

Environmental Studies Division of the DOC (ESD)

By Oliver Bernstein '03, Chair

Born in the 1960s, the Environmental Studies Division of the Dartmouth Outing Club (ESD) is still a force in promoting environmental awareness on campus. ESD works to bring global issues to Dartmouth by starting where the College does: with education. Speakers and activists from the Upper Valley and beyond visit Hanover and explain how students can get involved. On February 27, 2001, ESD welcomed environmental author and scholar Bill McKibben. Best known as the author of *The End of Nature* and *Hope: Human and Wild*, McKibben spoke to over 450 students and community members on the subject, "The Environment as the Moral Challenge of Our Time."

Outside of Dartmouth, ESD helps send students to national conferences to bring what they learn back to Hanover. So far in 2000-01, ESD has helped send students to three such events. Sasha Earnheart-Gold '04 and Alex Monopolis '03 attended the Sierra Club/Amnesty International Youth Summit in Washington, DC, entitled "Human Rights and the Environment in the Age of Globalization." Eight other ESD members attended the Greening of the Ivies Conference over Winter Carnival weekend. Held at Yale University, this annual meeting allows the Ivy League environmental groups to brainstorm ways to energize campus environmental initiatives. Dartmouth played a prominent role at the conference and is planning to host the event next year. Finally, Karsten Barde

'04, Matt Kemp '04, and Benjamin Phillips '04 represented ESD at the Sierra Student Coalition Summit on Public Lands. These first-year students traveled to Washington, DC, to learn about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Southern Utah Wilderness, and other public land issues.

This Earth Day, ESD worked to promote the concept of sustainability at Dartmouth and beyond. An April 21 panel discussion led by author David Orr, of Oberlin College, focused on incorporating sustainability across the curriculum. It is only by teaching sustainability in all departments and in all forms that it may truly become a reality at Dartmouth.

Like the environmental movement that it belongs to, ESD has changed a great deal since its early days. Many people feel that the movement was strongest during the Rachel Carson - Earth Day period in the 1960s and 70s. Critics also claim that students are apathetic and do not work for any causes these days. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is no question that the level of student activism on campuses across the country rivals anything that took place during the 60s or 70s. Today's students care about the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the places they live. More importantly, students want to preserve their environment for their children and grandchildren, so that future generations might enjoy all that students do today.

Dartmouth Organic Farm

By Scott Stokoe, Farm Manager

The Dartmouth Organic Farm was first proposed in a policy report, written by students, for an Environmental Studies Program course, in 1988. It was originally envisioned as a project to make Dartmouth College more sustainable by becoming a food producing farm that cycled composted wastes of the college. Another student ENV5 report, in the spring of 1991, outlined the feasibility of a student farm and identified the Fullington Farm, a college-owned ex-dairy farm just north of campus, as an ideal site for such a program. In the winter of that same year 1991, a group of students from the Environmental Studies Division of the Dartmouth Outing Club (ESD/DOC), an active student environmental group, discovered the report and decided to implement it themselves. With the help of ENV5 faculty and support from the DOC, a small organic vegetable plot was planted in one of the Fullington Farm's hayfields. This beginning garden was such a success that the students proposed an on-going farm program for the Fullington site. The plan included hiring a full time professional farm manager to provide guidance and continuity.

Five growing seasons later, the Dartmouth Organic Farm currently produces much more than food. The two acres of certified organic vegetables, herbs and flowers provide an excellent base for the exploration and study of sustainable agriculture. But there is great interest beyond agriculture, in the areas of renewable energy, nutrient cycling and sustainable design. Student design projects range from solar greenhouses and biogas digesters to electric vehicles and community design.

Funds are available to support student internships and independent research at the farm. Interns assist in farm operations,

planning, and research, and independent study credit can be arranged with faculty sponsors.

The Dartmouth Organic Farm is used by a number of professors at the college to enhance their academic curriculum, including courses from the Biology, Education, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Geography, and Religion departments. A master plan is currently being undertaken by the college to consider improvements and expansion of the farm program to better support the educational opportunities at the farm. Building a classroom/social space, farm center and field research station are possible improvements being considered. Another proposed development would be to create a "Sustainable Living Center" at the farm to provide a hands-on, living laboratory for students to study and experience the technologies and life-styles of sustainable living. Combining residential and academic experiences, it would provide students a complete immersion into the environmental problems and potential responses that represent the challenge of living sustainably.

