



Jesuits and Sustainability

Resources for Community Facilitators

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Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability
of future generations to meet their needs.

Instructions for Jesuits and Sustainability Bulletin Board Assembly

- Cut out individual pieces of text and put them on the board for best results. Cut out related pieces of text that are on separate lines and arrange them together.
- Related pieces of text should be organized together. For example, each bullet point of the section about Jesuit colleges and universities should go near each other.
- Most of the images can be arranged anywhere around the board. Most are self-explanatory, others have captions.

The Jesuit emphasis on securing justice for all humans orients it toward a stance on sustainability that is focused on environmental justice and moral obligations to future generations.

The Jesuit focus on “eco-justice” is centered on ideas of poverty and environmental injustice, community responsibility, living simply, and a spiritual understanding of our responsibility to protect the earth granted us by God.

The Ecology Project, a Jesuit effort located in Ontario, Canada, works “to address socio-ecological issues from a faith perspective”.

This group educates about conservation, sustainable living and agriculture, and food security issues through workshops and retreats.

“While many environmental groups talk about impacts on the natural world...the faith community is...advocating for people, especially for those least able to bear the burdens of climate change...” -Dan Misleh,

Executive Director, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change emphasizes “thoughtful, deliberate, and reasoned action” in response to climate change focused on those whose financial limitations make them most vulnerable to this global issue. The Coalition also urges corporations and nations to consider the common good over personal interest when acting in a way that would affect the environment.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation: A Catholic Resource for Environmental Justice and Climate Change* as a resource for Catholics who wish to live sustainably in accordance with the Church's teachings and visions.

During their 35th General Congregation in 2008, the Society of Jesus made a point of addressing environmental and ecological issues, committing to a collaboration with other Christian and secular efforts in this area.

The Jesuit ideas on sustainability are found largely through their 28 colleges and universities. Here's what some of them are doing:

- In the spring of 2008, Creighton College President John P. Schlegel challenged his faculty, staff, and students “to help reduce our energy consumption by 5% in the next year.” He cited financial and moral benefits in this reduction.
- Several Jesuit schools, including Fordham, Marquette, and Xavier, encourage their students to take the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, which states: “I pledge to take into account the social and environmental consequences

of any job I consider and improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work". This year, Santa Clara hopes to list its graduates among the thousands of those who have already taken this pledge.

- Green design is the focus of new building projects at many Jesuit institutions. New dorms going up at Fordham, Loyola College of Maryland, and University of San Francisco feature low-flow water fixtures, rainwater retention systems, and "green" roofs. At Santa Clara, these and other features can be

found in Kennedy Commons, the sustainable design demonstration building. Our new library, which is twice as big as the old one, functions on the same amount of energy.

- Loyola College of Maryland and Santa Clara are aiming to reduce waste by repairing furniture rather than discarding it and encouraging students to recycle furniture and carpeting when they move out in the spring rather than throw it away.

- The University of San Francisco has a composting program by which 36 tons of food and kitchen waste were prevented from being thrown out as waste last year. Santa Clara is also looking into composting food waste.

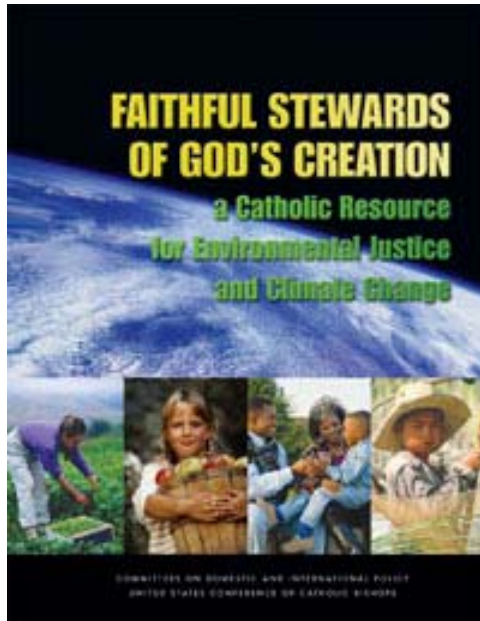
- Seattle University earned the highest grade (B+) of all the Jesuit colleges and universities on The College Sustainability Report Card for 2009. Santa Clara comes in a few places behind, with a grade of a B.

- Of the more than 600 schools which have signed the American College and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment, which encourages institutions to take the lead in reducing emissions and “integrating sustainability into their curriculum”, seven are Jesuit: Holy Cross, Fairfield, Loyola Marymount, St. Peter’s, Santa Clara, Seattle University, and Xavier University.

