



AQ SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

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Brought to you by the interns at The Center for Sustainability:
Kaitlyn Aholt, Frank Blackman, and Alina Dhaseleer

AQ Community Garden



After numerous faculty, staff, and students came together to establish the garden this summer, it's time to get the AQ Community Garden ready for winter. The fall work day on 10/7 was a productive one, involving pulling out dead plants, removing stakes, and loosening the soil. Over the coming weeks, the soil will be tilled and fertilizer and grass clippings spread, to put back some nutrients.

Stephanie Krajnik, an AQ garden volunteer, commented on the success of the garden's first year, saying that it ran quite smoothly. Each volunteer was responsible for weeding and watering the garden on a certain day. Stephanie expressed excitement about the ties the garden has made between students, faculty, and staff. Everyone that contributed to the garden is able to share in the harvest; Stephanie has been enjoying the tomatoes, peppers, and beets she helped grow this summer.

A special thanks to our **dedicated volunteers** who made this garden possible: Christina Radisaukas, Sr. Alice Wittenbach, Joan DeWitt, Kari Zeller, Cynthia Dorman, Stephanie Krajnik, Ric Caceres, Mike Deboer, and David Clark.

[Click here](#) to check out the garden on Facebook!

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An Idle-Free Campus

Proposed last spring, the idle-free campus policy successfully made its way through the sustainability initiative process and was officially approved by Provost Gunnoe on April 28th, 2011.

Being an idle-free campus means vehicles cannot idle longer than 5 minutes on Aquinas property. This policy helps protect campus safety, security, and the environment. It also helps Aquinas fulfill its commitment to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.



[Click Here](#) to read more on the Idling Policy

Composting & Recycling Update

Aquinas has simplified its recycling program this year by designating only one bin for single stream recycling. All recyclable items can now be placed together in the **blue bin**. (Paper does NOT have to be separated from plastic, glass, and tin.)

We are also pleased to announce that the composting program is being expanded across campus to accompany all 60 centralized recycling locations. The green bins previously used for recycling have a new solid lid and are designated for composting!

All compostable items can be placed in the **green bin**, including food soiled paper like pizza boxes, used napkins, dirty paper plates, and paper coffee cups. ALL food waste can be composted, including meat, bones, and dairy products. Bio-Based plastic labeled as “compostable” can also be composted.

Green and blue bins can be found in every building on campus. Posters located above each bin contain information on the composting and recycling programs.

[Click here](#) to see what can & can't be recycled

[Click here](#) to see the do's and don'ts of composting



Ink Cartridge & Battery Recycling Update

The Center for Sustainability is in the process of expanding the ink cartridge and battery recycling programs on campus, making it more convenient for students to recycle these items.

There is now one cardboard box for ink cartridge recycling on each floor of the residence halls (Regina, St. Joe's, Dominican Hall), and in each of the apartments on campus.



Soon, a bucket for battery recycling will also be located in the entrance areas of Regina, St. Joe's, Dominican, and the apartments. Battery recycling is also available in the mailroom, Albertus Hall, and with Chad in the Media Center.

Do your part and help us divert ink cartridges and batteries from the landfill. As always, ink cartridges can be dropped off for recycling at the ITS Help Desk in the Academic Building.



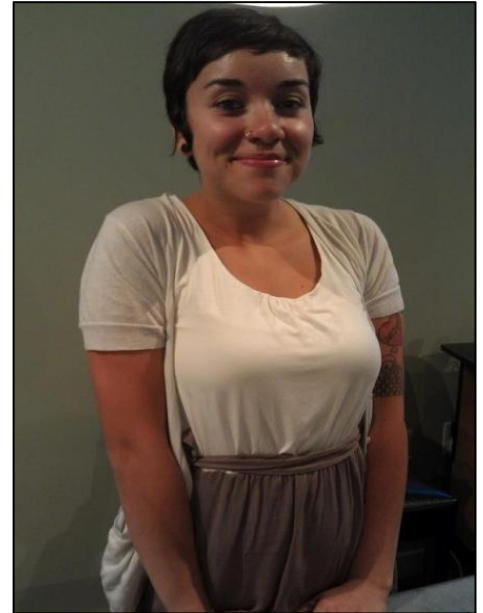
Questions/Feedback? Contact the Center for Sustainability:

Jessica Eimer (eimerjes@aquinas.edu) or Alina Dhaseleer (ahd001@aquinas.edu)

Monthly Student Feature:

Emily Hammes

Sustainability at Swirls Boutique



Emily Hammes, a senior Sustainable Business major, is putting her training into practice as a manager at a new retail store, called Swirls Boutique, which just opened at 963 Cherry Street on September 8th. Having previous experience in retail, Emily joined forces with Cindy Steenstra, a student in the SB master's program; they both share a love for the East Hills neighborhood and a desire to contribute to the

growth of that community. Emily explained, "Our idea isn't to open up a store in East Hills and only try to be successful for ourselves, but to hopefully draw people to East Hills so that everyone can be successful together."

