October was National Campus Sustainability Month

The month of October was celebrated as “National Campus Sustainability Month”. Throughout October, colleges across the country placed a spotlight on how they are assuming a leadership role in addressing major environmental issues, such as global climate change. Bowling Green State University is working to reduce its impact on our climate by pledging to be “carbon neutral”, or emitting no greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, by the year 2040.

BGSU hosted a number of events throughout the month, including a local Farmers’ Market, a documentary screening, and a guest-lecture from solar energy researcher Dr. Marco Nardone.

Dr. Nardone, a theoretical physicist within the Department of Physics & Astronomy, is currently performing research as part of a grant with the U.S. Department of Energy’s “SunShot initiative”. This initiative aims to make solar energy cost competitive ($.06/kwh) with other sources of energy by 2020. Throughout his lecture, Dr. Nardone explained how the reliability and efficiency of solar energy technology is constantly improving, and as the technology continues to improve, we’ll start to see its use become even more commonplace throughout our region!

Scot Voss, as BGSU’s “Sustainability Hero” of the month!

Dr. Nardone explains the future of Solar Energy

November, 2016
Fall Semester Issue 2

In this issue
• Campus Sustainability Month
• Sustainability Hero
• Princeton Review’s “Guide to Green Colleges”
• Friday Night Lights

BGSU Sustainability Hero

Achieving a sustainable college campus is a task that expands beyond any single office. Everyday actions of each individual working and living here at BGSU have a major influence on the amount of energy consumed and solid waste generated by our university. This is why we’re recognizing the Hall Director of Kreischer Compton/ Darrow, Scott Voss, as BGSU’s “Sustainability Hero” of the month!

Scott has worked in the Office of Residence Life at BGSU for the past 3 years and during this time he has proven to be a campus leader in sustainability initiatives. As a Graduate Hall Director, he pursued a practicum with the Office of Campus Sustainability, creating educational resources for R.A.s to engage their residents in the halls. He also brought “Roaming Recycling” to the Residence Halls, a program where students collect recycling from rooms.

During his everyday duties as Hall Director, Scott serves as a resource for his staff & students, encouraging them to reuse instead of buying new office supplies, by attending Re-Store events hosted monthly by the Office of Campus Sustainability.

A HUGE thank you to Scott for incorporating sustainability into his everyday duties here at BGSU!

Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges

BGSU is among the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges, according to the 2016 Princeton Review Guide to 361 Green Colleges.

The review chose the colleges for the seventh annual edition based on data from the company’s 2015-16 survey of hundreds of four-year colleges concerning their commitment to the environment and sustainability. BGSU scored 90 on the 100-point scale. Except for the top 50 schools, colleges are not ranked in any order.

The ranking provides a good reference for prospective students. Environmentally conscious, college-bound students increasingly seek school compatible with their beliefs, said Robert Franek, Princeton Review’s senior vice president and publisher. Read the full ZOOM News article here.

Friday Night Lights

“Friday Night Lights” is a student-led, energy saving initiative that meets every Friday at 6:30pm outside the Bowen-Thompson Student Union theater. Each Friday, students who are eager to earn community-service hours while reducing BGSU’s carbon footprint, assemble to sweep across campus to turn off unused lights, projectors, and computers in classrooms for the weekend! Since the start of Fall semester, over 120 students have participated and 8,746 light banks have been turned off, saving the university over $4,700 in electricity costs!

--- Scott Voss

I think the biggest thing one can do to reduce their impact is recognizing that little changes add up. While there are drastic changes that need to be made in the world, everyone making small changes in the actions and behaviors adds up to major changes overall.

--- Scott Voss

This is “Sustainability News”; a newsletter distributed by the Office of Campus Sustainability once a month to keep the campus community informed & involved with the many sustainability happenings at BGSU!