

Sustain Champlain Annual Report

2012-2013



Compiled by Alyssa Church-Smith, Intern and Christina Erickson, Sustainability Director
June 2013

Our Mission: To create a culture that engages the Champlain College community to make effective use and re-use of our resources, with an eye towards promoting fiscally responsible environmental leadership, and a shared commitment to the ecological health of the planet for present and future generations.

www.champlain.edu/sustain
Blog: <http://sustain.champlain.edu>
www.facebook.com/SustainChamplain

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Report Summary

This annual report presents the activities, events, successes, and next steps for the Sustainability Director, the Sustain Champlain Committee, and related partner programs and departments. This report will address the following four areas where we attempt to integrate Sustain Champlain’s mission:

1. Our institution
2. Our academic program
3. Our physical operations
4. Our campus culture

Our Institution

Plans & Funds

Sustainability Action Plan

This guiding document lists the initiatives that Champlain College has taken to advance sustainability on campus and outlines the policies and procedures that should be implemented in the future. Over the year, the SAP was reviewed by every collaborating department and revisions made accordingly. The final draft of this plan is available on the [Sustain Champlain website](#).

The SAP also offers a definition of sustainability for Champlain College as well as a vision statement.

Defining Sustainability at Champlain College

Champlain views sustainability in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations, as defined by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). At Champlain College, sustainability is a central value and we strive to infuse it throughout our other core values of distinctive excellence, innovation, human touch, global engagement, diversity and inclusion.

Sustainability Value Statement

Champlain College will be a sustainable institution, in our operational practices, our campus culture, our curriculum, and in our relationships with our greater community. It is our belief that as we support students to be 21st century global citizens, they need to be well informed about sustainability concepts and practices as it relates to their field and profession. Further, we must create a campus where fully engaging in these concepts and practices is a part of life for our whole community. Additionally, we will be a model for other institutions and communities as we create an example of positive impact on the planet and its inhabitants. Because sustainability is a holistic and interdependent concept, our application of sustainability on campus and within our institution will demonstrate this and be *INFUSED* into all that we do.

Master Plan

Juniper Hall opened in August 2012 and is expected to achieve LEED Gold. The second and third residence halls, Butler and Valcor, started construction in April 2013. Bader Hall underwent a total interior renovation and we are realizing ~60% energy savings.

Green Revolving Fund

Initiated in 2013, the Champlain College Green Revolving Fund (GRF) is an investment fund that finances energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other sustainability projects on campus. The Fund provides capital for special projects conducted by Physical Plant that reduce environmental impact and can repay the fund with cost-savings within five years. A portion of these savings are used to support a subsidiary Green Community Fund that finances smaller community-led sustainability projects which may lack monetary savings but are in clear alignment with Champlain College's sustainability objectives. A full description of the fund can be found at <http://bit.ly/ChampGreenFund>. The first round of projects will take place this summer (2013).

Staffing

Sustainability Director

Christina Erickson is a full-time staff member and is supervised by Interim Associate VP for Campus Planning and Auxiliary Services, John Caulo. Her office is located in Skiff Hall which houses many Student Life staff members. Christina was co-chair of the Staff Welfare Committee for a second year and is a member of the College Council. She also facilitates the Transportation Committee and teaches SCI:210 Foundations of Ecology in the fall semester.

Sustainability Interns

During the Fall 2012 semester, a graduate student from the University of Vermont, Kate Ostroy, worked in the Sustain Champlain Office. Kate's main projects included developing content for a series of interpretive signs, compiling the weekly "eBulletin", as well as programming ideas for Juniper residence hall.

During the Spring 2013 semester, two students from the University of Vermont, Alyssa Church-Smith and Ryan Skinner, assisted Christina Erickson in the Sustain Champlain. Their main projects included: updating and created the new Sustain Champlain Blog, entering information into the AASHE STARS Reporting Tool, updating the Sustainability Action Plan, creating an alternative commuter video about Champlain faculty and staff for CATMA's Way to Go! Challenge, and assisting with the Move Out Collection project at the end of the year.

