



College of Saint Benedict Sustainability Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

The CSB Sustainability Office has a new Coordinator!



At the end of August, the College of St. Benedict continued their commitment to sustainability by hiring their next Sustainability Coordinator, Rachel Brodeur. Rachel brings with her a strong background in sustainability work with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences from Luther College, as well as the experience she gained in her previous position serving as a MN GreenCorps member. Her year of service was spent on the beautiful North Shore working in Lake County, MN where she conducted outreach and education on waste reduction and proper recycling initiatives. Rachel is excited to begin her time here at CSB creating new partnerships, moving CSB towards their sustainability goals, and engaging with students, faculty and staff as a sustainable community. You can find Rachel in Mary Commons 139, where the office welcomes visitors with open arms!

Not all PLASTICS are created equal...

Have you ever wondered what the triangle on the bottom of plastic products means? Many will be surprised, but it doesn't actually mean recyclable. Those little triangles designate a "resin code" which simply denotes what material that product is made out of (ex. PETE, PVC, LDPE). Unfortunately, marketing strategies have led consumers to believe that anything with that symbol can be recycled. In the past, we may have gotten away with putting anything and everything in the recycling bin and hoped it made it to the right place. Today, there is a major market shift for recycling and it is extremely important to 'recycle-right' and only put items you know can be recycled in the bin.

On our campus', there has recently been a change in which of those resin codes are accepted for recycling. Up until January 2019, our hauler (Waste Management) accepted any of the #1-#7 plastics, but now they will only accept #1-#5. It is very important now, more than ever, that we are following these guidelines to ensure CSB is sending a good product to be recycled. Doing this will help maintain the little market the US has left in recycling. Next time you use a plastic item, take a look at the little number, think about what it means, and only recycle #1-#5.

Better yet... REDUCE! There are many single use items that are used every day right here on our campus. Imagine if all those items were reusable instead of throwing them away! You can start by:

- *bringing your own coffee mug to Clemen's Perk or Good-to-Go*
- *skipping the stir sticks and straws*
- *avoiding use of plastic bags from the bookstores*
- *carrying your own set of silverware and metal straw*

These are all very simple things that all of us can do to reduce our waste on campus. Small actions, when done by many people, can have a significant impact.

The BIG Sale

The CSB Sustainability Office held yet another great, "BIG Sale"! At this event, which happened during move-in weekend, Sustainability Office staff and volunteers helped sell 196 total items to CSB and SJU students.

All items sold were donated by students, faculty, and staff during "Stash It, Don't Trash It" in May, 2019. This process of donating and reselling helps keep items that can be reused out of the landfills.

Be sure to look out for future events like the "BIG Sale" and "Stash It, Don't Trash It" to donate your unwanted items - and always remember to think before you throw!





UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED EVENTS

October 7-18, 2019
Cut the Current
(for all CSB residents, look out for details and tabling on how to reduce your energy)

October 16, 2019
Climate Change as Religious, Ethical and Political
Quad 264
4:30pm-5:30pm

October 23, 2019
Sustainability Speaks
Film Series: *Happening*
Gorecki 204B, CSB
7:30pm

'Swap Shop' and surplus stewardship

At CSB, we have two wonderful services that help keep items out of the landfill. The first is the Swap Shop, which is located in Mary Commons between Security and the Recycling Room. The Swap Shop is available for all students, faculty and staff to donate and pick-up items as needed. It is great for general office supplies that doesn't have too much wear and tear! If you're wondering whether or not your items should be donated, the Sustainability office is located just across the hall and anyone there can assist you.

The second service that CSB offers is GovDeals, a surplus auction website, which the Sustainability Office manages. This site allows for campus items that would not work well in the Swap Shop to be auctioned and sold. Items that come from culinary services, furniture, or other large, campus-owned items would be appropriate.

If you have an item that you think would do well on this site you can fill out the form at <https://www.csbsju.edu/csb-sustainability/csb-surplus-stewardship-program>. This link is also where you can create an account to bid on items that have been put on GovDeals.com - CSB/SJU community members get first dibs on our campus items!

Meet the Office Staff...

For the 2019 Fall Semester, the Sustainability Office has two, awesome student employees working on projects they are passionate about.

Julia Abell, '20 is currently working on the "[BENNIEficial](#)" Green Residence program along with planning other Sustainability events for the school year. Sophie Buysse, '20 is hard at work preparing the [Full Circle Greenhouse](#) for the first planting of the year. Sophie has also assisted with volunteer recruitment and conducting engagement sessions around food waste reduction.

Both Sophie and Julia are extremely knowledgeable regarding sustainability on campus. They are the go-to student advocates and are willing to answer any questions you may have.



Julia Abell '20



Sophie Buysse '20



WATER & ENERGY USE CHALLENGE

'Cut the Current' returns for the 2019 Fall semester

From October 7th - October 18th, Bennies are challenging each other to become more conscious of their resource footprint and change their energy and water use habits. Cut the Current is an annual competition in which residence halls and apartments compete head to head to reduce their collective energy use. This year, Johnnies will also be participating on their campus during the same time period - though not in direct competition, we can all encourage energy reduction throughout the CSB/SJU community. CSB is incentivising the competition by giving a free party *with food* for the winning residents.

Local food - so close you can almost taste it!

Here in St. Joseph, there are a number of different ways to get delicious foods that are locally sourced. This includes the Local Blend, Minnesota Street Market, and the Friday Farmers Market held through the end of October - but, did you know there are local food options right on campus? The Full Circle Greenhouse is one of those awesome options!

The first planting will be in late October and the first harvest will be in November. After harvest, the vegetables will be sold within the CSB community, so be sure to keep an eye out for these power greens on campus!

The Greenhouse is run by a dedicated root team whom welcome volunteers for planting and harvest. If you would like to get involved or learn more, you can email fullcircle@csbsju.edu and be sure to follow them on Instagram [@fullcirclegreenhouse](https://www.instagram.com/fullcirclegreenhouse).