

SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER



Spring 2016

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Single Stream Recycling

Jessica Bilecki



Under Elon University's new single-stream recycling collection, paper, plastic, glass and aluminum all belong in the same bin!

This spring semester there have been noticeable changes in 'waste' collection. Elon has put infrastructure in place to make recycling and composting easier.

Beginning in January, physical plant staff began changing out bins and labels to add more compost bins and implement single-stream collection of recyclables. Now all bins on main campus are color-coded and labeled: blue for all recyclables, orange for compostables and black for landfill items.

Recyclables no longer have to be sorted. Paper, plastics, glass and aluminum cans can be placed in the same recycling bin. Another convenience is more compost bins around campus. These make it easier to properly dispose of compostable to-go boxes from dining facilities and compostable serviceware, now the default at all Mill Point Catering events.

Elon has the infrastructure, it is now up to the campus community to 'Mind the Bin'! This is essential to ensuring items are actually diverted from the landfill. If a

bag of recyclables or compostables has too much trash in it, the entire bag will be sent to a landfill where it will take up space and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

How to 'Mind the Bin'

- Cardboard: break it down, place beside a recycle bin
- Recyclables: Empty beverage and food contents. Place item in blue bin, no need to wash.
- Thin plastic film such as plastic bags or plastic wrap: Place in landfill bin or take bags to nearby grocery stores for recycling.

The EPA estimates that over 75% of the waste stream could be recycled or composted, but typically only about 30% of it is diverted. Curious about how much of what is thrown away at Elon is actually compostable or recyclable? So are we! With enough help, the Office of Sustainability will organize a waste audit this April during Earth Week. Email sustainability@elon.edu if you are interested.

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Elon Sustainability



@SustainableElon

Phoenix Cup Waste Results for Spring 2016

This spring, teams of Elon students, faculty and staff reduced landfill waste by participating in the Phoenix Cup Waste Competition. From February 16 to March 6, teams earned points by taking action, and potentially developing new habits, to reduce landfill waste. Points were awarded for things like 'minding the bin' and choosing reusable items over disposables. Here are the winners!



The Veggies - Sara Charbonnier, Elle Thompson and Sophie Parker

Winning Student Team:

The Veggies



Sustainability Scholars (2 of 6 members) - Michele Kleckner and Scott Spurlock

Team Participation Prize:

Vineyard

Non-Team Member Prize:

Karly Shaubach

Honorable Mentions:

Sustainability Scholars

The Green Beans

Winning Faculty/Staff Team:

Librarians on Greene



'Librarians on Greene' with students who attended their "Trash Talk" event

Faculty Profile: Nicole Triche

Morgan Fleming

Dr. Nicole Triche, Assistant Professor of Communications, defines sustainability as “choices you make with the future in mind”. She became aware of environmental issues in junior high, at a time when the ozone layer was in the news, recycling was becoming more available, and Earth Day promotions were becoming more prevalent. She used her growing knowledge of sustainability to talk her parents into sorting the trash and traveling to the closest recycling center, which was 30 minutes away. Her interest in sustainability efforts has continued at Elon University.

While it is common for environmental studies professors and students involved in sustainability efforts, Dr. Triche works hard in the School of Communications to make sustainability an integral part of her classes. She screens and discusses documentaries that educate her students about sustainability issues. As a teacher of documentary filmmaking, she often helps students to produce documentaries that make a difference.

To increase sustainability knowledge and efforts on campus, Elon University offers a unique opportunity for faculty interested in incorporating sustainable principles and ideas into their courses: Sustainability Scholars. As a part of this program sponsored by the Center for Environmental Studies, the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and the Office of Sustainability, each participating faculty member incorporates sustainability topics into their curriculum.

To learn more about
Sustainability Scholars,
click [here](http://www.elon.edu/web/academics/teaching/susScholars.xhtml)!

Dr. Triche became a Sustainability Scholar and she now uses sustainability as a teaching tool in her Creating Multimedia Content (COM 220) sections.

In COM 220, each student is given numerous design assignments involving various topics. To incorporate sustainability, “I gave each student an environmental issue such as water or energy conservation,” Triche said.

