



AQ SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Brought to you by the interns at The Center for Sustainability:
Lauren Rogers, Dustin Heiler and Caitlin Yancho

Sustainability News on Campus

RecycleMania Rankings

The national RecycleMania competition has officially come to an end. Thank you to all who participated and helped reduce the amount of solid waste produced on campus. There have been many changes on campus this year concerning how Aquinas College's waste is disposed of. The implementation of a composting program on campus, as well as changes in how we report the amount of waste produced, are two possible explanations for why AQ didn't perform as well in the competition this year as in years past.

Final National Standings

- Grand Champion Competition- 36th: Aquinas College has a recycling rate of 46.56%
- Per Capita Classic- 66th: Aquinas College averaged 19.98 pounds of recyclables per person during the 8 week competition
- Waste Minimization- 94th: Aquinas College produced 42.91 pounds of waste per person on average during the competition
- Food Service Organics Competition- 31st: On average 8.04 of food waste were composted per person during the 8 week competition

Remember, just because the competition is over doesn't mean you should stop composting, recycling, rethinking, and reusing whenever possible.

[Click here](#) to see AQ's full rankings.

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Staff Sustainability Committee

The Staff Sustainability Committee is working to revitalize AQ's community garden, and relocate it to the Fulton House. In order for the garden to flourish, committed volunteers are needed to care for the garden during the summer months. Tasks might include planting, weeding, watering, fertilizing, and harvesting. Interested volunteers are being asked to donate at least one hour of their time each week to garden work. If you are interested in getting involved in this exciting new project or have any questions, please contact Jessica Eimer. (eimerjes@aquinas.edu).

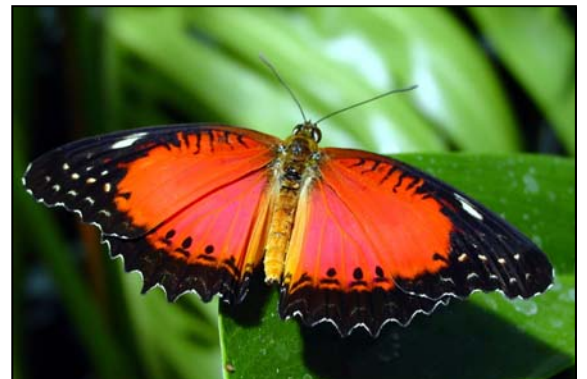


Photo courtesy of bigfoto.com

Single Stream Recycling is Here



The Housekeeping Department has decided to change our recycling system to a single stream collection system. This means that paper, plastic, glass, and tin no longer have to be separated, and all recyclables can be placed in the same bin.

The large green and blue recycling bins will remain in common areas, but clean recyclables can be placed in either bin. The small recycling can in each office can now be used as a single stream container as well. Therefore, you can now place plastic, glass, and tin recyclables in your office recycling container, in addition to recyclable paper!

The types of items that are able to be recycled have remained the same; the process of recycling has just become easier.

If you are unsure if an item is recyclable, check the signs that are located on all recycling bins on campus. Remember: You no longer need to separate paper from plastic, glass and tin anywhere on campus! Please continue to empty and rinse out your recyclables before placing in the collection container.



If you have questions, please contact:

Jessica Eimer

(imerjes@aquinas.edu)

or

Thad Salter

(saltetha@aquinas.edu).



Did You Know?

Did you know that pizza boxes are not recyclable, but they can be composted. Many often mistakenly attempt to recycle pizza boxes. All pizza boxes can be composted in the dark green bins located around campus.

The History of Earth Day

Each year on April 22nd we celebrate our planet by cleaning it up on Earth Day. Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson, who was a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin at the time. This basis of Earth Day was to inform and educate the public about environmental problems and encourage societal change and action.

The state of the environment remains a political issue today. Let's make everyday Earth Day by making responsible choices each day; reducing, reusing, and recycling. The best way to reduce waste is to prevent it from being produced. Be a responsible consumer and rethink the purchases that you are making each day.

"There's no better way to understand how disconnected we are from our environment than to ask the big metaphysical question, the question that has challenged the great minds of our generation and the generations before us, the question that if we had a clear answer for it, would unlock the deepest mysteries of life on this planet:

Where does our trash go?"

-Rob Bell, 2007



Excessive Idling Policy: Passed

The excessive idling policy has been working its way through the different sustainability groups and committees on campus. The proposal received a 5 (on a 1 to 5 scale) in the Joint Sustainability Committee on March 2, 2011 and passed the Student Senate on April 20th, 2011. Provost Gunnoe gave the final approval on April 28th. The Center for Sustainability will be working this summer to fully implement this policy, limiting the amount time vehicles will be permitted to idle on campus. [Click here](#) to view the final pdf version of the policy.

Electronic Waste Recycling

The end of the semester is approaching, and many students are moving out of their dorm rooms. Don't forget to properly dispose of your broken or unwanted electronics during your move out. There will be boxes in the lobbies of residence halls (near the main entrances) for students to recycle their unwanted electronic goods. Throughout the year, any electronic waste (anything with a battery or cord) can be taken to Chad Buczkowski in the Media Center, located in the Grace Hauenstein Library.

Congratulations Graduates!

It's the end of April and graduation is just around the corner! Congratulations to everyone who is graduating and special congratulations to the Sustainable Business majors. Seventeen SB majors are graduating this May and will be continuing on to bigger and better things! So in these last few days, remember to turn all your assignments in and study for those finals, but have fun and don't forget to say goodbye to ol' AQ!

Staff & Faculty Sustainability Guide

The Center for Sustainability has been working to develop a "how-to-guide" for faculty and staff members, highlighting Aquinas College's sustainability initiatives and programs. AQ employees can refer to the guide for information on proper disposal of recyclables, ink cartridges, batteries, and compostable items. Guidelines and information on how to submit ideas for furthering AQ's sustainability efforts are also highlighted in the guide.

[Click here](#) to download the guide (PDF).



Center for
Sustainability at AQ

AB 201
1607 Robinson Rd. SE.

Phone:
(616) 632-1994

E-mail:
Jessica Eimer
Program Director
eimerjes@aquinas.edu

Web:
<http://www.centerforsustainability.org>

We're on the Web!

Find all AQ sustainability
information at:

aquinas.edu/sustainability

**Sustainability Groups
on Campus**

Faculty Sustainability Committee
Staff Sustainability Committee
Student Senate Sust. Committee
Joint Sustainability Committee
Students Striving for
Sustainability (S3)
The Center for Sustainability

Want to Submit News?

If your group or committee has
any news or upcoming events
that you would like to have
posted in next month's
newsletter, please contact
Lauren Rogers at
LMR001@aquinas.edu.

Students Striving for Sustainability

New Club Officers

The elections results are in for
new S3 club officers for the
2011/2012 school year:

- **President: Stephanie Krajnik**
- **Vice President: John DeAngelis**
- **Secretary: Coby MacMaster**
- **Treasurer: Janelle Straw**
- **Senate Reps: Betsy Davis, Paige Shesterkin, and Carrie Veldman**

Congratulations to the new club
officers!

*For more information on S3, contact the
club advisor, Jessica Eimer.*

Monthly Student Feature

Tom McCarthy



Tom McCarthy, a senior continuing education student majoring in Sustainable Business, returned to school after working for General Motors for many years. As an outdoor enthusiast, Tom is more drawn to the natural world than to business. "Nonetheless," he says, "I hope to find my professional niche."

Tom says that because his former profession as a tool and die maker for an automobile manufacturer was very pollution intense, his goal in life is to make a difference in both greenhouse gas and toxic waste emissions.

[Click here](#) for Tom's full student feature.