Work Study Positions

This year several students worked with Sustain Champlain on a variety of projects.

Fall 2012:

Megan Leonard '15 – Waste Reduction Coordinator

Tucker Malone '16 – Student Outreach Liaison

Devin Carter '14 – Graphic Design Specialist

Spring 2013:

Megan Leonard '15 – Waste Reduction Coordinator

Rebecca Carlson '14 – Student Outreach Liaison (focusing on Fair Trade campus designation project)

Aliza Kravatz '14 - Graphic Design Specialist

A new position was created for the summer of 2013 – Summer Waste Reduction Specialist, filled by Billy St. Louis '15. The key function of this position is to collaborate with the Event Center and Dining Services/Catering with waste reduction activities when we have visitors on campus.

Sustain Champlain Advisory Team

The Sustain Champlain Advisory Team is a group of faculty, staff and students who are interested in the environmental impact of Champlain College. Our goal is to discuss and develop strategies and recommendations that will help create a more sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly Champlain. Committee members are asked to lead by example, act as a liaison to their respective department/division and speak on behalf of their role on campus. The charge this year was to meet 3-4 times to advise on reviewing, approving, and eventually implementing the Champlain College Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) as well as guide the general direction of Sustain Champlain.

Name	Title	Department
<i>Staff</i>		
Christina Erickson	Sustainability Director	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services
John Caulo	AVP	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services
Karen Dusini	Sr. Project Manager	Campus Planning & Auxiliary Services
David Provost	VP	Finance
Rachel Desimone	Assistant Director for Residential Life	Res Life
Lisa Mazzariello	Director	Student Activities
Tom Bonnette	Director	Physical Plant
Linda Wheeler	Director	Events Center & Auxiliary Services
Rich Long	Director	Public Safety
Shelley Navari	Treasurer	Finance
Richard Terricciano	Director, Support Services	Information Systems
Ted DiGrande	General Manager	Dining Services
Chuck Maniscalco	VP, Strategic Initiatives	

<i>Faculty</i>		
Andy Burkhardt	Assistant Director	Library
Kathy Seiler	Assistant Professor	ITS
Joann Patel	Associate Professor	CCM
Kristin Wolf	Assistant Professor	CORE
Lindsey Godwin	Assistant Professor	BUS
Dave Strubler	Dean	BUS
Valerie Esposito	Director, Environmental Policy	EHS
<i>Students</i>		
Rebecca Carlson	Sustain Champlain Work Study	EHS
Devin Carter	Sustain Champlain Work Study	CCM
Susan Alden	MFA Student	CCM
Annie DelMoro	Environmental Club President	EHS

Memberships

Champlain College continued with our institutional membership with the US Green Building Council, the Association for the Advancement of Higher Education (AASHE) and as a partner of the Vermont Campus Sustainability Network (VCSN).

Tracking and Assessment

At the February 2013 Town Hall, we presented a (hopefully annual) [State of the Campus Environment](#) report, summarizing the successes over several metrics, including:

- copy paper
 - We used less paper (10% less than last year and 19% less than in FY2006)
 - We cut our costs by 18% from last year's total cost (Approximately \$6,000 in savings)

- 82% of our standard copy paper contains recycled content (typically 30% recycled content) up from 59% in the prior year.
- waste,
 - the overall amount of landfilled trash we are generating is decreasing; and our diversion rate (sending materials to be composted & recycled instead) is over 65%, but our total volume of waste generation in all is increasing.
- greenhouse gas emissions
 - Gross GHGs decreased by 14% even as owned GSF increased
- energy consumption
 - 33% reduction over the past 8 years, despite the addition of several new buildings
- student engagement via the classroom
 - visits and/or service projects with seven courses

This report was then turned into an article submitted to the [Burlington Free Press, published on April 21, 2013](#).

Champlain College is a client of [Sightlines](#), a facilities asset advisory firm that specializes in tracking sustainability indicators including energy, transportation, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, Champlain submits our latest figures so that we can track our own progress, compare that to peer institutions, and set benchmarks as we move forward. See [FY2012 report](#).

