

Eco-Reps Passion Projects 2021



The University of Vermont

Her-Campus x Eco-Reps

Annie Stibora



The University of Vermont

The Problem

- Before I was an Eco-Rep myself, I didn't know anything about the program
 - Including programming, events, even Eco-Ware
 - Asking my friends and peers after becoming an Eco-Rep what they knew about the program (if anything) yielded dismal results
- Goal: To promote Eco-Reps and our programs to a wider audience
- As an active Her-Campus writer and editor as well as being on the events committee I thought it was a great vehicle to use for my project to spread awareness of Environmental issues and the Eco-Rep program itself



The Project

Articles

- What- Eco-Rep guest writers for Her-Campus
- When- Earth Week
- Why- To raise awareness for issues or ideas our change agents are passionate about and promote the Eco-Rep program to the Her-Campus audience

Livestream

- Asking Lauren questions about the Eco-Rep program, what we do, how we do it, etc.
- Discussion on some topics Eco-Reps have focused on (Just Sustainability, making sustainability convenient for on-campus college students)

Results

Livestream

- What went well: I thought the questions were good, Lauren answered them extremely well and the posted livestream has over 200 views!
- What could have gone better: If I could do it again, I think I would have split it into a Q&A portion and then more of a discussion portion instead of a full interview style

Articles

- 6 AMAZING articles were written by Eco-Reps
- A huge thank you to all the writers!
- <https://www.hercampus.com/school/uvm>





A Coffee Cup is Not Just a Coffee Cup

Althea's Article



Sustainability in The Classroom: From the Perspective of a Teacher in Training

Sam's Article



Return Your EcoWare!

Ali's Article



Hydrogen Storage Rising Through the Ranks

Sean's Article



Green Options Vs. Easy Options

Cate's Article



Make Your Hygiene Routine More Sustainable

Nora's Article



Lab Waste

Sam Joyner



The University of Vermont

The Problem



How many of us have taken a lab science here at UVM?

Most UVM students will at some point!

Lab waste was being mishandled and grossly neglected by the students. This led to the fire in the basement of innovation during the Fall of 2019. That event led to a massive shut down and the potential for a large chemical explosion

While that was a massive danger to the entire UVM community, what other risks are there?

Report: Wyle Labs may have mishandled toxic waste at SoCal testing site

ncs-import

Monday, July 14, 2003

[Discuss](#)

[Share this](#)

[Comment, Blog about](#)

[Email, Facebook, Twitter](#)

RIVERSIDE, Calif. -- Wyle Laboratories may have mishandled toxic waste at a military and nuclear test site, while government regulators failed to properly monitor environmental contamination in the area, despite complaints from sick residents and former Wyle employees, according to a newspaper report.

Post Beirut Explosion - Evaluating Your Hazardous Waste Program

POSTED BY TED DUBIEL DECEMBER 3, 2020

On August 4th, the city of Beirut suffered an extremely deadly and devastating explosion. What was the cause? Improper storage of high hazardous chemicals. At 6pm, "the roof of the warehouse caught alight and there was a large initial explosion, followed by a series of smaller explosions [...]. About 30 seconds later, there was a colossal explosion that sent a mushroom cloud into the air and a supersonic blast wave radiating through the city" (BBC, 2020). More than 200 people were tragically killed and over 500 injured. Lebanon's Prime Minister would soon blame the chemical detonation on 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been unsafely and improperly stored. "Ammonium nitrate has been associated with deadly industrial accidents. In 1947, a ship carrying 2,000 tons of the chemical exploded in Texas, killing 581 people" (BBC, 2020). Previous to this explosion in Beirut there had been multiple written warnings about the danger posed by the stored ammonium nitrate, unfortunately, the requests for removal were repeatedly ignored.



How does biomedical waste impact the environment?

Improper segregation of biomedical waste and different medical waste streams from the point of origin can trigger a domino-like effect on the environment that incurs dangers to people, animals, or soil and water sources.

Improper segregation and disposal of biomedical waste has the potential to contaminate groundwater sources, which in turn may infect humans and animals alike. From a hospital's waste and storage receptacles to landfills, biomedical waste needs to be properly contained to keep it away from birds, rodents, and stray animals (as well as humans). This enhances packaging and labeling of contaminants and helps prevent the spread of illness through human and animal populations – by air, land, or water.

If not properly contained, segregated, and incinerated through on-site or off-site incineration, environmental hazards associated with improper healthcare waste management can contaminate the air we breathe through dangerous airborne particles. Radioactive particles produced with diagnostic technologies have the potential to reach a landfill or other areas of the environment, especially air. Air pollutants disseminated over huge areas of inhabited land have the potential to trigger a number of illnesses.

What I created

Where does my waste go?

This is a larger poster that is put up in the science labs to increase the amount of education on lab waste

Main goal: Spread awareness of how UVM is treating its waste and why students need to be more mindful about how they treat it

Where should my waste go?

These are smaller stickers for the inside of the lab notebooks They are meant to help act as a reminder and source that the

separation of waste matters
Main goal: an “all knowing” resource for students with a link to a comprehensive PDF for the location of all waste

Where should my waste go

If it is chemical waste, it will go into the lab waste containers that specify its contents

Any sharp or pointy object and uncontaminated solid waste should be placed into the broken glass bin

UVM cares about its waste and you should too

Unhazardous solid waste should be placed into the trash and any unhazardous liquid can be poured down the drain

If you are unsure, ASK!

WHERE DOES MY WASTE GO?

How waste is treated at UVM

At UVM waste is categorized into four main categories: chemical waste, blowaste, radioactive waste, and uncontaminated waste. These four categories are vital in proper and safe disposal due to their specific and highly regulated standards. Most waste will be incinerated, recycled, treated, and a small portion will be brought into a landfill.

LAB SIZE

Ever wondered why experiments normally have a very small yield? Running experiments on a smaller scale helps to reduce the amount of waste that is produced overall. This is also used inside research labs. By reducing the overall materials needed we can reduce the material created and therefore produce significantly less waste.

SEPERATION

If you look inside a UVM lab you will see many different bins accompanied by large labels. By separating waste into uncontaminated, hazardous handle, or recyclable, it helps to properly dispose of the waste, and also helps to dispose of the waste in the correct and with the least amount of environmental impact.

ON-SITE TREATMENT

While you should never intentionally pour anything down the drain that is not supposed to, accidents will happen. Waste that is poured down the drain is treated by neutralization tanks that are built right into the school's plumbing; this helps by taking the pressure off of the waste treatment plant.

INCINERATION

UVM does have off-site incinerators that are used to safely reduce the waste into smaller amounts. These incineration centers are also equipped with scrubbers that remove pollutants from the smoke that is produced during this process, so no harmful chemicals are released into the atmosphere.

RECYCLING

Probably one of the most noticeable bins inside a lab is the "green gloves only" box. The green gloves are first checked to make sure there is no other waste, and then they are transported to a plant where they are cleaned and turned into various objects, such as lawn furniture, plant pots, plastic containers, really anything that can be created from a mold.

LANDFILL WASTE

UVM is committed to curbing unnecessary landfills and that is why it is always the last resort. Almost everything is recycled, even some solvents are burned for fuel, but everything has its place and very rarely is the landfill one of them. No dangerous or hazardous waste is ever intentionally dropped off and that is why we have such a low contribution to landfills.