The very nature of an agricultural enterprise lies at the intersection of culture and the environment: to identify and respond to the needs of society while recognizing the limits and demands of the immediate local ecosystem. The Dartmouth Organic Farm serves to connect this rich interdisciplinary domain with the greater educational mission of Dartmouth College. It functions as a living laboratory by providing us with hands-on, personal experiences in the workings of the natural world and by challenging us to contemplate the impact on the environment of the human world we have created.



Beyond the Green

Green Roundtable
Supplement

In this Issue:

Green Roundtable	1
Dartmouth Environmental Network	2
Resource Working Group	2
Environmental Conservation Organization	3
Environmental Studies Division / DOC	4
Dartmouth Organic Farm	4

Newsletter of the Dartmouth Environmental Network

President's Column

By Bill Mansfield '54

The environment has been thrust to center stage at both the national and local levels this Spring. Whether by design or default, the new Administration in Washington has focused public attention on global and national environmental issues.

And in Hanover the Dartmouth community is busy with a range of interesting local environmental pursuits. DEN and its members are striving to foster these activities.

DEN will hold its annual Spring weekend event in Hanover on May 11-12. The focus of the weekend will be a first-ever Green Roundtable on Saturday, bringing together student environmental organizations for an environmental show-and-tell.

Later that afternoon we will gather at the Dartmouth Organic Farm to join in the Spring planting and, after dinner, celebrate the appearance of artist and naturalist John J. Audubon in the person of our own Tom Burack.

Earlier this Spring Earth Day weekend featured a symposium on sustainable academics featuring noted author David Orr and a moving memorial service for Dartmouth's distinguished environmentalist Dana Meadows.

We are looking ahead now to DEN's Fall symposium, which will focus on Dana's legacy, and to the issuance of the new DEN Directory and establishment of a DEN Website, which will help us work more closely in our mentoring and promotional work.

We urge you to support these activities by joining DEN. We welcome new members in our efforts to enhance environmental excellence at Dartmouth.

DEN Council, Eco-Org Leaders, and College Staff to assemble for first Green Roundtable

By Dan LeBlanc '93

After abundant late season snow, Spring has finally arrived on the Hanover plain, just in time for DEN's annual MayDay event on campus. This year DEN will sponsor the first Green Roundtable, a gathering of groups with environmental and related interests. The purpose of the roundtable is for the members of these groups to get to know each other better and, hopefully, to find some common ground for working together. Student and College organizations will be participating, as well as groups from the Town of Hanover and local environmental organizations. The initial session, which includes lunch, will be followed by an afternoon of Spring planting at the Dartmouth Organic Farm.

The Green Roundtable, intended to invoke the kind of camaraderie the name implies, will be a colorful exhibition of the histories, abilities, views and aspirations of participating organizations (see schedule). Lively presentations will highlight each of the established groups on campus, with poster sessions showcasing new and innovative ideas that promote sustainability within the Dartmouth community. Several groups from outside the College have also been invited to come and share their perspectives, including the Hanover Conservation Council and local chapters of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Club. DEN anticipates this type of interaction, held in an open forum, will spur the development of common environmental goals and the relationships to implement them.

DEN will also be on display at the event, talking about its recent work promoting green buildings on campus, the launch of the new DEN website, its participation in the Chautauqua program this summer, and the upcoming Fall symposium dedicated to the work of the late Dana Meadows.

With midterms completed, the Green Roundtable is timed to bring together student groups on campus with other environmental organizations in the community to facilitate networking and promote cooperation. An afternoon of planting tender seedlings in the verdant soil at the farm with friends and colleagues is intended to symbolize the start of a productive new season—one full of creativity, mutual support, and continued success.

Green Roundtable Schedule

Saturday, May 12, 2001

Collis 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Dartmouth Organic Farm: 2:00-9:00 pm

9:00 am:

Opening: History of Environmentalism at Dartmouth

9:30 am-12:30 pm:

DEN: Dartmouth Environmental Network

ECO: Environmental Conservation Organization

ESD: Environmental Studies Division of the DOC

RWG: Resource Working Group

DOGA: Dartmouth Organization for Global Awareness

Dartmouth Organic Farm

Hanover Conservation Council

Sustainability Institute

Vital Communities of the Upper Valley

Sierra Club

Students for a Sustainable Future

12:30-2:00 pm:

Roundtable Lunch

2:00-6:00 pm:

Dartmouth Organic Farm: community planting

6:00 pm:

Potluck supper

7:30 pm:

An evening with John James Audubon

This issue contains a four-page section that was prepared to serve as a special supplement to the DEN newsletter and as a stand-alone publication for the Green Roundtable. As such, it contains some material that is common to both. It also contains definitive descriptions of each of the established environmental organizations on campus, as well as news of their current activities.

