

AQ SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

*Brought to you by the interns at The Center for Sustainability:
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Sustainability News on Campus

Vending Machine Misers

The Center for Sustainability has partnered with Residence Life to obtain permission to install vending machine misers on vending machines around campus. Misers are a device that can be installed to vending machines to reduce power consumption. These energy saving features help vending machines to operate at a more efficient level, saving money on electricity bills and carbon emissions. Pepsi has agreed to donate one vending machine miser to Aquinas for trial purposes. [Click here](#) for more information.

AQ Art

AQ Art is a campus wide art competition designed to showcase the artistic abilities of the Aquinas College student body. Cash Prizes include: 1st Place- \$300, 2nd Place- \$200, 3rd Place- \$100. [Click here](#) for more information.

Composting Program

In an attempt to further AQ's sustainability practices, the college has partnered with Spurt Industries, "a commercial compost processing facility." This partnership will help Aquinas College reduce its solid waste output by diverting organic waste from the waste stream. In addition to the recycling bins around campus, composting bins will be placed in certain areas for biodegradable waste only, such as pizza boxes, paper, and food scraps. Keep an eye out for signs of this expanding program as it progresses around Aquinas.

SIFE: A Model for Community Energy Efficiency

On November 13th in Aquinas' Wege Center, the SIFE club will be hosting an event to increase public awareness of energy conservation through the use of Energy Star products in homes. [Click here](#) for an event brochure.

Exploring our Energy Future

One of Michigan's most promising economic opportunities is offshore wind development in Lake Michigan. This alternative energy opportunity is also a controversial issue. On Nov.17th at Aquinas, as part of WMEAC's Exploring Our Energy Future, speakers will discuss the barriers, challenges, and opportunities of local offshore wind development. [Click here](#) for more information.

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Students Striving for Sustainability Upcoming Events

Chicago Green Building Conference

November 17th-19th the Chicago Green Building Conference will be held; a prominent event for sustainability. The S3 club is looking for interested students who would like to join the S3 team and attend the conference. Students can volunteer for 8 hours to gain free admission to all conference events.

Coming Soon

On the drawing board, the S3 group is working on an event, "No Impact Man," which will be held sometime in late November or early December. Planning of the event is still underway, but participation is greatly encouraged.

For more information or to sign up for any S3 club event, contact Sean Fahey (smf001@aquinas.edu), President of the Students Striving for Sustainability club.



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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 Sustainability
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.

**Cradle to Cradle- Much More Than
Recycling**

Submitted by Sean Fahey

Most products currently manufactured fit into a cradle-to-grave lifecycle. This means that raw materials are extracted and used to make the product, it is sold to a consumer who uses it for a short time, and then it gets "thrown away" and is sent to a landfill.

MBDC (McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry) approaches product design in a new way called "Cradle-to-Cradle." In their book "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things," McDonough and Braungart separate products into one of two closed-loop nutrient cycles. Every good is classified as either a Product of Service or a Product of Consumption.

A Product of Service is made to be indefinitely recyclable through a product take-back system set up by individual companies. Once the product is damaged or through with its useful life to the consumer, they send it back and receive a new one- similar to a leasing system. The company then utilizes the product's easy disassembly and separates the product into its raw components. These materials are reworked and used in manufacturing again. This process greatly reduces raw material cost for companies and virtually eliminates waste sent to a landfill.

A Product of Consumption is designed to be fully biodegradable or compostable. When a consumer is finished using a Product of Consumption, instead of sending it to a landfill, they could simply give it back to nature and it would break down into soil.

Both Products of Service and Products of Consumption are also designed to eliminate toxins in their materials and production processes. By eliminating these materials, people are healthier and safer and the manufacturer generally sees a decline in regulatory expenses. Cradle to Cradle design is a revolutionary way to approach manufacturing. For more information, visit www.mbdc.com or pick up a copy of "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things."

**Monthly Student
Feature**

Sara Sanders



Sara Sanders is a senior at Aquinas College who is majoring in Sustainable Business and minoring in Urban Studies. Sara enjoys learning about sustainable new concepts and the exciting accompanying possibilities.

Sara's father works in the traditional business world and although Sara and her dad do not always see eye to eye on many business issues, they continue to challenge one another and Sara believes this will prepare her for challenges that she will later face in the business world.

On campus, Sara's passion for sustainability is demonstrated through her variety of leadership positions on campus such as chairperson of student senate assembly, a student ambassador, and as an admissions assistant. In the future, Sara would like to own a sustainable hotel, and perhaps do consulting work for a variety of businesses.

[Click here](#) for Sara's complete Student Feature.