END GOAL

UVM is committed to generating as little lab waste as possible, and with that comes some very heavy responsibility on you, the student. Proper waste management starts with understanding where to put your lab waste and why separation is vital. If you are unsure where to properly dispose of your waste, first check on your lab manual and the waste management section, and if you are still unsure, ask! Keeping UVM and the surrounding counties safe is a top priority, so next time you have waste, put it in its right place.

For more info visit em.edu/riskmanagement/laboratory-chemical-waste-management

How I got there !

Victoria Halsey

- UVM Chem Safety Coordinator
- Was immensely helpful in collecting information

Bruce Lickey and Ben Rose

- These were my TA's who acted as my main points of contact with the Chem Department

Caylin McCamp

- Helped a lot with planning and seeing the process through
- Instrumental in getting everything printed

Alexander Wurthmann and Severin Schneebeili

- My Chemistry Professors during this process that also helped with contacts and getting the information spread

Everyone Here!

- For helping me plan out my next steps, which are to hopefully continue this into next year!

Waste Watchers

KC Johnson



The University of Vermont

The Purpose of Waste Watchers

- My interest:
 - Privilege of being conscious of my single use waste day-to day → always been a priority of mine
 - Curious about the difference between the perception of waste and the reality of waste for a **college student**
- “The purpose of this project is to draw individual attention to the impact of single use waste products in a day-to-day context. We all fall victim to the "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" phenomena and this short commitment aims to overcome this to get a true understanding of how we view our waste. This series will consist of two surveys, the first to get an idea of where participants think most of their waste comes from, and the second to get real, raw data of waste consumption over the course of 3 days.”
- Justice:
 - Most single use trash is disposed of in landfills that are in predominantly low-income areas and the negative effects on health that come with contaminated water, unclean air, and lack of access to green spaces disproportionately impacts BIPOC communities
 - It's a privilege to be able to live zero waste → this project was not designed to shame people for their waste generation, only to raise personal awareness and hopefully give people the resources to make changes that are reasonable for them

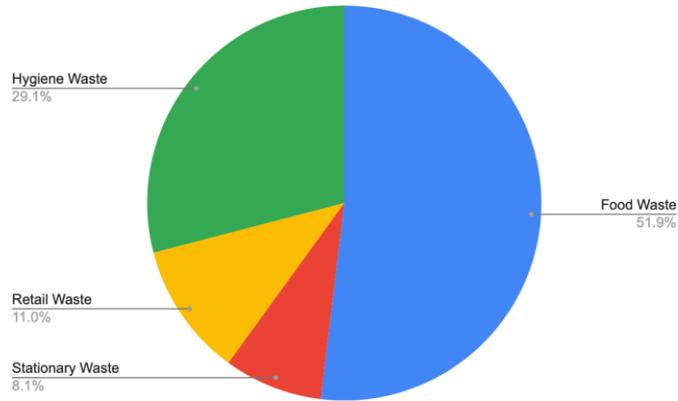
The Plan

- Pair of Surveys
 - First Survey → “Which category do you believe is the largest contributor to your single use waste?”
 - - Food waste, Ex. Coffee cups, drink bottles, food wrappers, straws, napkins, etc.
 - - Stationary waste, Ex. Scrap paper, sticky notes, pens, pencils, etc.
 - - Retail waste, Ex. Tags, receipts, paper/plastic bags, packaging, etc.
 - - Hygiene waste, Ex. Floss, cotton pads, cotton swabs, tissues, makeup wipes, etc.
 - Data collection for 3 days recording the number of individual single use waste products per category
 - Second Survey
 - Report number of waste products per category
 - “On-Campus or Off-Campus”
 - “Did the largest number of single use waste products match your prediction at the beginning from the first survey?”

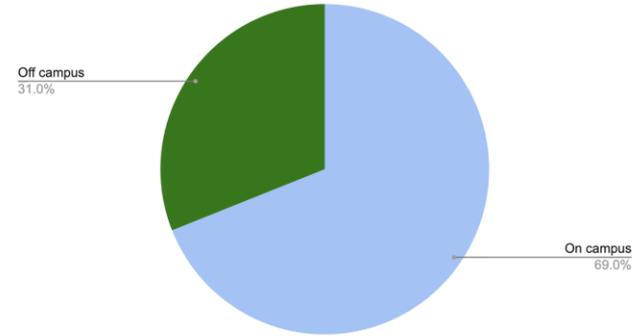
The Results!

40 participants signed up with 29 individuals completing the second survey

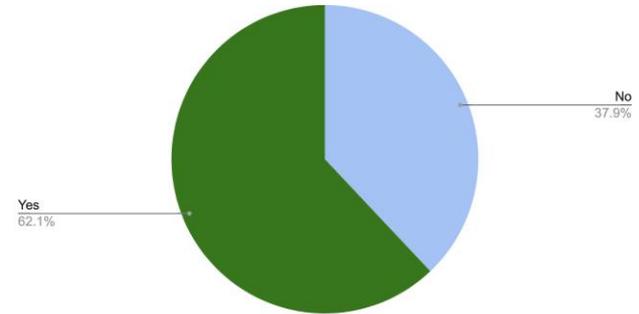
- 703 pieces of single use waste over the course of 3 days
- Largest category: food waste → 51.9%



Count of Do you currently live on campus or off campus?



Count of Did the largest number of single use waste products match your prediction at the beginning from the first survey?



COVID Impacts & The future of Waste Watchers

- Big thanks to Caylin for all of her help coordinating the prize and helping plan this project ☺!
- Project concluded with an instagram slideshow and a reflection blog post
- COVID impacts
 - Always would have been an online, individual participation challenge
 - Very COVID friendly project
 - Most likely would have run the same regardless
- The Future of Waste Watchers
 - Timeless project
 - Very easy to implement using google surveys
 - Would be interesting to see how the numbers change after COVID considering the increase in single use waste items for food

Thrifting Reviews

Amanda Minsk



The University of Vermont

Problem: Do UVM students know about all the local thrift and secondhand stores in Burlington, and nearby surrounding towns?

I have become interested in learning more about fast fashion and creative upcycling options because some of my friends introduced me to thrifting last year. Over quarantine, I got creative with seeing beyond a piece of clothing to what the potential was instead of what its current state looked like.

I wanted to educate and inform students that thrift stores do have trendy clothing and there is other places to shop other than Urban, American Eagle, Pac Sun, Carhartt etc.

Audience: UVM students



The Overview:

Budget: No Budget needed

How I reviewed: Based on cleanliness, prices, location, staff presence, product desirability

Stakeholders: Lauren helped me adjust the Instagram captions based on what she knows about marketing and social media engagement

Marketing Tactics: Each caption used various emojis and shorter captions because big paragraphs are not as enticing to viewers and they are more likely to read shorter, concise, captions



Results

Total Likes based on Total Posts: **172**

I would consider this to be a success based on the engagement we get on other Eco Reps posts, the average likes per thrift post was **57**, and on other posts based on the past 10 posts excluding the thrift posts, the average likes was **35.5**

I learned that thrift stores have a lot more to offer than just clothing, and they are great options for upcycling and trendy clothing especially because vintage is very popular right now. I feel like thrift stores are great for college students because they are cost effective and a great sustainable option

EXAMPLE POST:



Next Steps

1. There are many more thrift stores around Burlington that can get reviewed and posted
2. Building off the reviews I have already done, there could be a document or drive that has all of the stores so students can see all of them in one place and don't have to look through the Instagram posts to find different places



I could have gone to more stores for reviews but I got miss rona so that put a halt to that

There is defiantly an oppportunity for another Change Agent to continue where I left off



Can and Bottle Redemption Program

Nick Bishop



The University of Vermont

The Basics

- The idea was brought to me by Anna Hand (MSH Area coordinator)
 - Easy way to raise money for local cause?
- Goal: weekly fill-ups with drop offs every few weeks
- Worded simply: turn students beer money into something for the greater good



Methods Used

- First step: acquire boxes for waste rooms
- Emphasis on marketing from beginning
 - How to maximize resident participation?
- Collection can be confusing
 - How to make it as simple as possible?
- Had to be cautious with outright asking for alcoholic containers

What beverages ARE covered under the Bottle Bill Law?