DEN Reformulated for On-Campus Effectiveness

By Dan LeBlanc '93

DEN / *Acronym*, the Dartmouth Environmental Network; 1. known in its former incarnation (1989) as a small loosely-knit alumni group, formed to promote awareness of environmental issues and professional opportunities in the field; 2. reformulated in 2000 to inform the Dartmouth community about the latest developments in effective ecological technology, process, and thought.

DEN supports a growing number of campus initiatives focused on ecological responsibility, by acting as a nexus for information transfer, community networking, and creative problem solving. By keeping active relationships with the many different groups within the Dartmouth community and encouraging connections across disciplines, complex inter-relationships can be more completely understood and managed in ways that are beneficial to the local and global environment.

Using the resources of its wide network of alums, DEN initiates dialogue on feasible improvements that build on the College's commitment to ecological stewardship. This dialogue begins by bringing advocates of innovative yet mature resource efficient strategies to campus. Coming from industry, research, and non-profit sectors, these advocates speak to the

pragmatic benefits, cost, and potential pitfalls of leading edge technologies, enabling clear decision-making and long-term planning. **Example:** Green Residence Halls: Planning and Process forum in October of 2000.

DEN's relationship with students is strong. Working intimately with a host of student groups, DEN seeks to improve the planning, scope, and abilities of student initiatives and programs by leveraging its financial and information resources. **Example:** Green Roundtable at the Dartmouth Organic Farm on May 12, 2001, featuring presentations from student environmental groups, affiliated College associations, local environmental organizations, and DEN.

DEN is proud of the steps that it has taken to increase its effectiveness. Continued involvement in on-campus issues gives the organization a renewed sense of purpose and an avenue to contribute to the betterment of the Dartmouth community of which we are all a part. Expanding this involvement will ultimately come from the expansion of our network and is the key to DEN's continued success. For more information or to join, contact Prof. Jim Horning at james.f.horning@dartmouth.edu and watch for our website in June 2001.

Resource Working Group (RWG)

By Jess Morey '02

The Resource Working Group (RWG) was convened in 1996, as an outgrowth of an ad hoc committee set up by the Provost's Office in 1994. This group was called the Committee on Environmental Policies for College Operations (CEPCO), and the group issued a report in February 1995. The CEPCO report contained an ambitious set of institutional guidelines aimed at increasing the efficiency of resource use of the Dartmouth community and promoting environmentally conscious behaviors. These recommendations spanned the workings of the College from procurement to composting and recycling, energy and water conservation to alternative energy, facilities planning to land conservation and management, to transportation efficiency, publications, and computing. The CEPCO Committee recommended that the Provost's Office be vested with the responsibility for following up and continually assessing Dartmouth's progress in meeting the standards outlined in these campus-wide environmental policies.

Since the RWG began its work on the CEPCO recommendations in January 1996, several successful projects have been completed. One of the RWG's first initiatives was to encourage a College-wide shift to recycled paper. The following year, the Office of Residential Life worked with the recycling program and Procurement Services and the student group, the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO), to implement effective "on floor" recycling in the residence halls. Other notable achievements include; the banning of inefficient and hazardous torchiere-style halogen lamps on campus; a water conservation retrofit project in the residence halls; and a composting project that enables community-wide composting of the local "green stream" made up of yard waste, waste paper (not recyclable), and bio solids from the waste water treatment plant.

The RWG also carries out a series of on-going projects that continually evolve to effectively cut down on resource waste at the College. RWG member offices have funded a growing number of student internships designed to contribute to sustainability efforts at Dartmouth. Currently nearly 20 internships exist, in the following departments: Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities Operations & Management, Computing Services, Residential Life, Facilities Planning, Procurement Services, Office of the Provost, and Dining Services. With the RWG's guidance, the office of Facilities Operations & Management routinely carries out studies of potential energy conservation measures for existing campus buildings. RWG is also working with Computing Services to develop guidelines for conserving energy use and all printers, copiers, fax, and computing equipment are specified and purchased with at least "Energy Star" EPA ratings. Procurement Services and the RWG continue to investigate more environmentally conscious products. At the request of the RWG, resource efficient design and environmental construction of new buildings has been adopted by the College in their recent pledge to follow nationally recognized green building standards and by employing an energy/sustainability consultant with each building project.

