

Student Environmental Alliance's Call to Action

Since the primary inception of the modern environmental movement in 1960, Americans have showed strong awareness of the world's sustainability issues. Yet, the environmental challenges we face today are stealthily evolving and are perceived as a concern that is not relative to our present lives.¹ Issues such as health care, nuclear proliferation, and immigration dominate the current political agenda.

The environmental movement must once again take the forefront of the global agenda. As globally engaged Concordia students and faculty, we can no longer be content with our present stance of complacency—now is the time to act on our values.

Concordia College has always been aware of these issues. Relative to other schools, the inception of our environmental studies program was early. Unfortunately, we have not continued on our progressive beginnings.

Carleton College, Luther College and Macalester College are in the top twenty-six of three-hundred thirty-two ranked colleges in the nation for being "Overall College Sustainability Leaders."² Green revolving funds, composters, wind turbines, green-buildings, campus gardens, green fees, sustainable buildings, and many more innovative initiatives are exemplified in these universities. Unfortunately, Concordia lags in these areas.

In the summer of 2008 Concordia took the initiative to invest in the "Roadmap to a Sustainable Campus". This roadmap, produced by the University of Minnesota School of Environmental Studies, outlines how to further sustainability in five key areas: food, water, waste, buildings, and transportation. Task forces composed of faculty, staff, and students are hard at work on advancing these key areas on campus yet lack any significant fiscal support from Concordia. This severely limits the productivity and outcomes of the task forces.

Although we are in financially insecure times we must act now. For too long has Concordia remained stagnant on these issues. Funding for projects must be secured. These projects include, but are not limited to:

- hiring a full-time sustainability manager to develop and coordinate projects
- supporting the Sustainability Task Forces projects
- investing in student lead initiatives
- transforming Concordia's campus into a sustainable environment as means allow

It is easy to find reasons to delay action and difficult to find the means to attain them. However, Concordia now has the means but lacks fiscal support. By investing wisely into sustainability projects we cannot only create a healthier campus but also create revenue. The initial upfront costs may be great but the return both fiscally and ecologically is far greater.

As a globally engaged Concordia student, please support the Student Environmental Alliance in acting on these sustainability initiatives. By signing this petition you are advocating for well-planned fiscal support, from Concordia College's budget, for campus sustainability efforts.

Sources

1. Zachary, SA. The environmental policy paradox. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall; 2009. 315 p.
2. The college sustainability report card [Internet]. Cambridge (MA): Sustainable Endowments Institute; c. 2007-2009 [cited 2009 Oct 13]. Available from: <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2010/awards>