When purchased in Vermont:

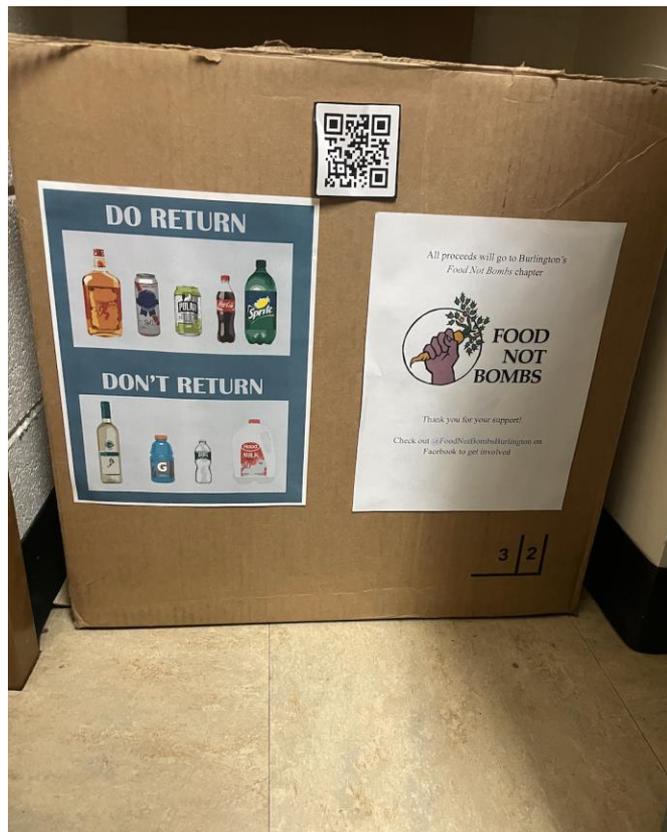
- Beer, wine coolers, and other malt beverages
- *Carbonated* non-alcoholic beverages, including sodas, sparkling waters and juices, and carbonated sports and energy drinks
- Liquor and spirits

What beverages ARE NOT covered under the Bottle Bill Law?

- Wine and hard cider
- *Non-carbonated* non-alcoholic beverages, including water, milk, juice, sports and energy drinks
- Beverages purchased out of state

Maya's awesome poster





DO RETURN



DON'T RETURN



All proceeds will go to Burlington's
Food Not Bombs chapter



**FOOD
NOT
BOMBS**

Thank you for your support!

Check out @FoodNotBombsBurlington on
Facebook to get involved!

3 | 2 |

Results / Reflection

- 1st semester trial run = Success!
- Boxes kept getting moved to strange places, not filling up like I was expecting
- Not great initial response
 - Added QR code
 - Hard to stay motivated
- Keep the Passion in Passion Project
 - Settled on idea because it had support and seemed exciting
- Lessons:
 1. Know your audience
 2. Know your limits (mentally and physically)
 - 14 flights of stairs + Ecoware collection

Can and Bottle Redemption

Jane Burton



The University of Vermont

Overview

- Collect redeemable cans and bottles in Uheights South trash rooms to take to redemption center and donate money to Old North End Mutual Aid Fund
- Worked with Nick and learned from his successes and used the same poster designs
- Initial difficulty in organizing and setting up project but is now running smoothly
- Empty collection bins twice a week
- Used boxes from book store for collection bins





Budget: no budget needed

Stakeholders: Uheights custodial staff, Old North End Mutual Aid Fund

Marketing Tactics: Signs up in all trash rooms in tower 2

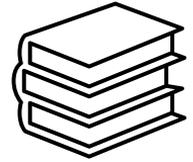


Results and Reflection

- Have raised \$25 so far
- It is difficult to raise lots of money at redemption centers
- Confusion about what is and is not redeemable
- Could have had better marketing for project and expanded to other buildings
- Overall I found this project to be a success and hopefully something that will be continued by eco reps in the future!



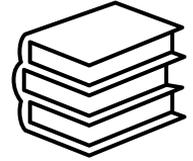
Book Reuse Pilot Program



Sean Magnifico

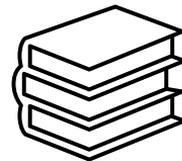


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What It's All About

- The big idea: A method of reliably redistributing books to incoming freshman from upper classes who no longer need them
- Why this program?
 - The honors college buys incoming freshman a new book every year for HCOL 085 summer reading assignment
 - This amounts to 250+ of \$26 books which, in all likelihood, will only be read once and then discarded
 - If this book reuse trial run is expanded upon, the honors college would save thousands of dollars every year, and it could serve as a model for other learning communities across campus with similar freshman courses
- Who stands to benefit?
 - Everybody! Learning communities can put their savings back into their learning communities how they see fit. Mental health services/programming, kitchen supplies, even sustainability (switching to LED lighting would be pretty nice).

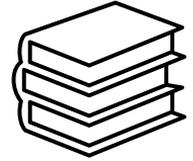


The Process: Communication is Key

- Emails. Emails. Emails.
 - Lots of coordination between different Honors College figures and Reslife
- Problem solving
 - How/When would books be redistributed after collection?
 - Where can they be stored?
- Getting the word out & book collection
- And, of course, there's always a wrench thrown in...
 - Changing curriculum



Current Status & Looking Ahead



- A work in progress
- Measuring Success
 - Number of books collected
 - Replicable?
- Identifying challenges:
 - Curriculum changes
 - Book collection – Fall vs Spring
 - Viable for other learning communities?
- Expansion:
 - It would be great to see this project expanded upon (depth and breadth!)
 - Bigger campaigns to collect more books, extension into other learning communities



