



# ELON SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2013**

**VOLUME 2—ISSUE 2**

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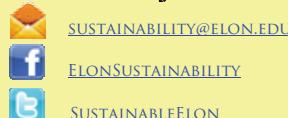
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Office of Sustainability



## SIX MORE LEED BUILDINGS

JESSICA BILECKI

This semester, the total number of LEED certified structures on campus jumped to 14 when the Depot building at the Station at Mill Point, the Gerald L. Francis Center and 4 Station at Mill Point houses received LEED certification. The Depot and the Francis Center are LEED Silver and the Station houses are LEED Gold. Constructing new homes, campus buildings or renovating to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards results in more energy efficient buildings and exemplifies Elon's commitment to sustainability.

LEED is an internationally recognized standard for sustainable design and construction. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, certification is based on criteria for sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials use and disposal, indoor environmental quality and innovation.

The Gerald L. Francis Center is home to the School of Health Sciences, which includes programs such as Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies. Station at Mill Point is a residential neighborhood that provides 324 upperclassmen with townhouse style living complete with a fitness center, meeting rooms, outdoor recreation space and social spaces.

Particularly notable features include:

- 96% of construction waste was diverted from the landfill during the Francis Center renovation.
- Water use decreased by at least 30% as compared to standard buildings due to low-flow faucets and showerheads, and dual flush toilets.
- The Depot building is 27% more energy efficient than a building that just meets the standard energy code.

Additional details about the features of each building are available at [Francis Center](#) and [Station at Mill Point](#).

# FACULTY PROFILE: ROBERT CHAREST

## PROFESSOR GROWS ENGAGED LEARNING, SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AT ELON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AT LOY FARM

### REBECCA WICKEL '13

For Robert Charest, associate professor of Environmental Studies, there was no light bulb that lit up. There was no “a-ha” moment. There was no sudden realization that sustainable design was his calling.

“I just slowly became more aware and stumbled into the importance of doing something rather than nothing,” Charest said. “Because I was born and raised in a very cosmopolitan environment in Montreal, I saw the natural progression of architecture and design. I saw that we needed to question the way things were being done, what the status quo was.”

Charest began to challenge the norms of design when his father helped explain the failures of post-World War II architecture and introduced terminal resistance into the contracting world. His father, a well-known designer in Montreal, helped inspire Charest’s interest in sustainability.

“My father was always paying attention to energy efficiency, but not so much sustainability,” he said. “He wanted to make a good building that would last and not consume so much energy, but he wasn’t concerned with the nature of materials.”

That’s where father and son began to differ. Charest was asked to teach by his alma mater, but he knew he wanted more than academics. He



Professor Charest and a student working and learning outside the classroom.

moved to the University of North Carolina-Greensboro seven years ago to create a hands-on learning experience. While teaching at UNCG, he founded the Urban Studio, a community-oriented design-build effort that inspired his current work at Elon. Now, Charest leads a design studio at Elon, bringing roughly 25 students to the Elon Environmental Center at Loy Farm to design and construct a studio out of recycled shipping containers.

What he offers is a hands-on learning experience that breaks down the traditional classroom walls.

“Students are incredibly enthusiastic, even though it’s a steep learning curve,” he said. “It’s not just about learning the theory and learning to define sustainable design, it’s leaving a tangible design behind. These students are building Elon, more than just figuratively.”

Not only does Charest enjoy watching students create and engage with the curriculum, his position at Elon offers an interdisciplinary environment unlike anything he has ever experienced.

“For me to work with wildlife people and agroecologists allows me to develop new ways of thinking and new ways of researching that I would never have had in a closed discipline,” he said. “I was excited about that primarily, but once I started working here it has well surpassed my expectations.”



## STAFF PROFILE: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STAFF KEY PLAYERS IN RECYCLING

### JESSICA BILECKI

Every day and night, seen or unseen, Environmental Services staff members move through every single campus building cleaning, emptying waste bins and generally ensuring a healthy working environment for everyone at Elon.

Of special note is the role they play in Elon's recycling efforts.

Have you ever noticed that you can almost always read the labels on trash and recycling bins? That there is almost always a recycling bin in close proximity to a trash bin?

Desk side recycling started about seven years ago at Elon. Having been at Elon nearly nine years, Gregory Marshall, a supervisor in Environmental Services, has been a part of the effort from the start. According to Mr. Marshall, in the beginning, Environmental Services staff members were not always putting recyclables in a separate bag. However, now, thanks to daily staff meetings, staff buy-in and supervision, the need to keep items from recycling bins separate from the trash is prioritized.

With the exception of green bins that are emptied once they are at least half full, trash and recycling bins are emptied daily. For a few large spaces, custodians have carts to help with collection, but in many office spaces, partly due to maneuverability and closet space, custodians carry three separate bags with them – one for paper, one for other recyclables and one for trash.

Marshall mentioned that one of the biggest challenges with improving recycling rates is not with collection, but with getting items in the appropriate bins from the beginning. Custodians will NOT separate trash. If there is a plastic bottle in the trash bin, it stays in the trash. There are some who say, 'It all goes in the trash anyway, so why bother.' Not true! There are separate bins for a reason. If you have seen a custodian put items from a recycling bin in the trash, report it to [Dave Worden](#) or [Gregory Marshall](#) in Environmental Services.

