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Undergraduates - check out the Office of Sustainability's Focus Group Opportunity and Student Fellowship Opportunity below!

Mark Your Calendars!

Featured Campus Events:

Please join us for a screening of dGenerate Films' documentary *Beijing Besieged by Waste*. The film captures humanity's unresolved grave issue of our planet being overtaken by garbage as a result of over-consumption.

AASHE (the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](https://aashe.org)) held their annual conference this past month in Los Angeles, October 14-17. The conference theme for this year was "Investing in the Future," and keynote speakers focused on the role sustainability can take as higher education continues to evolve and adapt to global issues of accountability and affordability (key topics during Father Garanzini's recent State of the University Address).

Loyola's own Director of Sustainability, Aaron Durnbaugh, presented at the conference as both a speaker and poster presenter. Aaron's poster presentation was entitled "New Construction as Inspiration for Energy Efficiency Retrofits: Loyola's Dumbach and Cuneo Halls," and focused on sustainable buildings and campus infrastructure, university campuses as a "living lab," and energy efficiency. Aaron's speaking presentation centered on ideas related to assessments and inventories, community engagement and public outreach, and coordination and planning. Taking a theoretical...
Post-film discussion with Kevin B. Lee, Vice President of Programming and Education, dGenerate Films and Editor of Indiewire Press Play blog.

Thursday, November 8, 7-9pm
Information Commons 4th Floor

Register now for a Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Loyola's power plant! Recent renovations make Loyola's Central Steam Plant the most efficient of its kind in the United States. Come learn from the engineers who operate the facility that keeps us warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Tuesday, November 13, 10:30am - 12pm
Meet at South Entrance to power plant

Looyola Launches Sustainability Planning Survey and Community Gathering Events

This Fall, Loyola's Office of Sustainability is creating a sustainability plan and is seeking input from students, faculty, staff, and the local community on what we are doing right and where we need to step it up!

To facilitate this sharing of ideas, we launched an online survey in mid-October that allows respondents to assess our current sustainability efforts in the areas of transportation, waste, energy, water, biodiversity and open space, climate change, and food, as well as write in their own ideas, suggestions, and opinions related to each of these topics. The survey also gives an opportunity to recognize sustainability leaders in the Loyola community.

In just a few days, our survey received 1500 responses, with a lot of valuable feedback, and many nominations of sustainability leaders! But, we still need your help!
Be sure to register for an exciting field trip to the North Park Village Nature Center, which features a 46-acre nature preserve and educational facility situated within the 155-acre North Park Village campus. The nature preserve offers trails that wind through woodland, wetland, prairie and savanna. A discovery room, a hands-on table of natural objects, and interactive displays are highlights of the Nature Center.

Saturday, November 17, 9:30am - 12:30pm
Meet at the Lake Shore Campus shuttle stop

Take a moment to forward on this newsletter and encourage your friends and peers to complete the survey now!

We have just over 1,800 responses but this is less than 10% of our Loyola community. Only 9% of undergraduates and 6.4% of graduate students have responded. Staff (18.8%) and Faculty (13.3%) are way ahead. C'mon students, please help us get all Loyolans to participate! Fill out the survey today!

In addition to the survey, Loyola hosted a Sustainability Planning Community Gathering event on Wednesday, October 24, to allow our neighbors and partners to give input on Loyola sustainability plans. Many great ideas and suggestions were put forth at this event!

We hope to have even more voices included in the guidance of our sustainability efforts on campus at our next Community Gathering on Tuesday, November 20th! The event will take place in the McCormick Lounge of Coffey Hall on Loyola’s Lake Shore campus, and anyone interested is welcome to attend! We recommend that attendees take a look at our website to inform themselves about our current sustainability efforts in order to provide feedback on how we can improve. Please RSVP for the next Sustainability Planning Community Gathering here.

Focus Group Opportunities
As a part of this effort, we are also holding a few small-group input gathering sessions for students, faculty, and staff. Incentives are included! Click here to RSVP and find out more information!

Student Focus Groups:

Friday, November 9, 11am - 12:30pm in Granada Center West Conference Room
Friday, November 9, 2pm - 3:30pm in Cuneo Hall Room 218

Staff/Faculty Focus Groups:

Wednesday, November 14, 12pm - 1:30pm in Granada Center West Conference Room (LSC)
Thursday, November 15, 12pm - 1:30pm in Terry Student Center Room 303 (WTC)

New Campus Compost
inviting you to tell us how to be more sustainable. This fall, Loyola is creating a Sustainability Plan and is seeking your ideas on what we are doing right and where we need to step it up. This Community Gathering is for our neighbors and partners to give input on Loyola sustainability plans. Please visit luc.edu/sustainability for more information.