BIPOC Quilt

Ayanna McDaniel

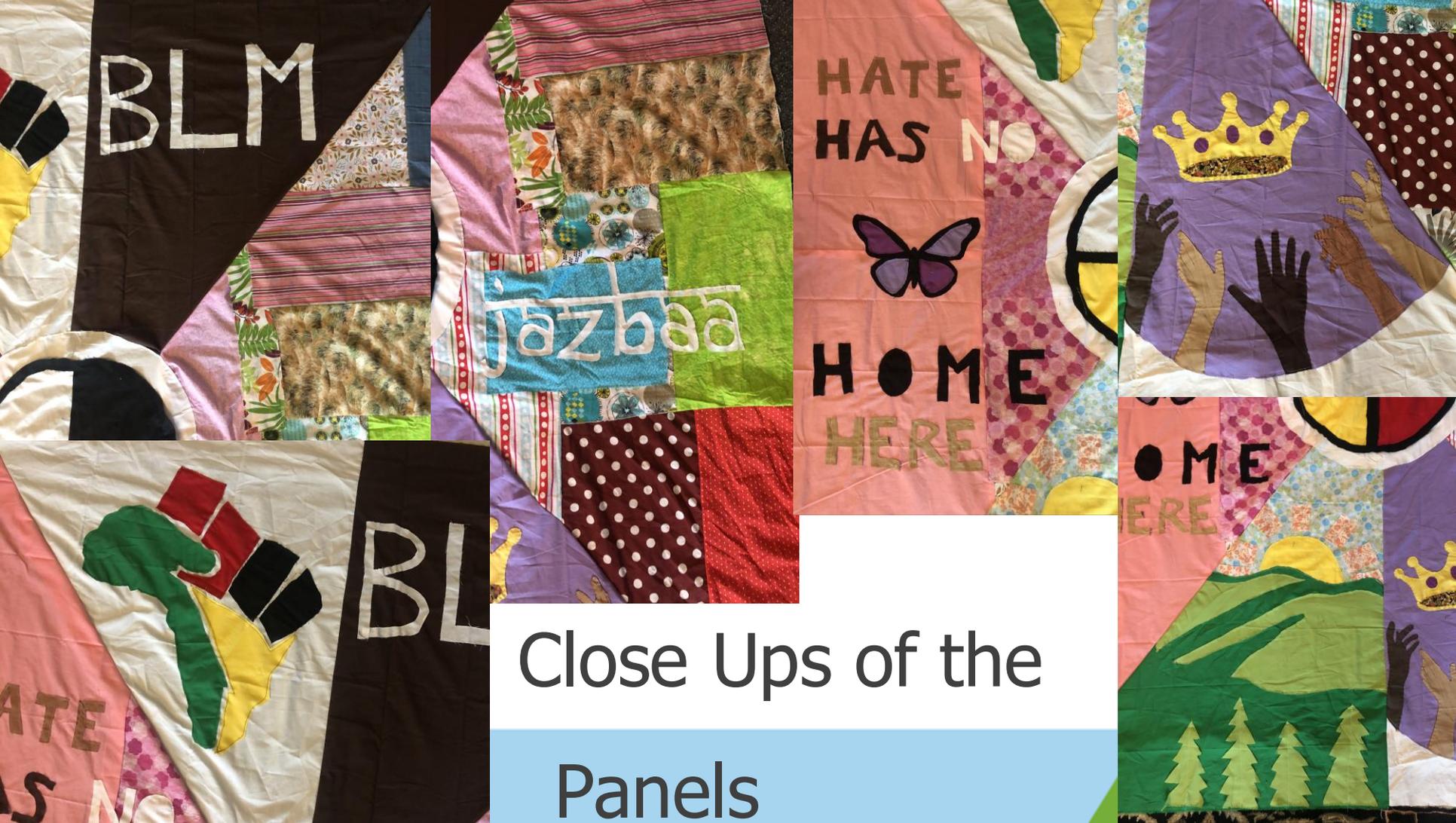


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My Quilt

- I wanted my passion project to be centered around highlighting and celebrating BIPOC clubs/orgs
 - Black Student Union
 - BLM (not a club)
 - Jazbaa
 - Women of Color Coalition
 - People of Color Outdoors
 - Sisters of Color
 - Indigenous Peoples Collective (center)
- I also wanted to create dialogue between Eco Reps and identity/affinity clubs at UVM
- Cost
 - \$50 for solid fabrics and thread
 - Patterned fabrics : free from OoS
- Results
 - Very happy with how it came out
 - Working with clubs on campus was difficult
 - Reached out to a lot of clubs, many did not respond
 - One club never submitted design, I chose to include BLM
 - Best way to contact- instagram





BLM

HATE
HAS NO



HOME
HERE



jazbaa

BL



HOME
HERE

Close Ups of the
Panels



Next Steps + What I Learned

- Next Steps
 - I hope to get the quilt displayed somewhere on campus, so next step for my quilt would be outreach!
 - Hopefully the Davis Center!
 - Did not finish the back panel for the quilt
 - Use fabric scraps from OoS to create one large panel
- Continuity of my project
 - It would be great to see future change agents work with identity clubs on campus + explore the intersection between sustainability and justice
- What I Learned
 - Clubs are difficult to get in contact, and remain in contact with
 - PATIENCE!
 - Quilting is a long and very precise process, so having patience and learning to trust the process was difficult



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Q/A
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Energy Literacy: Audit and Education

Camille Jacoby



The University of Vermont

The Problem/Opportunity

- Found myself in several conversations about energy conservation
 - Energy is something that I take for granted in my daily life and in COVID times, energy powers my whole education, social life and much of my leisure life so I wanted to dig into that privilege a bit more to acknowledge and learn about because I know it's not readily accessible to everyone
 - First step to action is awareness and understanding
 - I wanted to start with my pretty immediate community so I decided to do an audit of mainly Harris Millis but was open to other people beyond my building's answers as well

Methods

- Made a survey to see what people understand about energy in their dorms and daily lives
- Postered, advertised, sent around
- Incentivized
- 47 responses



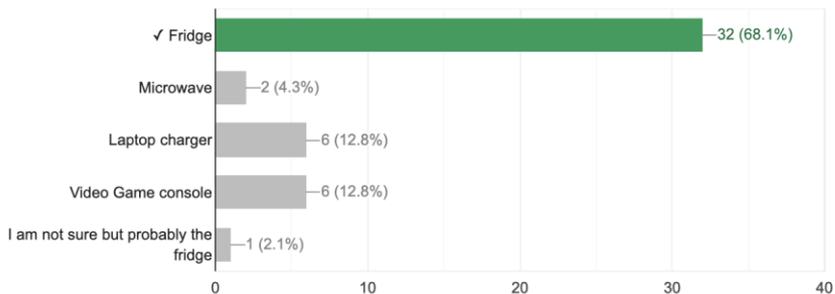
Help your Community be More Energy Efficient and Win \$20 to the Bookstore!

Take the linked survey to contribute to informing the Harris Millis and UHS community about their energy usage and help us all be more energy efficient! Taking the survey automatically enters you in a raffle for a \$20 gift card to the Bookstore/Henderson's Café!

Use the QR code or visit
[Go.uvm.edu/dormenergy](https://go.uvm.edu/dormenergy) to take the
survey or Contact Camille Jacoby
cjacoby@uvm.edu for questions

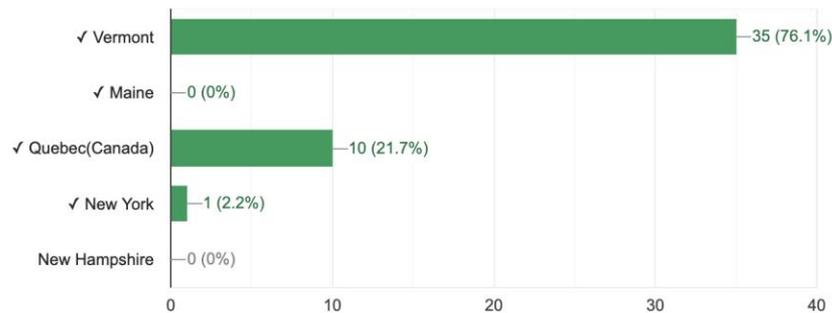
Which of these appliances uses the most energy?