The RWG, as a group, is pleased with the accomplishments it has made and the projects it has been able to encourage. The group's goal is to continue to institutionalize these issues at Dartmouth, always with the goal of enhancing the College's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability. The RWG welcomes ideas, comments, and thoughts from the Dartmouth community at any time. The RWG meets on a monthly basis and is co-chaired by Margaret Dyer Chamberlain, Associate Provost, and John Gratiot, Acting Director of Facilities Operations and Management.

Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO)

By Jesse W. Foote '01

The Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) is an adjunct of the Tucker Foundation. Our sole aim is environmental sustainability at Dartmouth College. It is my firm belief that Dartmouth is in a unique position to turn this lofty and urgent goal into reality. We are a prominent academic institution, which means we have the problem-solving and financial resources to develop and demonstrate sustainable practices. Dartmouth also has an extremely high number of students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni/ae who care deeply about environmental issues.

So how are we going to do it? On two levels: first, through a network of ECO representatives on every floor of every dorm and in each Greek and affinity house. These reps spread information and promote sustainable living. As of last winter, we have six student interns running this rep program (Vanessa Lee, Caroline Pott and Dominic Stanculescu in dorms; Charlie White in affinity houses; and Dean Krishna and Leo Pollock in Greek houses). This term we will have a spotlight theme for each week. We give each rep signs and suggest activities they can do to promote the week's theme. Also new this term, we will be starting a department rep program. Faculty and staff reps in each academic and administrative department will play the same role as student reps in residential buildings.

Second, through student internships and projects that will ultimately cover every area of in-sustainability on campus (public printing, dining services, etc). These students will work to change the existing system towards sustainability. If the change involves altering individual behavior, then the rep program can be utilized. For example, public printing on campus currently wastes around 2 million sheets of paper every year through unnecessary cover sheets and jobs that are never picked up. Our public printing intern is working with the Kiewit staff to change that system. Once changed, he can use the rep program to help make sure that students understand the new system and use it correctly.

Here's what we have now:

Recycling: Molly Redmond has updated basement bin signs for the recent change in recycling collection: newspaper and junk mail together! She's also working on introducing blue recycling bins into every dorm room.

Composting: Ben Mustin is working to bring composting to more dorms and buildings, and help encourage composting where it is now being collected.

Dining Services: Brad Marden organized a hard-to-miss, weeklong composting campaign that was a huge success. He also brought pint size milk containers to Home Plate. Lots of projects in the works for spring: a sink at Collis for enviomugs and Tupperware, less plastic in packaging and more composting campaigns!

Purchasing: Katie Greenwood is currently working to push through a blend of coffee that is organic, shade-grown and free trade. Her next project: 100% post-consumer, non-bleached paper.

Facilities Planning: Kate Turpin, Erinna Bowman, Beth Huston and Katy Tooke are working to make sure that construction of new buildings and renovation of old buildings is as green as possible. They have analyzed all of the buildings on

campus using a number of indicators, and are looking into construction waste recycling standards and pushing for a sustainable living center at the Dartmouth Organic Farm.

Public Printing: Jonah Stulberg has introduced and promoted the new Berry duplex printer. He is currently advocating a plan to completely revise public printing to get rid of cover sheets and jobs that are never picked up, and make printing easier for students!

Environmental Health and Safety: Owen Brennan has learned the ways of the environmental health and safety inspector. He did a cleanup at Oak Hill and is now moving into Greek Houses.

SPARC (Save Power And Receive Cash): Megan Malgeri and Jessie Allen-Young run this program that encourages dorms to reduce their electricity use by offering them money back on their savings and a prize for the best reducers. Next term they'll have a bigger prize, more signs, and lists of dorm indicators in the front of every dorm.

Publicity: Last term, Jess Morey began reviving Sense of Place, an electronic magazine founded in the early 1990s (at the time it was the first electronic magazine in the country) that will make sure everyone knows what's up environmentally on campus.

SWWAT (Special Waste Warrior Action Team): As the name implies, a form of reverse eco-terrorism designed to make things happen that aren't happening, to fill in the holes.

Do I think we can make it to 100% environmental sustainability? You bet. The world needs it, and if anyone can, Dartmouth can.



The ECO SWWAT TEAM (Special Waste Warrior Action Team)