People, Planet, Peace



The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change



ASSOCIATION *of*
JESUIT COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

AJCU



Graduation Pledge Alliance



Kennedy Commons: Santa Clara's "green" building finished in 2006



COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT CARD

A Review of Campus & Endowment Policies at Leading Institutions



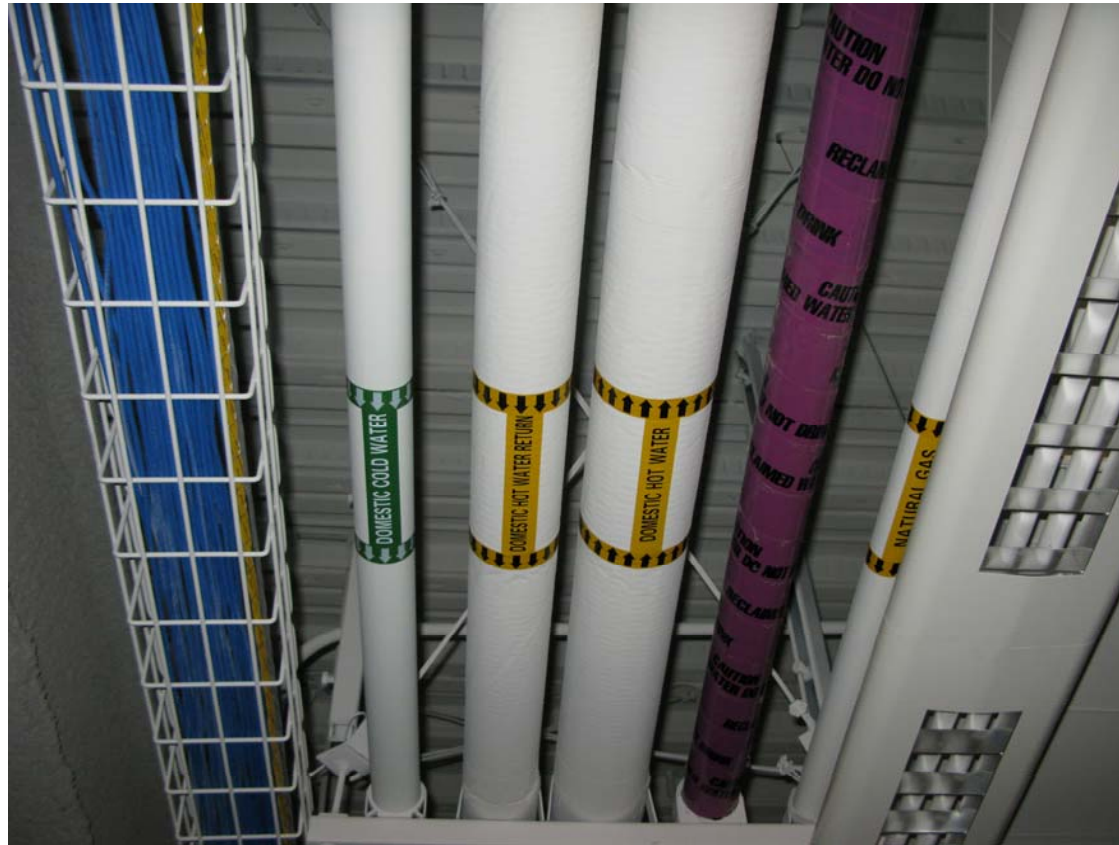
AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT



A Benson plate after 10 days of composting last spring



Kennedy Commons' "Green" roof



The SCU library uses recycled water in its bathrooms, which runs through the purple pipe



Campbell Hall, Fordham University's new "Green" dorm

Text:

<http://itrs.scu.edu/kwarner/CatholicU-EJ-Sustainability.pdf>

<http://www.jesuit.org/Default.aspx?P=PortalHome>

<http://www.greenreportcard.org/>

http://www.ignatiusguelph.ca/ecology/eco_team.html

http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/take_action.html

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

Images:

<http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/>

[http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=772.](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=772)

<http://homepages.luc.edu/~jcorlis/ajcu.jpg>

<http://blogsofbainbridge.typepad.com/dailygreens/images/gpa.gif>

<http://gristmill.grist.org/images/user/26/report.jpg>

<http://www.reenergizetexas.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/acupcc-logo1.jpg>

<http://www.greenbuildingsnyc.com/wp-content/themes/WP-MagTheme10->

<Basic/images/campbell.gif>

Images of Kennedy Commons, SCU library, and composted plate courtesy of Lindsey Cromwell