32 / 47 correct responses



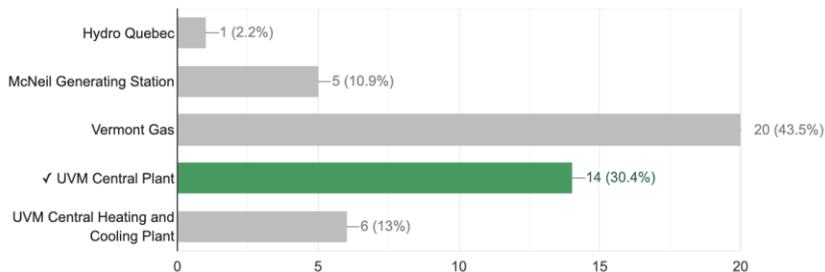
Where does your dorm electricity come from?

46 / 46 correct responses



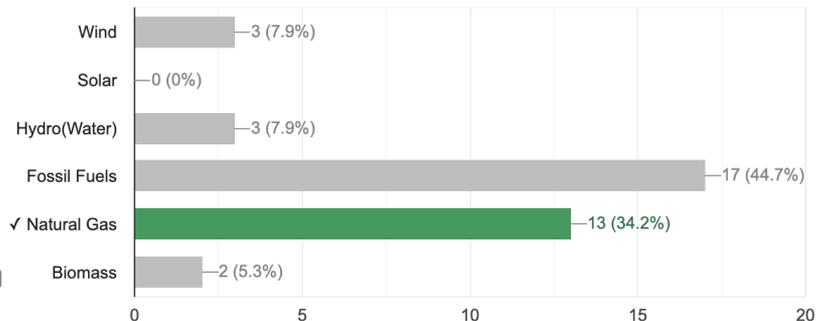
Where does your heat get generated?

14 / 46 correct responses



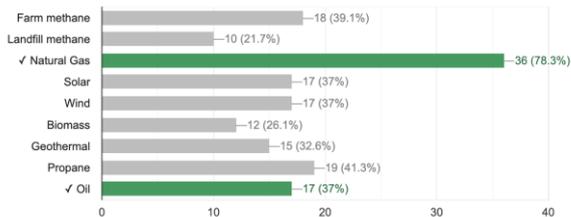
What's the primary source of energy for electricity in the Northeast?

13 / 38 correct responses



What energy sources are used to generate your heat? Check all that apply:

1 / 46 correct responses



What are the best ways you can conserve electricity within your dorm?
What are the best ways you can conserve heat within your dorm?



ENERGY SOURCES ON CAMPUS

We all use energy in our dorms everyday, why not understand where it is coming from and how that powers our lives?



Northeast Electric Grid

The Northeast Electric Grid spans across the six states in New England. There is an ISO (Independent System Operator) operating center in Massachusetts that monitors, dispatches and directs the flow of electricity across the power grid 24/7. The primary source of energy for electricity in the Northeast is natural gas (hydrocarbon gas mixture primarily consisting of methane).

BURLINGTON ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

BEI-owned or -contracted facilities produce power and all that power goes through the northeast electric grid. BEI's major energy sources are hydro 33.4%, wood 30.7%, and wind 27.3%.



YOUR FRIDGE IS AN ENERGY SUCKER

A typical mini fridge uses about 90 watts of electrical power to run. This is the same amount of energy it takes to...



UVM CENTRAL PLANT



UVM maintains its own central heat and cooling plant. The plant uses natural gas and oil to generate heating and cooling services to us. Pressurized steam and chilled water is carried from the plant to campus buildings through underground pipes.

CONSERVATION TACTICS IN THE DORMS

- Shut your windows when the heat is on and the building will read the temp as warmer and reduce the excretion of heat
- If your fridge consists of mostly drinks or non-perishables, unplug it until the day you plan to consume the contents.
- Turn off your lights and unplug your cords when you leave or aren't using them.
- Take shorter, cooler showers to conserve hot water
- Use smart power strips to control flow of energy to machines that are related



- 32 people signed into my table
- Ruffled off power strip and lightbulbs
- Had good conversations about energy in the dorms
- Quizzed people

Many thanks to...

- Caylin
 - Supported and led me through whole process
 - Helped me in handling prizes
- Gioia
 - Helped in my research process and compiling the survey
- Lulé and Liv
 - Helped me with learning community outreach
- Renato Martinez
 - Helping me coordinate tabling in Harris Millis

Outcomes

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative
- Challenges
 - Balance
 - I thought engagement would be a challenge
- Directing the trajectory of the project
 - Empowering
- Next Steps
 - Audit vs. Education
 - Infographic work and use
 - Pledge
 - Event

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Q/A
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Bike Guide to Burlington

Cate Kreider



The University of Vermont

Bike Guide to Burlington- An Introduction

- There are a lot of students who feel they can't access/can't explore Burlington without a car, this guide is a quick intro to awesome places within bussing/biking distance
 - Inspiration: I want to help others overcome the obstacles that I faced before finding these awesome places and getting comfortable on the roads
 - Audience: This is aimed at first years and it is meant to limit the unknowns in planning for a ride around an unfamiliar city
 - Justice: This guide promotes local businesses and ultimately reduces cars/emissions and educates on bike infrastructure
- How you went about it
 - No defined budget but this booklet might eventually be printed. All it really needed was my time to ride out and organize the info and Maya's ingenious design skills and assistance.
 - Big shout out to Maya who knows how to use design software and also make something look sophisticated and organized. She also picked up some slack for me when I was struggling this semester and helped gather some of the info based off of my plans. Thanks so much :)
 - Aimed to make sustainable behavior accessible and less scary/labor intensive. The guide includes resources for acquiring a bike and using the local bus system. It'll also engage students in the community.



Spear Street is a flat road with a wide bike lane and moderate traffic. It has beautiful views and runs right through campus!

So How Did That Go?

- Engagement can be measured by how many people pick up paper copies at tabling if we take that route. Also, am considering a social media tag so that people who use it can share their experiences with the eco reps pages
- I learned that even if you're excited about something, get to work on it and calculate it as tasks! And follow your schedule.
 - I was excited to do some aspects and got them done fairly quickly but follow up was slower because those first pieces had been so simple and fun! I hit a roadblock or two when I actually got to work, and a tough spring semester sealed the deal and put me way behind schedule.

Rock Point & North Beach



This ride is a classic, and one of the first I'd recommend a new resident to Burlington take. North Beach is a popular visitation spot, located right on the Burlington Bike Path, and has swimming and picnic tables. Rock Point is a nearby natural area and trail network that leads right up to the water edge and among some cliffs looking over Lake Champlain. The ride there is as pleasant as the destination!



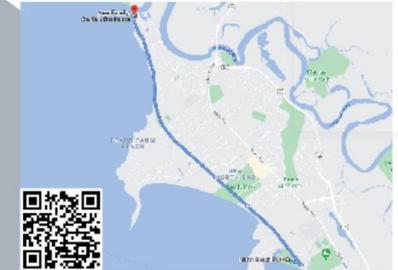
Estimated time: 22 mins



Extension: Charlie's Boat House

The extension of the North Beach ride is fifteen minutes further down the Burlington bike path and is a quaint little shop owned and operated by longtime residents and siblings Charlie and Christine. Here you can rent a rowboat, canoe, or kayak, sit on the beach or the bridge, or rent some fishing equipment when you buy some bait. This is truly a hidden gem. Seasonally Charlie's is open in late spring to early fall, check their facebook page for details.