Tuesday, November 20, 6:30 - 8pm McCormick Lounge in Coffey Hall, Lake Shore Campus

**Featured Community Events:**

Join Great Lakes Bioneers Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago for three exciting days of learning, networking and collaboration. The theme is The Living City, using the body as a metaphor for the critical compost program.

To increase the collection of compostable materials, the Campus Compost Collective Program was recently launched at the Lakeshore campus. The Compost Collective Program allows staff, faculty and students living on-campus to place their respective food-waste (generated while on-campus) in a compost bucket, and bring to a drop-off location. Drop-offs take place weekly and a student volunteer is on hand to assist with weighing contents and answering any questions. Folks are finding the program easy and generates lively conversations related to food waste and how to make positive changes.

Our Sustainability Specialist, Gina Lettiere and two student leaders, Suzanne Hart and Amber Vignieri facilitated a "Composting: Tips & Tricks" workshop in mid-October to launch the new drop-off program and introduced attendees to vermicomposting. Gina taught workshop participants the best techniques for turning food materials into compost and explained how the new Campus Compost Collective Program works. Suzanne and Amber provided fun facts and all the wonderful techniques for healthy and happy works for successful vermicomposting. The campus vermicomposting pilot program is sponsored by Residence Life and with their generous support, students are learning about a natural process with ecological benefits. All workshop participants received a compost bin for their office, apartment, or dorm. Several students signed onto both programs ensuring nothing goes to the landfill!

Loyola has recently received a grant from the Searle Family Foundation through the Chicago Community Trust to support compost networks around our campuses. Stay tuned for more information on how Loyola is bringing sustainability to our neighboring communities.

Collective Program Begins

Earlier this year, the Office of Sustainability collaborated with Facilities Management, Dining Services, and Loyola's waste hauler to begin the University's official composting program, which collects plate-waste materials from Simpson Dining Hall and hauls it off-campus to Land and Lakes, a large commercial composting company. Over 12 tons of organic waste was collected from Simpson Dining in September alone! This marks phase one of our growing compost program.
systems needed to keep Chicago alive, healthy and thriving. This conference is entitled "Innovators and Visionaries Inspired by Nature." Guests include Bill McKibben, Dr. Vandana Shiva, and Richard Heinberg.

November 2-4, beginning at 8:30am UIC, Student Center East

The Chicago Wilderness Biennial Congress is coming up! This event, entitled "Shaping the Future of Regional Conservation," will provide the representatives of the alliance's 260 member organizations a forum to join students, educators, volunteers, community partners, and interested members of the public in a dynamic exchange of ideas, success stories, and lessons learned.

Thursday, Nov 15, 8:30a-4:30p UIC, The Forum

If you are interested in participating in the Campus Compost Collective program, please email us at sustainability@luc.edu.

Tips for A Sustainable Thanksgiving

The holiday season is approaching, and that means a lot of celebrating with family and friends! It also means lots of holiday parties and events that, with a little effort, can be made more sustainable! Before you order heaps of food that will go to waste and serve it on disposable dishes that will end up in a landfill, check out our "Greening Your Events" guides, for both small and large functions!

In addition to the great advice contained in our guides, here are 5 tips for hosting a more sustainable Thanksgiving meal.

1. **Buy your produce from a local Farmer's Market** - buying food locally supports your local farmer and ethical farming, allows you to try new foods such as heirlooms or foods that honor the cultural heritage of the region, and cuts down on emissions since your food doesn't have to travel far from the ground to your plate. And, you can taste the difference in how fresh your local food is!

2. **Try to have a no-waste meal** - think twice before using paper napkins, tin-foil dishes, and plastic wrap, and instead, use re-usable items. Re-usable storage containers are airtight and keep food fresher than foil or wrap. You might have to wash a few extra dishes and your linen napkins, but you'll save a whole pile of waste from going to a landfill! Plus, non-disposable serving ware brings an element of sophistication to the meal!

3. **Use eco-friendly dish soap** - everyone has a ton of dishes to wash after a day of cooking and baking for Thanksgiving. Try using an eco-friendly dish soap that is biodegradable, and therefore, better for the environment. They also use natural ingredients instead of chemicals, which is better for your skin.

4. **Save your scraps for compost** - Rather than throwing all of the food scraps from the day into the waste basket, start a compost bin! You can turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich soil. Even if you don't have your own garden to use the soil,
Check out our Events Calendar for more event listings and registration!

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Help us spread the word by forwarding this email to your friends!

Student Section
by Alexandra Vecchio
Assistant Manager for the Farmers Market and University Recycling Program

Welcome Loyola students to the section of this newsletter that is just for you! Read here to learn about student-led sustainability initiatives on campus, important events, and what the student voice is saying around the topic of sustainability at Loyola.