Emily is excited to contribute positively to the East Hills community and has already helped Swirls Boutique begin work on triple top line initiatives. The boutique is striving to produce value to the environment by making thoughtful choices in its six product lines. For example, some of the clothing lines are made with organic cotton, and the store has a jewelry line made with seeds and beans that were collected from the ground rather than harvested.

In an effort to keep manufacturing local, Swirls Boutique currently has one clothing line designed and produced in the United States. Emily strives to help the boutique produce social value to the community with a variety of ideas, one of which is to put a canine hitch and water dishes outside the store for shoppers who brought their dogs along. Another social effort took place on October 8th, when the store closed so that all of the employees could participate in an AIDS walk.



"We hear a lot about the need for a sense of place, about becoming more familiar with the ecosystems that surround us and with the history of our communities. I am all for that, but it is nowhere near enough. We need *engagement* with place."

—Wes Jackson, Foreword to "Reclaiming the Commons"

Students Striving for Sustainability (S3)

President: Stephanie Krajnik
 Vice President: John DeAngelis
 Treasurer: Barbara Groves
 Secretary: Kaitlyn Aholt
 Senate Rep: Betsy Davis

This year, S3 has goals of moving beyond community education and becoming a more project-based student club. Currently, the group is working on a campus-wide composting education project to increase composting by residents. A few ideas for this project include providing each apartment with buckets for collecting compost and having a composting competition between the houses and apartments on campus.

S3 will also be working on revamping our campus recycling program, hopefully switching to Padnos; this switch would allow Aquinas to sell its recyclables instead of paying for it.

S3 hopes to provide education programs to those living off campus and to collaborate with other clubs to help show students that sustainability can be easily integrated into any aspect of their daily lives.

For more information, contact the club president, Stephanie Krajnik (sak001@aquinas.edu).

[Click here](#) to check out S3 on Facebook...project ideas & comments are encouraged!!



Did you Know?

The Fulton Street Farmer's Market is within walking distance of campus and offers a wide variety of locally produced fruits, vegetables, breads, and dairy products. At the Farmer's market you can either pay cash, or use money from your credit/debit card in the form of tokens that can be exchanged with vendors for cash.

Want more information? Check out the website: <http://fultonstreetmarket.org/>

Aquinas Ranked by Sierra Club!

The Sierra Club ranked Aquinas College 94th on their list of top sustainable schools.

[Click here](#) to see the Sierra Club's complete rankings for "America's coolest schools."



<http://www.grinningplanet.com/environmental-cartoons/green-toons-comics-com.htm>

Meet the Center for Sustainability Interns: Fall 2011



Kaitlyn Aholt, Work-Study

- Sophomore, Sustainable Business major, S3 member
- Responsibilities: Day-to-day tasks of C4S, center correspondence, event planning, & special projects.
- Interests: Reading, watching baseball, spending time outdoors, & being with friends



Frank Blackman, Climate Action Intern

- Senior, Sustainable Business major
- Responsibilities: Tracking & planning AQ's progress toward climate neutrality in accordance with the ACUPCC, & helping establish data tracking systems.
- Interests: Camping, music, & learning about sustainable technology.



Alina Dhaseleer, Communication Intern

- Senior, Sustainable Business major, Ambassador, AQ XC and Track & Field Member
- Responsibilities: Maintaining the sustainability initiatives website, publishing AQ sustainability newsletter, writing SB student features, & special projects.
- Interests: Running in mud & rain, supporting local farmers & local music.

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We're on the Web!

Find all AQ sustainability information at:

aquinas.edu/sustainability

Campus Sustainability Groups

Faculty Sustainability Committee
Staff Sustainability Committee
Student Senate Sust. Committee
Joint Sustainability Committee
S3
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 Alina Dhaseleer at ahd001@aquinas.edu