



Fall 2011
Volume 1 - Issue 1

ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



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Alternative Energy at Elon

Kristi Jacobsen, 2012

Alternative energy refers to renewable and "free" energy sources that have lower carbon emissions compared to conventional energy sources. Robert Buchholz, Director of the Physical Plant, explained to us how Elon currently uses geothermal, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic energy.

- Geothermal: Colonnades Neighborhood – Story Hall, Emmet L. Moffitt Hall, Kivette Hall, William W. Staley Hall and William A. Harper Hall
- Solar Photovoltaic: Lindner Hall, Emergency telephones, Warning lighting on crosswalks at O'Kelly Drive and Williamson Avenue
- Solar Thermal: Lindner Hall, Colonnades Dining Hall, Story Hall, Emmett L. Moffitt Hall, Daniele Center I and K

Lindner Hall was the first building in which Elon used alternative energy. The building also has a number of energy conservation measures. It has been performing very well and seems to be operating on less energy than other buildings.

Elon has been researching the use of alternative energy for many years. The recent geothermal and solar thermal installations provide the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of actual on-campus systems. These evaluations will help determine whether additional systems should be considered. Solar photovoltaic systems are also of interest and are being investigated.

Staff Profile: Paul Holt

Kristi Jacobsen, 2012

Paul Holt, Elon's Maintenance Control Manager, spends his days making sure Elon's beautiful grounds, housing and academic facilities are kept in good working order. On a daily basis Paul can be found overseeing the Physical Plant workflow, maintaining the maintenance management system, working with others to plan and design new construction and renovation projects around campus and multiple other duties.

Through his position, Paul has formed a close connection with Elon's sustainability efforts. The [FIXit](#) website was recently started to offer students, faculty and staff an easy way to report energy waste and maintenance problems. Paul continually works on developing energy efficiency projects. He coordinated Elon's first POWERless competition in the spring of 2008 and continues to be a key player in the success of these competitions. Paul has also been sending out monthly faculty and staff energy conservation tips since 2003.



Paul encourages students, faculty and staff to participate by visiting FIXit whenever they have a maintenance issue. He also encourages all of us to pay attention to our daily energy conservation, "I believe our greatest untapped resource for savings is changing consumer behavior. The sustainability site is a great place to get tips to do this."

Thank you Paul Holt for all of your hard work and dedication to making Elon University an even better place to attend school, work and live.

NEED REPAIR?



FIXit
www.elon.edu/fixit

EMERGENCY?

8 A.M. - 5 P.M.Ext. 5500
5 P.M. - 8 A.M.Ext. 5555

POWERless - Fall 2011

Elon's sixth POWERless competition concluded with exciting results. During a two-week duration, the overall amount of kilowatt-hours not used compared to the baseline consumption was more than 57,000 kWh.

This equates to:

- 23 tons of coal being burned
- 32 tons of carbon dioxide emissions
- 72 pounds of nitrogen oxide emissions
- 275 pounds of sulfur dioxide emissions

Winning Areas –

Division I: West Area 17%

Division II: East Area Academic Pavilions 34%

Winning Buildings –

Division I: Old Moffitt Hall 19.8%

Division II: Honors Pavilion 38.6%





Want to be an Eco-Rep?

Applications for next year's Eco-Reps will be available during spring semester.

Qualifications Include:

- Strong communication skills
- Strong interest in environmental sustainability
- Desire to learn more about environmental topics
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Ability to handle a variety of tasks and use time wisely
- Cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher
- Creativity, enthusiasm and a positive attitude!

[Click here for more information](#) and check back in the spring to apply!

Meet the Eco-Reps

Kristi Jacobsen, 2012

The Eco-Reps Program is a peer education program dedicated to promoting environmentally responsible behaviors. Every residential area has an Eco-Rep who helps raise awareness of environmental issues and teaches students what they can do on a daily basis to reduce their environmental impact. Eco-Reps teach Sustainable Living lessons to Elon 101 and other classes and plan and participate in sustainability-related programs and activities.

"I really like that I was able to learn about Elon's sustainability initiatives because it helps people make a connection with the green movement and start to take actions of their own to live more sustainably."

- Opal Patel

"My favorite part of being an Eco-Rep is interacting with the first year students in the Sustainable Living lesson to help them orient themselves in respect to the sustainability efforts on campus. I like to think that they apply what they learn to their everyday lives and influence others to make environmentally conscious decisions."