Academic Program

This year we continued to discuss ways of integrating sustainability concepts into the Champlain curriculum.

Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum

We continue to seek ways to provide support and resource to faculty who want to integrate sustainability into their courses. Over this year we submitted two grant applications (but were not awarded):

1. New England Environmental Education Association – to provide support for a Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program
2. Vermont Campus Compact – to provide support for environmental service learning projects.

We will continue to explore ways of finding resources and support for our faculty. There is potential to get 4-5 spots in the annual [UVM Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program](#).

During the May Collaborative we hosted a peer session called “Sustainability and Social Responsibility in the Curriculum”. During this session, we discussed:

- Brainstorm activity around a central topic (Bees) and how each course/subject could do something around this theme
- How we can best utilize service-learning model to accomplish our goals
- Potential to utilize Green Revolving Fund

Hosted by Lindsey Godwin (BUS), Valerie Esposito (EHS), and Christina Erickson (Sustain Champlain)

Classroom connections

Over the past year, the following classes conducted direct service learning projects with Sustain Champlain. Christina also attended several classes for presentations or have been interviewed by students as class projects.

- Service Learning Projects
 - SCI 155 – Global Environmental Earth Science (Montreal)
 - Environmental behaviors game
 - Bottled Water awareness posters
 - SCI 210 – Foundations of Ecology
 - Perry Hall constructed wetland maintenance
 - BUS 250 – Project Management (2 sections)
 - Signage and Bin Labels for Sort It Out campaign
 - Sustainable Investment Practices
 - Proposal for real-time energy/water monitoring system for campus
 - Campus Tree Inventory
 - Paper Reduction Campaign for Library and Computer Labs
 - Biking and Walking Patterns on campus
 - BUS 210 – Corporate Social Responsibility (3 sections)
 - “Convince Finney” projects
- Class visits/interviews
 - ENP 100 – Introduction to Environmental Issues
 - EVT 240 – Event Planning & Coordination
 - COR 220 – Ethics & the Environment

Physical Operations

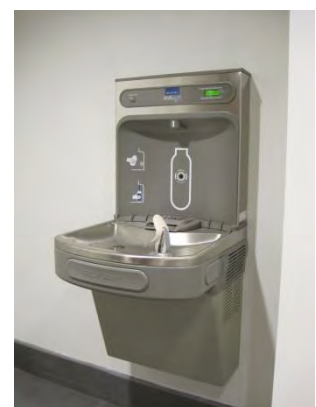
Waste Reduction

Infrastructure

This year, as part of our renewed contract with Casella, we added four dual stream (recycling/trash) containers to the courtyard.

Juniper Hall is the first residence hall to now have compost, trash, and recycling receptacles.

Water bottle refill stations were also added to Ireland, Bader Hall, and Juniper Hall.

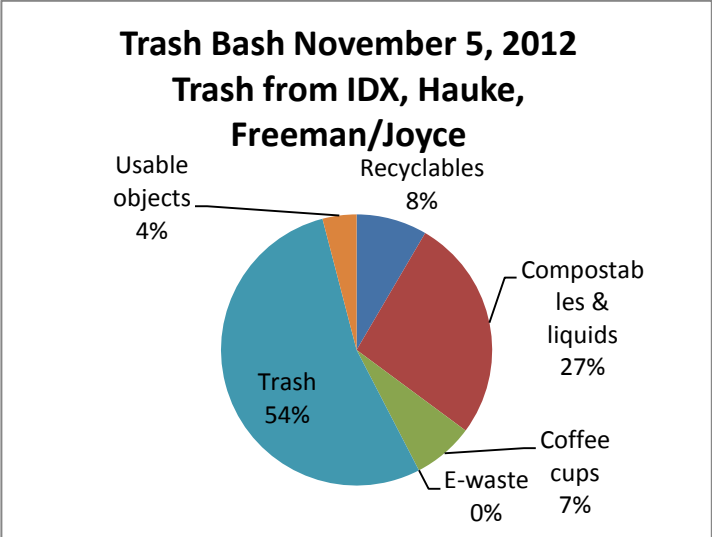


Our new position, the Waste Reduction Coordinator, (supported in part by a Casella donation) allowed us to expand our “Green Teams” who assist with waste separation stations for large outdoor catered events, including new student Orientation, Fall Open Houses, Spring Meltdown, and Admitted Students Days. Having a staffed station makes an enormous difference in getting items properly separated.