Based on these topics, each student came up with a call to action that would appeal to the Elon community. After the research component, each student spent time designing

a poster that illustrated this call to action. This project was designed to encourage students to learn more about sustainability and take ownership of specific environmental issues. With this information at their disposal, they were able to brainstorm solutions to the various problems.

As a Sustainability Scholar, Dr. Triche wants the Elon community to know that “anyone can incorporate issues of sustainability into their curriculum”. To find out more information about the program, visit <http://www.elon.edu/web/academics/teaching/susScholars.xhtml>.



As a Sustainability Scholar, Nicole Triche has made sustainability issues a major component of the curriculum for her Creating Multimedia Content class.



Student Profile: Nathan Tietbohl

MacKenzie Conley

Nate Tietbohl, a senior environmental studies major, first noticed how quickly waste can accumulate while working at a local coffee shop. He realized that a coffee habit often leads to a lot of to-go cups being thrown away each day. His curiosity led to a personal investigation of the impact of disposable items such as water bottles, coffee cups, and paper cups on the environment.

Tietbohl wanted to uncover the environmental and financial impact of using disposable items on a daily basis, so he made a plan. His plan was to use only a reusable mug or water bottle for the entire month of January, measure the difference, and document his experience in an article written for the Elon Odyssey. Because he just started observing his behavior he did not have any baseline data, so he used a low estimate of three cups a day.

After a month, Tietbohl kept 93 cups out of the landfill. He saved \$114.08 dollars a month by not purchasing disposables and taking advantage of reusable container discounts. He also found that the amount of cups he saved in one month offset the carbon emissions for a 24-mile car ride.

In his article for the Elon Odyssey, he stressed that his individual actions did make a difference and encouraged readers to think about the difference it could make if everyone adopted these kinds of behaviors.

The month of reusability changed Tietbohl's long-term behavior. The benefits of using a reusable container made it easy for him to continue with his personal experiment. He does not go anywhere without both a reusable coffee mug and water bottle.

Tietbohl's advice to people who want to change their own behavior is that it is way easier than you think. It only takes a small amount of effort to remember a reusable

container. It also forces you to slow down, plan ahead and be more present.

His behavior change did not go unnoticed. The article won most shared article for the Elon Odyssey the week it was published. Tietbohl successfully demonstrated that small actions add up and change starts with the individual.



Nathan Tietbohl has made waste reduction personal. By making the decision to go disposable cup-free for a whole month, he saved over \$100!

Reusable Container Discounts!

- On campus, Elon Dining locations offer any regular coffee or tea for \$0.79 when you opt for a reusable option over a disposable cup.



- Most nearby coffee shops offer a 10 cent discount when you bring in a reusable coffee cup!

Staff Profile: Nolan Patouillet

Morgan Fleming

To Nolan Patouillet, Assistant Director of Residence Life for the Station at Mill Point and Interim Assistant Director of Residence Life for the Oaks, sustainability is “a way of living to leave the world a better place than we found it. Sustainable practices allow us to have ways of living that have a positive impact on the environment for now and the future.”

Patouillet’s interest in sustainability began when he starting working in higher education in 2011. More recently, the birth of his daughter in 2014 has inspired him to leave the world a better place for future generations by learning more about current issues, such as sustainable energy, climate change and their global impact.

His career in higher education has given him the opportunity to hear about sustainable and environmental practices that positively impact the world and implement them in his professional life. In his role as the Assistant Director of the Station at Mill Point, Patouillet focuses a lot of his energy on helping students feel prepared for life after Elon.

Specifically, he utilizes the Station at Mill Point Community Garden in order to help residents learn how to grow their own food such as lettuce, broccoli, and



Nolan Patouillet sees the importance of incorporating sustainable living into the lives of students living in the Station at Mill Point.



The Station at Mill Point is home to a garden where students, faculty and staff can grow their own food. They can also use the compost tumbler to compost food waste.

cauliflower. Through their interactions with the Mill Point Garden, he hopes students learn different sustainable practices for growing food and that this encourages them to live more consciously after graduation.

