



Sustainability at Coe College

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Sustainability at Coe College has arisen in a number of forms. In general, interest in these issues has occurred from the ground up:

- Faculty with interest in sustainability-related issues have developed courses where there is flexibility in the curriculum – in May Term courses, in First Year Seminars, and in Honors courses.
- Students have formed organizations and have used student government as a platform to move the college toward sustainability.
- Administrators have generally responded positively to initiatives from faculty, staff, and students as resources allow.

See <http://www.coe.edu/aboutcoe/coegreen> for more information.



Professor David Hayes helps his class understand the principles of sustainable businesses with a visit to the "shed" - the first corporate headquarters for Patagonia in Ventura, California.



Coe's Wilderness Field Station, north of Ely, Minnesota, offers students the opportunity to study field biology – or rhetoric or law - in an actual wilderness. More information at <http://public.coe.edu/fieldstation/>.

Curriculum – While Coe has had an environmental science program centered in biology and chemistry for some time, courses such as environmental economics, environmental ethics, and environmental rhetoric have made their way into course offerings more recently. Programs such as departmental seminars, honors courses, and first year seminars have allowed faculty to really focus on issues of sustainability. Coe's May Term has also been an important venue for exploring issues of sustainability in business (by visiting green businesses such as New Belgium and Patagonia). There are also numerous opportunities for student-faculty research projects.

Campus Action - The decision by President Jim Phifer to become a charter signatory to the ACUPCC (which was strongly influenced by student input) has provided a focus for campus sustainability efforts. The Sustainability Council, which includes faculty, staff, and students, coordinates ACUPCC efforts, manages funds designated for sustainability, and initiates projects to enhance sustainability on campus. Current efforts include evaluating possibilities for a green roof, enhancing storm-water management, encouraging curricular development, coordination with wider Cedar Rapids efforts, and monitoring existing campus activities in recycling and energy conservation.



Student action, such as this plastic bag drive, by Environmental Club, is key in educating and energizing the campus community.