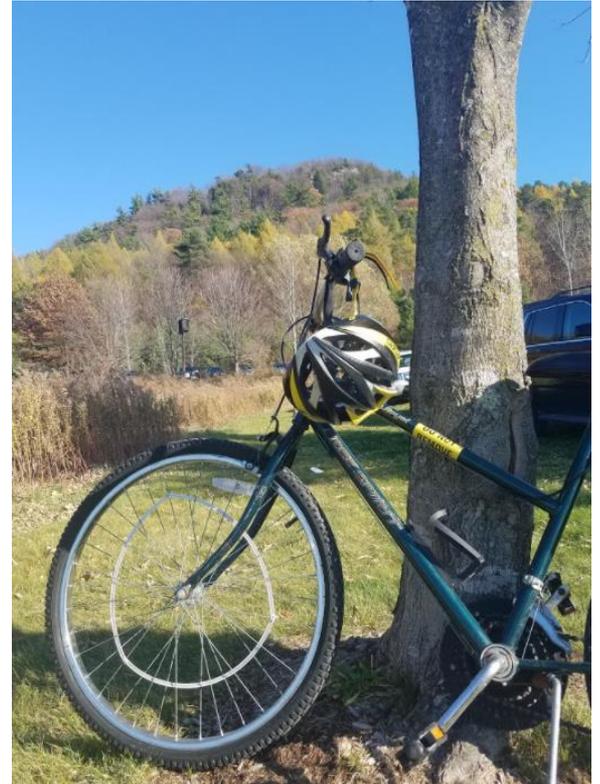
Scan to visit the Charlie's Boat House Facebook page!



Any Wrong Turns? Where to Next?

- I wish I met some of my earlier deadlines so I could have a more complete product to share now.
- It would have been great to partner with the people who reached out to me with similar ideas and projects but somehow something always came up and I never connected with anyone.
 - Also, I really wanted to ride to the causeway and add it to the trip list but I never made it out there and couldn't include it
- I think this can be used as a resource for future projects and programs and perhaps there could be a sequel? With different destinations or ways to get around (student's bus guide to Burlington?) but mostly I think that this is fully developed.

My bike against a tree after riding to Mt. Philo



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The University of Vermont

Real Food Calculations at the Bookstore

Jack & Althea



The University of Vermont

UVM's Commitment to Real Food

- What is the Real Food Challenge? / What is real food?
 - Organization founded by student activists in 2007
 - Goal was to shift 20% of university food budgets from industrial farms to community-based, fair, ecologically sound, and humane food sources
 - Criteria for the local / fair / ecologically sound / humane were specifically laid out by the RFC.
- In 2017, UVM met the goal of achieving 20% Real Food in the dining halls. A new goal was set to reach 25% Real Food by 2020.
- Our goal was to find the percentage of Real Food at the UVM bookstore (Catpause and Henderson's) and to offer alternatives to some of the current products.



Why are the principles of the RFC important?

- Industrial farms often exploit undocumented immigrants; the employees are usually extremely underpaid, do not get benefits, and endure terrible working conditions.
- Supporting companies which obtain food from large industrial farms without addressing labor issues perpetuates the injustices against these workers.
- Industrial farming generally uses excessive pesticides and other environmentally detrimental practices
- Industrial farming may have inhumane conditions for animals
- Often times, large industrial farms are far from the locations in which their products are sold. Packaging and transport of the products is a large contributor to carbon emissions and other pollutants.
- Supporting local farms in the area is good for distributing wealth within a community



How it connect to UVM

- UVM Bookstore, Cat Pause, and Henderson's are very commonly used, as they are in convenient high traffic areas
- Because these locations are not technically part of UVM dining, they are not accounted for in reaching the goals set by the Real Food Challenge at UVM
- Switching to Real Food at these locations can make a large impact on the money put towards Real Food
 - "Vote with your dollar" idea
- Taking the Real Food into account at these locations has the potential to higher the percentage of Real Food at UVM
- Vermont has many small, local farms, which can benefit from being part of this
- Promotes justice for farmworkers locally

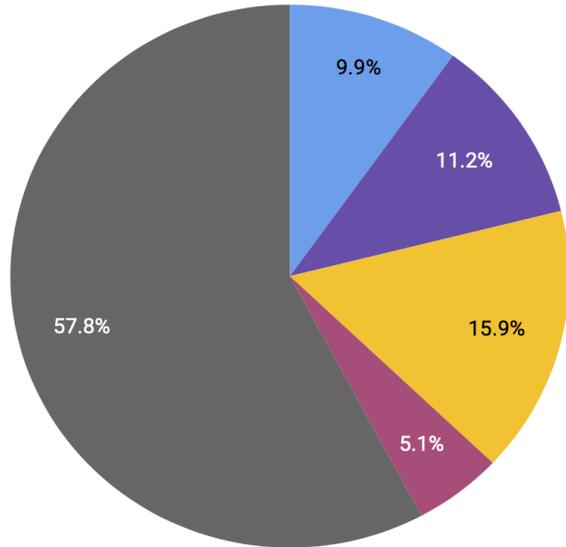


Calculating the Real Food Percentage

- Our first step was to obtain and look at the Bookstore inventories for July, October, and February
 - Due to COVID-19 the Davis Center was closed during July, so there were no invoices. As a result, the invoices for October were larger than usual
 - When re-opening, there was an emphasis on stocking the store with local products
- Scanning the invoices and transferring the scans into google drive
- Putting all of the information into an excel spreadsheet
- Going through the products and determining which qualified as Real Food
- Finding some alternative products and suggesting them to the Catpause and Henderson's managers

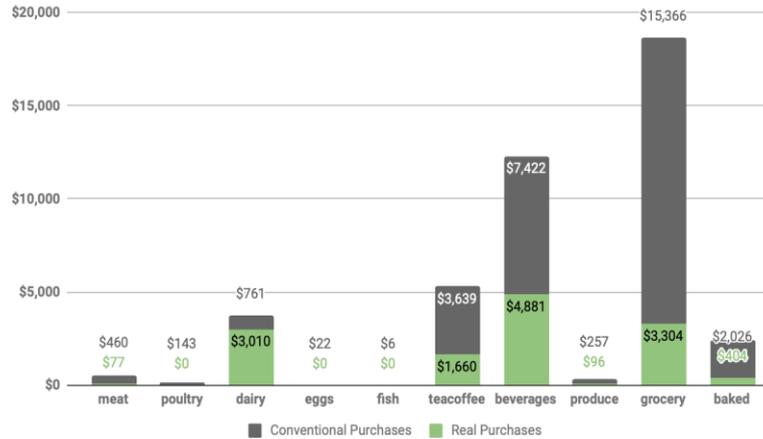


Real Food Percentage by Attribute



- Local & Community Based
- Fair
- Ecologically Sound
- Humane
- Conventional

Real vs Conventional Purchases



Results

- Overall, we found 39.9% Real Food at the bookstore
 - 2016: 31.1% real food
 - The bookstore is spending \$17,367 on RFC products compared to \$13,722 in 2016
- Distribution:
 - Beverages make up a large number of RFC purchases: Kombucha, Kevita, Starbucks drinks, etc.
 - Overall, about 1/5th of grocery items was real food
- Popular real food products:
 - Monument farms milk, Kevita, Yerba, Kombucha (of all sorts), many VT artisan coffees, and CLIF bars are all popular and match the criteria



Challenges

- The data entry was very time consuming
- Determining whether or not a product qualified in one of the categories of Real Food was difficult for certain items
 - Specifically, this was difficult for some of the smaller vendors that don't have websites or many accessible ways to see how products are sourced.