- Jill Capotosto

"My favorite part about being an Eco-Rep is probably helping to promote sustainability on campus because it is great to work with other students and see how enthusiastic some of them also are about living sustainably. I also love how the program gives me an opportunity to spend time with other people who are passionate about the environment and sustainability."

- Lily Siegal



Barona DiNapoli, Jill Capotosto, Lily Siegal, Alex Papp, Opal Patel, Emily Forinash, Hannah Matthews, Kristen Conroy

Student Profile: Evan Lutvak

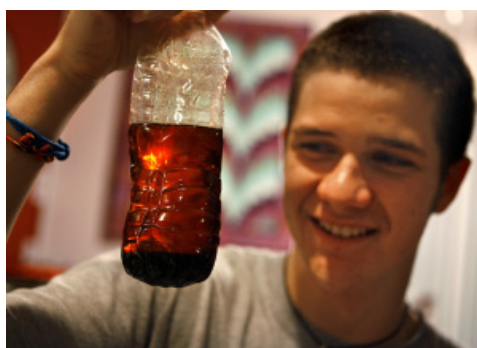
Becky Wickel, 2013



"We have a very longstanding relationship, the Earth and me. We've sort of been on and off for a while, but it's a one true love," freshman Evan Lutvak said. Lutvak has been interested in fossil fuel issues and environmentalism since elementary school. A first-year Elon student and Florida native, he has been considering and implementing changes to the industry since he was 15. "Fuel is something that I'm really hoping I can help fix somehow," he said, "and that I can work with other people to help change."

When he got his drivers license, Lutvak knew he wanted to avoid traditional gasoline. After considering hybrid and battery-powered models, he decided on another option.

"I had heard about biodiesel before but didn't really know what it was," he said. "It's made out of vegetable oil, cooking oil or animal fats, and it's actually easy to use." After studying the process, Lutvak began making his own biodiesel. Despite being a "mediocre" science student, he was able to develop a system for less than \$50, using waste oil from a burger joint near his home.



"My car uses about six gallons a week," he said, "which takes about 3 hours to make, once I got good at it. I used to time myself, the fastest I've ever done it is 54 minutes." Making his own biodiesel is a source of pride for Lutvak. Although he says his car accelerates slightly slower and his fuel filters get clogged, he loves what he does. "My exhaust smells like French fries and I pay about \$1.50 per gallon, but I'm doing this in my garage. My friends thought I was crazy," he said. Lutvak is looking forward to making another batch when he returns to Palm Harbor, Fla., in December.

"It's really cool to do, I love it and it's fun. If I could get paid to make this stuff forever I would be the happiest kid in the world."



Be a Leader In Sustainability:

- 1 Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - in that order. Using less should come first but do remember to recycle everything you can.
- 2 Unplug electronics and appliances when you are not using them, especially over vacations and breaks.
- 3 Walk or bike when you can. It is great for your health and the environment.
- 4 Use a refillable water bottle rather than buying bottled water. You will save money and prevent plastic waste.
- 5 Don't keep the refrigerator door open. For every minute a refrigerator door is open, it will take three minutes for it to regain its temperature.
- 6 Take a shorter shower. If every member of the Elon community saved just one gallon of water from their daily shower, over the course of a year it would equal over 2.3 million gallons of water!

Faculty Profile: Michelle Ferrier

Becky Wickel, 2013



Log on and dig in. That is what Michelle Ferrier, Associate Professor of Communications and founder of [Locally Grown News](#), is encouraging the Elon community to do. "I applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation to start this project," Michelle Ferrier said. Locally Grown News is a way to involve the passion of citizen journalists in the movement toward sustainability and locally driven economies.



Ferrier says the Elon community has been making strides to support local businesses, such as the seasonal Farmer's Market at the Elon Community Church. Ferrier would like to see more locally grown options available within walking distance for students.

"In the past few years I've noticed Dining Services making changes toward sustainability," she said. "But there's a lot students can do." Ferrier's new tool allows community members to have a conversation about growing social capital and finding solutions for issues unique to the Piedmont Triad. Locally Grown News, connecting neighbors on issues such as recycling, gardening and cooking, is providing the community with food for thought.

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OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

November
Local Baking
Contest

- Bake something with local ingredients
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