Sustainability in Loyola's Dining Halls
When it comes to sustainability, the end goal is an ever moving target, which means there is always room to do more and achieve a better result. However, we must still take time to notice and appreciate the wonderful sustainability programs already in place, specifically at Loyola. Students, this month, read here to learn about what Loyola Dining Services is doing to be more sustainable. Let's face it: food is an important topic for students and sustainability endeavors alike. Read on to learn what kind of projects are already in place within Loyola's dining halls and how you can be a part of these efforts. Aramark works hard to "develop and implement long-term environmental stewardship programs and policies within a wide variety of areas." Let's take a look at some of their most prominent and significant sustainability features:

- **Trayless Dining**: As some of you have probably noticed, Loyola does not use trays throughout its dining halls. While this may seem automatic and obvious to some, this feature isn't necessarily present when you go to other colleges and universities. Hats off to Loyola Dining Services for conserving water and energy that is needed to clean the trays, as well as reducing the amount of chemical rinse aids used. Plus, trayless dining promotes healthier eating by reducing over consumption and food waste!

- **Sustainable Seafood procurement**: In partnership with Monterey Bay Aquarium's seafood watch program, Loyola purchases sustainably sourced seafood throughout its dining halls, helping to protect our world's fisheries.

- **Fryer Oil Recycling**: All of the waste cooking oil from Loyola's dining halls is recycled and converted into biodiesel in Loyola's very own, student run lab! This alternative fuel helps to run our shuttle buses between LSC and WTC.

- **Meatless Mondays**: In an effort to educate students and reduce the amount of harmful gases released into the atmosphere, Loyola dining services offers more vegetarian and vegan options each Monday in the dining halls.

- **Recycled Products**: The napkins used in the dining halls and cafes are made from recycled paper! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

- **Composting**: A recent addition to Loyola's dining services is a compost collection program. This is taking place behind the scenes in Simpson Dining Hall. As of August 2012, all food waste is being scraped, collected, weighed, and hauled off to create compost, therefore diverting this waste from a landfill.

In addition, Loyola offers compostable products where ever possible, which can be collected in the same bins as food scraps. Interested in learning more about composting at Loyola, read here!

**UnCap LUC**: As I am sure many of you have noticed or read by now, Loyola Dining Service Stores, such as Southside Market and Union Station, no longer sell bottled water. After working with Loyola students, staff and administration on the UnCap LUC campaign, Aramark discontinued the sale of bottled water in August 2012. Next year, in August 2013, the vending machines will also discontinue the sale of bottled water and Loyola will officially be bottled water free.

As you can see, the sustainable endeavors around food service, procurement, and consumption are never ending. Nevertheless, it is promising to see such impressive programs from Loyola Dining Services. It is even more exciting to learn that these efforts have led to real progress: In September
2011, LUC Dining had a total of 23.4 tons of landfill waste, but in September 2012, they had only 7.9 tons! Talk about a drastic decrease!

If you have more ideas about how to make Loyola Dining more sustainable, please share them! Aramark provides any opportunity for this every other Monday at 6pm during Cuisine Team meetings. This gives students the chance to be an active member and consultant in their own dining experience. Check out this Facebook page for the most recent updates and important information regarding Cuisine Team!

Remember Ramblers, the best way to make a difference and see change is to get involved! For more information on Sustainability within LUC Dining, please visit www.luc.edu/dining!

**Focus Group Opportunity**

As part of our effort to continue improving sustainability at Loyola, the Office of Sustainability is looking for student input! We invite you to participate in one of our focus groups to share your ideas and opinions! Please RSVP by clicking on the date below.

All participants will receive a $5 giftcard to Chipotle!

**Student Focus Groups:**

- **Friday, November 9, 11am - 12:30pm** in Granada Center West Conference Room
- **Friday, November 9, 2pm - 3:30pm** in Cuneo Hall Room 218

**Student Fellowship Opportunity**

The Office of Sustainability is seeking an undergraduate student to help us with data collection and analysis for an upcoming energy conservation competition. This internship will take 10 hours per week for 5 weeks. The fellow will receive a stipend of $500. Duties will include posting information about the program, visiting energy meters in residence halls weekly to collect electricity and natural gas usage data and then entering this information into a website. The program will pit dorm against dorm and Loyola against other universities in energy use and conservation.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and at least one academic/professional reference to Gina Lettiere, Sustainability Specialist at glettie@luc.edu by Friday, November 16.
Loyola University Chicago strives to create a more sustainable university community. Doing this requires the collaboration, cooperation and creativity of every department and office and of all students, faculty and staff. Together we're building awareness, taking action and transforming society into one that will lead us sustainably down the path of ecological and social responsibility.