluctuated. The graph shows that in 2006 there was an extreme peak in energy saved. This was the year that the swap was most enforced and had the best results.

Over time, the numbers relating to the money saved and the Kwh saved decline because the program has been ongoing. This data infers that the dorms have already transitioned to CFL bulbs and are showing consistent improvement for the campus.



*04-05 to 08-09 was calculated with 365 days/year; 09-10 based it on 240 days/year that students are on campus

Figure 2:



ECO-REPS

Who? Students, with the help of coordinators, ResLife, Office of Sustainability, and Custodial Services.

What? Eco-Reps are peers educating peers in environmentally sustainable living.

Why? The goal is to train student leaders who will promote environmentally responsible behavior in the residence halls and Davis Center

Examples of outreach: campaigns, light bulb swaps, providing composting, informational bulletin boards, programs such as waste sorts

Figure 3:



GREENHOUSE

Who? Students living an environmentally-friendly lifestyle aided by faculty, staff, and members of the Burlington community.

What? A sustainability focused residential learning community in University Heights South on UVM's campus, which hosts 250 students that apply and must be accepted to the program. Students participate in community events, ecology of place seminars and are held to a high standard of green living.

Why? To create a community centered around themes of sustainability in order to foster environmentally aware behavior on and off campus and to encourage interaction between students and their surroundings.

References

Figure 1 & 2: www.uvm.edu/~ecoreps, Figure 3: Elizabeth Boehmer, Figure 4: map from Dudley H. Davis Center altered by Alexandra Sarhanis Content: www.uvm.edu

RECOMMENDATIONS

Idea 1: Have an Eco-Rep in every building!

If the Eco-Rep program was extended to every building INCLUDING education buildings, this peer to peer educator program would benefit a larger percentage of the student body living on campus.

Idea 2: "Dorm Wars"

This type of competition would actively involve the student body in conserving more energy and allow the university to demonstrate friendly competition leading to a positive and measurable impact for STARS credits.

Idea 3: Expansion of the GreenHouse program!

Expansion of the GreenHouse program would help spread more awareness about sustainable living to a large percent of the student body, including people who are not living in the GreenHouse by allowing them to attend events or take the one-credit seminar course.

Idea 4: Water bottle ban measurement!

The water bottle ban on campus could receive STARS credits for the UVM if they have tangible results of the campaign. Currently, a lack of numbers indicating how successful the ban has been are not available, therefore UVM is unable to receive credits for this outreach campaign that the student body is involved in.