Activities & Events

In addition to our usual outreach at new student orientation (passing out water bottles – this year co-sponsored by Student Life), we were invited to present at new employee orientation each month. We also hosted the following events:

- Recycling Assistance during **Move-In**
- **2012 Trash Bash** waste sort
- **Book collection** for Better World Books & the Peace and Justice Center throughout the year, including: 585 pounds of books in December 2012, 315 pounds of books in January 2013, and 360 pounds of books in May 2013 for a grand total of 1260 pounds.
- **Junk Mail Reduction Project** started in the Fall 2012 semester. Junk Mail collection boxes are available in the Mailroom and at the IDX Hub desk for people to put mail in when they want to be removed from a mailing list. As a lot of people receive mail they don’t want or they are no longer at the College, this helps to reduce waste and save money (fewer trash & recycling hauling costs). Anyone can put mail in the box, and then our friendly student worker help make the necessary phone calls & emails.
- The **Swap Shelf** started in the beginning of the Spring 2013 semester, and is located in the lower entryway of Cushing Hall, just outside of the Mailroom. This is a place for students, faculty, and staff to either take or leave unwanted office and school supplies.
- **Annual Move-Out Collection** for residence halls, April/May 2013 (co-hosted by Res Life) – Casella loaned us bins that we had in the halls for two weeks (Finals & Senior Week). Eco-Reps and interns assisted on the big move out day reminding people to recycle and donate. A huge improvement over last year! Donations included: over 8 van loads of items delivered to Goodwill, ReStore and 230 pounds of food to Food Shelf.



Energy Conservation

Energy Efficiency

Bader Hall was completed renovated in the summer of 2012 and we were able to realize ~60% energy savings. We also approved the Green Revolving Fund, and the two first round of projects will take place in the summer of 2013.

Kill-A-Watt Challenge

This year we continued a competition among Champlain College residential halls to reduce electricity usage. The winner of the competition was determined by the hall that has the largest percentage reduction of electricity over baseline consumption as well as the highest rate of participation in various events on campus and within the residence halls. The aim of this competition was to raise student awareness regarding electricity conservation and related behaviors in Champlain College residence halls - a skill that students will carry with them wherever they live in the future. The Challenge was a collaborative project between Sustain Champlain and Residential Life.



All told, we saw an average of 6% energy savings across all of our main campus buildings. 15 main campus buildings saw savings between 2-43%, 1 was even with October usage, and 7 buildings actually increased usage from October (anywhere between 1-27%). Using a simplified formula (with a base of \$.10/kwh) we figured that we saved over \$1,500 of electricity during February (for main campus res halls).

The challenge was an improved success over last year. Some RAs were very involved, in other buildings residents didn't even know the challenge was happening. Overall, we did see a reduction in usage but there are still several limitations in metering (due to combined buildings, etc.) that we could not get a totally accurate accounting of usage. See more at <http://www.champlain.edu/student-life/campus-and-community-programs/sustain-champlain/programs-sustain-champlain/eco-reps-program/kill-a-watt-challenge>.

Outreach

For the second year, Sustain Champlain hosted a "Weatherize Workshop" to educate off-campus students, faculty and staff how to save money on their heating bills through weatherization and energy efficiency. The participants received some free items such as CFL light bulbs and educational materials on measures they can undertake themselves to button up their off-campus homes.

With the help of President David Finney, a message was sent to students/faculty/staff to power down their electronics during winter break when the College is closed for a full week.

A poster for a "Weatherize your home and save \$\$\$ WORKSHOP". The text is in black and green. It includes the location "Where: IDX 309" and the date and time "When: November 1st 5:00 PM". At the bottom, there is a small leaf logo and the text "Sponsored by Sustain Champlain. RSVP to cerickson@champlain.edu or call 802-5449".