Next Steps

- Push for Real Food products in bookstore, discuss products with the managers of Catpause and Henderson's
- Look for items which meet the criteria for Menu for Change - UVM's next commitment
- Continuously look for better alternatives for products
- Bulk in Catpause?
- Future change agents can go through the process to keep monitoring the percentage of Real Food/ food which counts towards achieving goals set by Menu for Change



Improving Campus Move- Out Program

Julia Grant



The University of Vermont

How I got here

- Upon research, interest in the concept of a "green move-out"
- Learned about UVM's current moveout program- existing elements of green move out
- Landed on trying to improve the current situation by focusing on a big issue regarding past move outs

UVM's current system:

- Donation bins in lobby of every res hall with the categories: food, clothing, and household goods
- Donations are then collected and consolidated by Corey Berman and team; items are sorted as much as possible, and then distributed to various local donation centers (Goodwill, ReStore, Salvation Army, etc.)



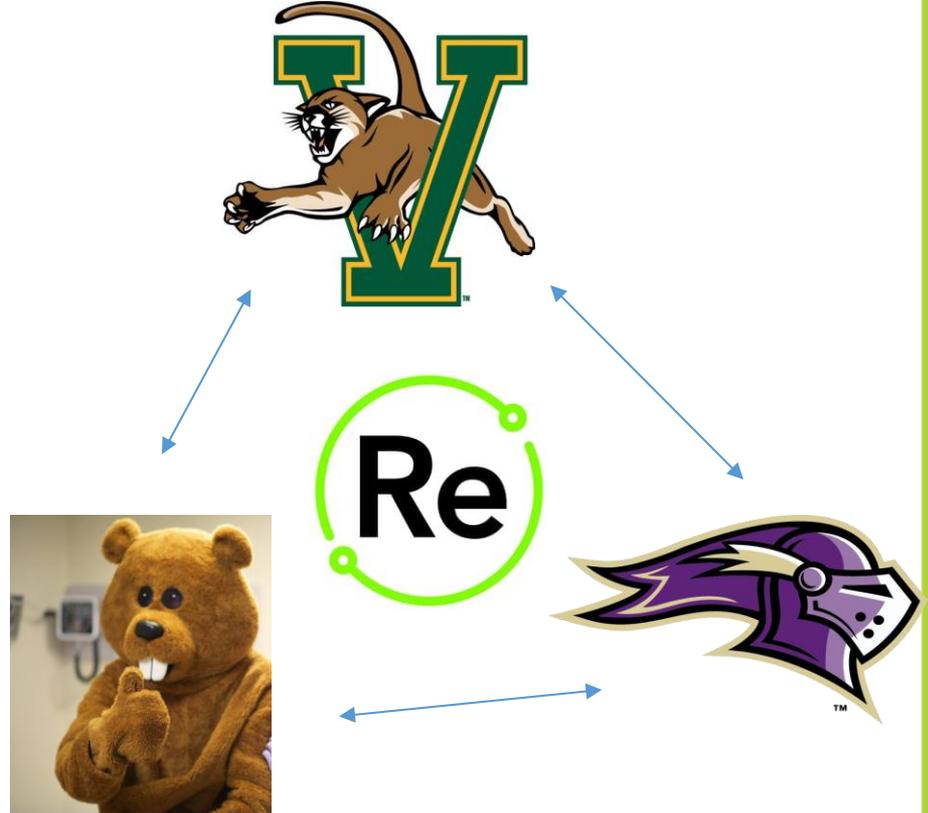
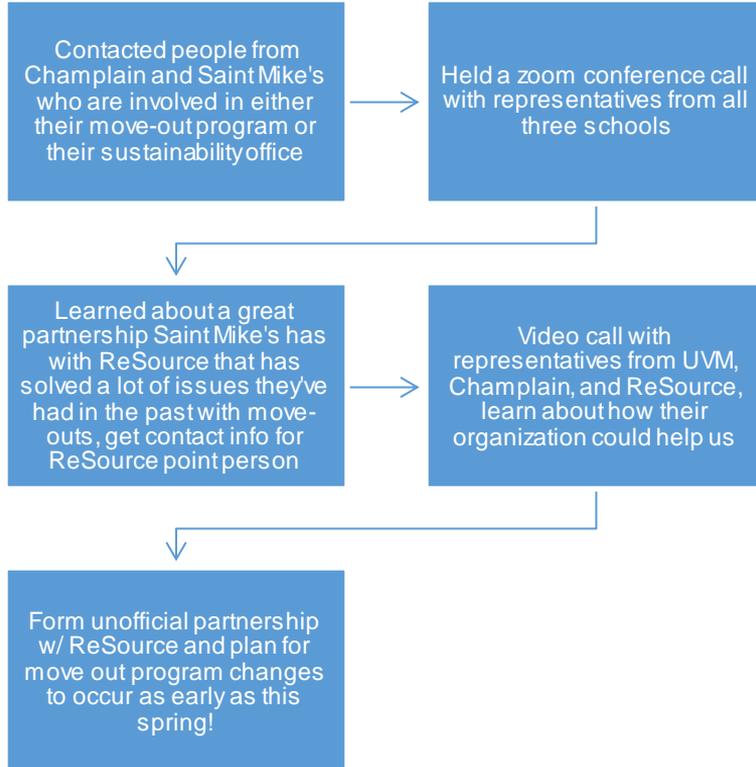
The Problem:

Though UVM successfully collects a lot of donations as students are moving out, the sorting and distributing process of these items is challenging , time consuming, and it can be difficult to get donation centers to take the quantity of items we have. Due to lack of storage options, this can result in many donations ending up in the landfill- contrary to the goal of the program.

GOAL: Find a way to redistribute donations collected from move-out in a way that minimizes waste and improves overall efficiency.



Path taken

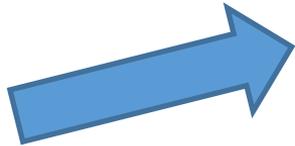
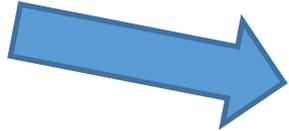


Problem:

Not enough help and time to sort all donations to the desired degree of many donation centers

Difficulty redistributing the large quantity of received donations

No storage options for left over donations- end up in landfill



ReSource Solution:

Will take donations with no sorting required

Will take ALL donations we bring them, prepared for any quantity

Bonus!