Nolan Patouillet wants the Elon community to know that he enjoys working with students and finding ways to connect them with their passions, whether that is sustainability, entrepreneurship, service, research, etc. While parts of his job are administrative, he really enjoys working directly with students and hopefully making a difference in their lives.



The Station at Mill Point is home to more than 300 Elon University students. The apartment complex offers an independent living experience in close proximity to campus.



What's Coming Up

Earth Week 2016



EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL 19 - 23

TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
19 <u>Sustainable College Coffee</u> Kick off Earth Week with a prize! Visit the Office of Sustainability Table for a special treat when you show your reusable mug. 9:40 - 10:20 AM Keynote Speaker: Eileen Clausen Learn the implications of climate change and potential solutions in McKinnon Hall. 7:30 PM	20 <u>Sustainable S'Mores with Elon Outdoors</u> Get your s'mores fix on the Beck Pool Padio. 10 PM	21 <u>ECC Farmers Market</u> Fill your free reusable bag with local produce on the Elon Community Church Lawn. 3 - 6:30 PM <u>Midnight Meals</u> Enjoy a performance from LaughELONGs and learn more about sustainability on campus. 11 PM	 22 <u>Local Meal</u> Enjoy a lunch made from local ingredients in Colonnades Dining Hall. 11 AM - 2 PM Party for the Planet Celebrate with entertainment, food and sustainability orgs on Speakers Corner. 3 - 6 PM <u>ITB Meditation</u> Join Iron Tree Blooming for a meditation session in Numen Lumen Pavillion. 4:15 PM	23 <u>Elon Outdoors Canoe Trip & River Cleanup</u> Sponsored by Campus Rec at Dan River. Interest Meeting: 4:15 p.m. on April 19

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

April 22 3-6 PM
Speakers Corner

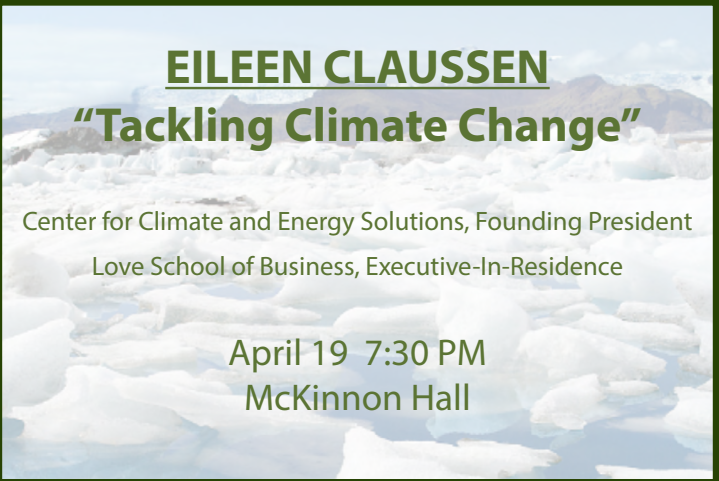


EILEEN CLAUSSEN

"Tackling Climate Change"

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Founding President
Love School of Business, Executive-In-Residence

April 19 7:30 PM
McKinnon Hall



Don't Trash It!



DONATE IT! DON'T TRASH IT

May 11–25

Donation Stations:
Residential Neighborhoods
Oaks parking lot
Danieley parking lot

Don't Trash It! provides collection points for gently used items so they can be donated instead of thrown away.

We collect: gently used furniture, working appliances, small house wares, lamps, electronics, usable clothing & non-perishable food items

For: Non-profit organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Alamance Caswell Hospice, Allied Churches & more.

Volunteer: Last year over 10,000 lbs of donations were collected. More help means more collected donations! Email sustainability@elon.edu if you are interested in helping. Whether you can volunteer for 1 hour or 1 week, every bit of your volunteer time helps!

Sustainability Events Calendar

Sustainability Events Calendar - Learn about what's happening on campus!

STEP 1: Visit elon.edu/sustainability.

STEP 2: Click on the calendar icon on the sidebar.

STEP 3: View the Elon Sustainability Events Calendar to stay updated on what events are coming up across campus!

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