**Weatherize
your home and
save \$\$\$
WORKSHOP**

Where: IDX 309
When: November 1st
5:00 PM

Save money on your heating bills this winter through weatherization and energy efficiency! Workshop participants will receive some free items, including CFL light bulbs, and educational materials on measures they can undertake themselves to button up their off-campus homes. Open to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Sponsored by Sustain Champlain. RSVP to cerickson@champlain.edu or call 802-5449

Purchasing

Paper Products

This year we fully transitioned to using recycled content toilet paper and paper towels used throughout campus, as part of the [Power of Three](#) program – a collaboration between Casella, SCA Paper, and Foley Distributing. In May 2013, Casella filmed a promotional [video/commercial](#) about this project.



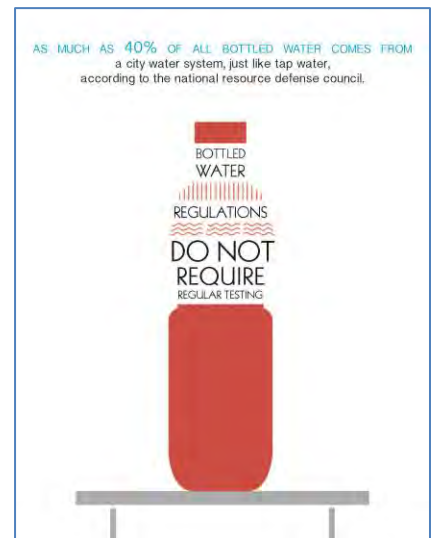
Fair Trade

Picking up where an Environmental Policy class left off, Sustain Champlain work study student, Rebecca Carlson initiated a Fair Trade Campus Designation movement on campus. Champlain is now signed up with [Fair Trade Colleges & Universities](#) and we are working toward earning the designation. Rebecca successfully applied for a \$2000 grant which will support related activities in the coming year.

Bottled Water

With the expiration of the current beverage contract with Coca Cola, and in light of other campuses banning bottled water at their institutions, we conducted a series of awareness raising activities, through signage, films and tabling regarding the impact of bottled water. Concurrently, the catering website was revised to better explain the choices between individual and bulk beverages. As mentioned above, more water bottle refill stations were installed, and more are planned for the summer of 2013.

A survey went out to the Champlain College community asking about beverage choices. Over 420 people responded, with 98% of the responses from students. The survey favors the removal of bottled water, multiple vendors providing beverage choice on campus, and favors Coke over Pepsi.



Buildings

Juniper Hall

A new residence hall, Juniper Hall, opened in August 2012. Expected to achieve LEED Gold, Juniper is tied into the geothermal system. Sustainability Intern, Kate Ostroot, developed a series of interpretive signage as well as assisted with developing and delivering educational programs about this green building.

Transportation

Transportation Plan

A big project over the year was the development and review of the [Champlain College Transportation Plan](#). While the bulk of the plan describes the transition away from long-term parking on central campus, there is also considerable effort to increase alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle transport – and we are succeeding in this effort. A few figures:

- a. Permit sales: According to the *Joint Institution Parking Management Plan Annual Update* for 2012 and for 2013 (that CATMA puts together):
 - i. In fall (2012) we issued 862 permits (includes ft/pt faculty, staff, and students).
 - ii. In fall (2011) we issued 1026 permits – a 16% reduction.
- b. Way to Go Week 2013 – we had 102 employees register. 22 more than last year!
- c. National Bike Challenge 2013 – 11 employees registered
- d. As of April 2013, 77 employees are registered with CATMA

Additionally, we totally overhauled the [Transportation website](#) and created an [employee commuter video](#).

CATMA

In attempt to increase awareness of and participation in CATMA benefits and programs, we hosted them on campus for various events:

- Benefits Fair (October)
- Tabling at Employee Retreat (May)

CarShare

In effort to increase participating in the CarShare Vermont program, Champlain College again offered a free CarShare VT membership to students, faculty and staff (full & part time) for new and existing members. Champlain covered the cost of the annual membership fee to promote that car-sharing is good for the environment, community, and wallet. There are two CarShare spaces on campus – currently in Bader and Pearl parking lots.