So, the next time you see the custodian in your building, if you don't already, be sure to say hello and let them know you appreciate their part in contributing to Elon's recycling program.

### Week 6 Standings

National Rank	School	Ibs recycled per capita
27	Duke	21.056
89	UNC Chapel Hill	11.313
94	UNC Wilmington	10.846
210	<b>Elon</b>	5.650
276	NC A&T State	3.423
292	NC State	2.873
302	UNC Greensboro	2.657



February 3—March 30, 2013

## STUDENT PROFILE: ASHLEY LITTLE STUDY ABROAD CHANGES STUDENT'S LIFE PLANS

REBECCA WICKEL '13

From Ireland to South Africa, Elon students cover the globe. Studying abroad offers students the opportunity to explore new places, understand diverse cultures and dive into academic pursuits never before examined.

But for some students, spending a semester in another country is the chance to build upon interests already firmly established. Junior Ashley Little brought her passion for environmental studies to Denmark and learned not just how to travel the world, but how to save it.

"The first thing I saw when I landed there was the offshore windmills, which were so enticing," Little said. "I knew then I made the right decision."

Little studied climate change from a historical perspective while in Copenhagen. One of her professors took the class on a trip to Greenland, where they studied the secrets unlocked by geological research.

"We went on the ice sheet and drilled an ice core," she said. "When we went to their lab back in Copenhagen we tried to find dust particles, which could tell us if there was a volcanic eruption during a certain time period."

Getting her hands dirty in Greenland opened Little's eyes to global sustainability issues. In Denmark, she experienced the difference between cultures that value environmentalism and those still trying to become more sustainable.

"People ride bikes everywhere; it's crazy how sustainable they are," she said. "The fact that the government puts effort toward supporting sustainability is amazing to see. They're making a bridge just for biking."

It is not just the government that promotes progressive thinking. Little said supporting sustainability efforts is a part of everyday life in Denmark. Her host parents installed solar roof panels during her stay, and the family always air dried their clothes.

Little said her host parents demonstrated the environmental focus in Denmark. Her host mother worked for the same company that produced the chemicals used in the drilling research Little did in Greenland.

"It made me more passionate and more aware," she said. "Climate change has always been one of my favorite parts of environmental studies, and now I've seen how that looks in a culture that cares, and how people can live to change it."



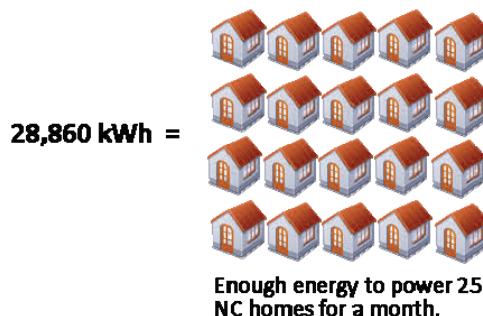
Ashley Little in Greenland



# POWERLESS RESULTS: SPRING 2013

REBECCA WICKEL '13

Elon University's 9th POWERless competition ended March 19. During the three-week competition, the overall amount of kilowatt hours not used compared to the baseline consumption was 28,860 kWh.



Areas and buildings that conserved the highest percentages of energy won the competition. With 18.4% and 6.1%, East Area Academic Pavilions and The Oaks were the Area winners in each division. The International Pavilion and Building C in the Oaks won the building competition in each

division with 20.4% and 13.6% energy reductions, respectively.

Area winners earned their name on the POWERless trophy on display in the Moseley Center, and \$25 for every 5 percent energy reduction will be donated to a nonprofit organization of the winning building occupants' choice.

POWERless is designed to encourage energy conservation and awareness, focusing on feasible tips for everyday energy reduction. Students are urged to find creative ways to come together as a residence hall and take a stand against excessive energy use. Activities like light bulb exchanges and 'Commit to Conserve' were promoted to create conservation awareness.

The impact of this competition is huge — every kilowatt-hour saved by Elon students prevents the release of over 1 lb of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere!

## APRIL 15TH MONDAY

**ISLAND PRESIDENT**  
**LAKESIDE MEETING ROOM**  
**7PM**

## APRIL 16TH TUESDAY

**SUSTAINABLE  
COLLEGE COFFEE**  
**9:40AM-10:20AM**

**SUSTAINABLE  
S'MORES WITH  
OUTDOORS**  
**BECK POOL PATIO**  
**10PM**

## APRIL 17TH WEDNESDAY

**LANDFILL ON  
THE LAWN**  
**SPEAKERS' CORNER**  
**NOON**

## APRIL 18TH THURSDAY

**SWAP SHOP**  
**SPEAKERS' CORNER**  
**NOON-3PM**

**ECC FARMERS' MARKET**  
**ELON COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**3PM-6:30PM**

**SURVIVAL BINGO**  
**MCKINNON HALL**  
**10PM**

## APRIL 20TH SATURDAY

**SUB CINEMA  
PRESENTS:  
PROMISED LAND**  
**IRAZU**  
**8PM**

## APRIL 21ST SUNDAY

**SIERRA CLUB  
CLEAN-UP**  
**BONEY FOUNTAIN**  
**12:30PM-3:30PM**

## APRIL 22ND MONDAY

**NC MEAL**  
**COLONNADES DINING HALL**  
**11AM-2PM**

**HUNTER LOVINS TALK**  
**MCKINNON HALL**  
**7:30PM**