ReSource can take toiletries as well, a category previously not collected for lack of outlet



Additional Info

Budget/cost: none

Audience: UVM students living on campus

Stakeholders: UVM recycling and waste management center, local colleges, local donation centers

Measurement/success: See how first move-out using this system goes; more efficient + less waste = success

Challenges/lessons learned: Getting email responses, scheduling discussions with many people with different schedules, didn't expect my project to end up the way it did I ended up spending a good amount of time doing things that I wouldn't end up needing

Next steps: See how first move-out using this system goes, make changes and adjustments as necessary



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MWBE Classification and Communication

Nora Looney
Nerida Williams



The University of Vermont

MWBE Classification: Introduction

- MWBE: Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise
 - Qualifications
 - At least **51% unconditionally and directly owned by Women/Veterans/Minorities/Disabled persons** who are **U.S. citizens**
 - Said persons must hold **highest officer position** in the company
 - Minority = an individual that is at least 25% African American, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American.
 - Must be **for-profit enterprise, nonprofit companies do not qualify.**
 - Purpose: Promote awareness of the types of businesses UVM is supporting. Bring attention to the underrepresentation of these groups in business.
- 1-3% MWBE is a typical starting point for organizations that haven't made a MWBE commitment. We wanted to see how UVM compares.
- Identification is a first step. Change won't happen automatically, it has to be intentional. Match UVM stated values with actions.

The Process

Stakeholders

- Caylin and Marie Bouffard: Purchasing & Contracting Specialist
- Both Caylin and Marie were immensely helpful in providing us with direction throughout this entire process.

Research

- We were presented with 828 companies.
- We investigated each company and determined whether they fell under the classification of minority/women owned.

Complications

- The process included a great deal of uncertainty.
- Time consuming

IN	1
KS	2
KY	3
LA	2
MA	52
MD	12
ME	7
MI	10
MN	8
MO	2
NC	10
NE	2
NH	9
NJ	15
NM	1
NV	1
NY	63
OH	11
OR	4
PA	34
QC	1
RI	2
SC	6
TN	3
TX	7
UT	3
VA	9
VT	156
WA	4
WI	8

1	Print	Run by Vendor with Reg 08	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip	Minority	Women	Minority & Women	Notes	Phone	Website	Quantity
3			Children's Research Center	426 South Wisconsin	Madison	WI	53729	N	N					
4			Atterpeco Inc	PO Box 120	101 Commerce Street	Chesham	WI	54903-0320	N	N				
5			601 Medical Systems	PO Box 13181		Madison	WI	53723	N	N				
6			Great Lakes Educational Loan Services	PO Box 7800		Madison	WI	53707-7800	N	N				
7			Krenger International Inc	1330 Redwood Street	Green Bay	WI	54302	N	N					
8			Arcata Forest Services Inc	10861 South Howell Avenue	Oak Creek	WI	53154	N	N					
9			Stoker Home Inc	5462 Oak Chapel Parkway	Madison	WI	53711	N	N					
10			Dakota Ohmada Inc	3030 Ohmada Drive	Madison	WI	53718	N	N					
11			Frangle Bowers Express Inc	3911 East Layton Avenue	Madison	WI	53716	N	N					
12			Orchling Orchards LLC	713 Kenosha Trail	Madison	WI	53719	N	N					
13			Ulme Inc	12375 Olive Drive	Pleasant Prairie	WI	53158	N	N					
14			Outstate Development Inc	PO Box 174	Mountain Terrace	WA	98043	N	N					
15			Simulab Corporation	5000 West Arroyo Way	Seattle	WA	98119	N	N					
16			Novation Inc	20000 North Creek Parkway	Bellevue	WA	98013-8216	N	N					
17			Intertec Company LLC	9720 NE 120th Place, Suite 101	Kirkland	WA	98034	N	N					
18			Microsoft Corporation	One Microsoft Way	Redmond	WA	98052	N	N					
19			Millman Inc	1301 5th Avenue, Suite 3800	Seattle	WA	98101	N	N					
20			Senergy Sports Technology LLC	1004 Commercial Avenue	PMB 204	Assonetts	VA	98221	N	N				
21			New England Woodcraft Incorporated	PO Box 155	Forest Dale	VT	05745	N	N					Y
22			Breck Tree Tax LLC	145 Pine Haven Shores Road, Suite 2012	Shelburne	VT	05482	N	N					team of 4 but only 1 is a man/1 male
23			Black Lake Matter of Greater Burlington	179 South Vermont Avenue, Suite 201	Burlington	VT	05401	N	N					Y
25			C X Associates LLC	110 Main Street, Suite 1B	Burlington	VT	05401	N	N					Y
26			A Associates and Company Inc	PO Box 195	Williston	VT	05495	N	N					Y
27			Alburt Millon LLC	105 North Main Street	Barnes	VT	05641	N	N					
28			Car Lumber Inc	215 West Farm Road	Millton	VT	05648	N	N					no website although we not found in any
32			Dakota Enterprises Inc	1215 Sunset View Road	Cokchester	VT	05440-7932	N	N					couldn't find anything in directory at
33			Princeton Consortium of Higher Education	PO Box 130	Burlington	VT	05402-0530	N	N					
34			Association of Vermont Logging Co's	72 North Champlain Street	Burlington	VT	05402	N	N					
37			Claude Fortin	6383 Ethan Allen Highway	Saint Albans	VT	05479	N	N					only a website profile
38			Conner Realty LLC	1100 US Route 2	Berlin	VT	05602	N	N					couldn't find anything on com
39			David L Farnham & Christine O Farnham	289 VT Rt 64	PO Box 450	Williamstown	VT	05679	N	N				no company found, just 2 people

[View Website Information and Statistics](#)

Search Parameters [Edit Parameters](#) [Clear Parameters](#)

CERTIFICATIONS: Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
Women Business Enterprise (WBE)

BUSINESS NAME/IDN: SMTH

[Download Search Results](#)

Search Results 22 Items with 24 Certifications Found

Click the certification specific checkboxes and certification details.

Vendor	Location	Certification
SB J&S Corp.	Armyville, NV	MBE
Dr. M. Smith Seabold And More II		
Arsumph, Inc.	Saratoga Springs, NY	WBE
Dr. Alexander Development		
Barbara J Smith Advisory Services LLC	Buffalo, NY	WBE
Cynthia Marie Smith	Durham, NY	WBE
D. Sosa Smith, LLC	Shenoy, NY	WBE
Dawn Smith Productions, Inc	Marlborough, NY	WBE
Elmer Lally and Smith, LLC	New York, NY	WBE
Dr. Sosa Smith, LLC	Shenoy, NY	WBE
E. Smith Contractors LLC	Syracuse, NY	WBE
Jennifer B. Smith	Brooklyn, NY	WBE

The Results

- Found a total of 42 businesses with one or more qualifications
- 76 businesses we were unsure about (9.18%)
- Featured Qualified Vendors
 - JA Morrisey – Vermont local woman owned construction company
 - Yuba Group – woman + minority owned investment service company
 - Zagros Robotics – minority owned robotics company
 - New England Woodcraft – veteran owned wood crafting company
 - Priority One Services Incorporated – minority owned biotechnology company

	Yes Count	Yes %
Minority	7	0.85%
Women	36	4.35%
Disabled	0	0.00%
Vet	1	0.12%
TOTAL	42	5.07%

Moving Forward

- What we would have done differently:
 - Set a schedule to stay on top of the research process
 - Utilized a different, more accurate approach (ex. Directly reaching out to businesses, requesting self-identification of MWBE)
 - Follow up with Y? And N? Vendors (email or paper mailing)
- Next Steps
 - How to maintain this classification as our vendor list grows
 - Advertising qualified vendors
 - Growing number of qualified vendors
 - Future Eco-Reps passion projects
 - Setting a goal for MWBE spend. Traditionally 20-30% growth will happen in years 1-5 after a commitment is made.