



March 2009

Subject: Sustainability Initiatives

From: Barbara Chernow, Vice President for Facilities & Services

Stony Brook University has been engaged in sustainable operational practices for more than 20 years. Two years ago we formed the department of Environmental Stewardship to solidify our commitment to sustainability campus-wide. With this commitment, Stony Brook joins universities across the country which are determined to be leaders in social, economic, and technological efforts to advance sustainability, reduce energy use and minimize environmental impact.

One notable operational initiative is Stony Brook's Energy Saving Performance Contract. Under this contract, energy-efficient equipment was installed and is being financed by savings of almost \$4,000,000 (7%) in annual energy costs at our main campus. Equipment installed includes a sophisticated energy management system, new air handlers, variable frequency drives and closed loop cooling systems. Energy conservation projects at our other campuses include a 10 kW solar array at the Research and Development (R&D) Park, and a geothermal system and windmill at our Southampton campus.

The first new building at the R&D Park, incorporating sustainable design and construction practices, has been completed. The Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center, scheduled for Spring 2010 completion, has been designed to the Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard, the highest level currently recognized.

Fleet management and its environmental impact is also part of the University's focus. The majority of the University Bus Fleet has been operating on a biodiesel blend since April of 2005.

The University operates several comprehensive recycling programs. In a single semester, our Sustainability Task Force's initiative removed over 8.5 tons of reusable and recyclable items left behind in residence halls, diverted it from the trash stream, and re-purposed many items to those in need in our local community. Campus participation in the national Recyclemania competition has become part of our culture, with rivalries between dormitories as a highlight.

Our campus Environmental Club and Faculty Student Association also support Stony Brook's sustainability efforts. Compost from our dining halls will be used in our greenhouses and planting beds. Our dining service provider follows the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch guidelines and only offers sustainable seafood. We use produce from local farmers and sponsor a Community Shared Agriculture program with a local organic farm. Our program to use biodegradable consumer packaging and trays was fully implemented this past fall.

We too believe that as a University we must serve as both the best example of environmental stewardship and as a sustainability resource and training ground for our students, who will become both the core of our community and citizens in other communities throughout our nation. We are proud of our commitment to save energy, reduce pollution, and improve our impact on the natural environment and appreciate your mention of our efforts.