Culture

Working on creating a culture of sustainability on campus has been done in a variety of ways including outreach, events, and communication. In addition to the outreach efforts described in the sections above, the Sustain Champlain team worked on the following.

Community Garden

This is the third year of the garden and most plots have been adopted. See more information on the [website](#).

Communication

This year we continued building our Web 2.0 presence, including a significantly updated [blog](#), which now features what was previously known as the “eBulletin” and our [Facebook](#) has 191 Likes. With the major overhaul of the champlain.edu website, we gave our pages major updates as well. See www.champlain.edu/sustain.

The [Champlain Compass](#) was greatly utilized to promote different Sustain Champlain events and programs.

Over the past two years we’ve been working on developing interpretive signage for the campus – both exterior and interior. Over the summer of 2013, twelve exterior signs will be placed that tell the story of the following points of interest:

- Geothermal well heads
- Perry Stormwater collection area
- Permeable walkway
- Native plantings
- Dark Sky Lights
- CarShare Vermont Cars
- Carriage House Co-Generation Station
- Joyce Chillers
- IDX Green Roof
- Community Garden
- Lakeside Solar Array

Over the summer of 2013 the following interior signs will be placed:

- History of Bader Hall
- 2012 Renovation of Bader Hall
- Bader Hall in photos x2
- Juniper Benches
- Juniper Hall – namesake
- Juniper Materials Map
- Perry Hall Materials Map

Eventually, the goal is to create, together with the Digital Marketing team, an electronic map that can have different layers of information, such as sustainability points of interest.

Student Eco-Reps Program



In the fall of 2012, we doubled our student [Eco-Rep program](#) in the residence halls from 6 students to 12 students. This program trains student leaders who model and promote environmentally responsible behaviors in the residence halls by educating their peers. Eco-Reps is a program of Sustain Champlain, Residential life, and Physical Plant.



The Eco-Reps Program promoted the [Green Room Certification Program](#) which aims to give recognition to students living a sustainable lifestyle on campus.

Employee Eco-Reps Program

In the effort to include more people in Sustain Champlain efforts, we launched the [Employee Eco-Reps program](#) in the Fall of 2012. This is an opportunity for faculty and staff to be a part of the greater Sustain Champlain effort, at their own pace. Employees can find and share ideas on how to make their work life a bit greener. Monthly topics include: Waste Reduction, Energy, Procurement, Kitchens & Shared Spaces, Transportation, Community Engagement and more. Unfortunately, there was little to no participation in the program, but we now have a series of presentations that can easily be updated each year if interest picks up.

Events

Over the year many events were held, most of which were hosted as a collaborative effort with other departments/programs, including:

- Off-campus Spring Move Out Project, hosted by City of Burlington, CSWD, UVM, Champlain, ReSTORE, May 23 (on Loomis Street and Bradley Street in downtown Burlington)
- Earth Day presentation about Fair Trade in the Caf, April 2013
- Bike Powered Smoothies at Spring Meltdown, April 2013
- Compost Facility Field Trip to the Green Mountain Compost Facility, April 2013
- Career panel for environmental jobs, hosted by Environmental Policy Program, April 2013
- Annual Move-Out Collection for residence halls, April/May 2013 (co-hosted by Res Life)
- Water Taste Tests, March 2013
- Screening of 'Flow', March 2013
- Screening of 'The Dirtiest Place on the Planet', February 2013
- Champlain College Justice League 'If it's not equitable & just, it's not sustainable', February 2013
- Screening of 'Fuel', February 2013
- The Swap Shelf, Started January 2013
- Eco-Rep Swag Swap, January 2013
- Sugarbush Shuttle with CATMA, Winter 2013
- Winter Bike Commuting Workshop, November 2012
- Green Room Certification Kick-off Week, November 2012
- Screening of 'Farmageddon', November 2012



- Weatherization Workshop, November 2012
- Eco-Reps Symposium at Brown University, November 2012
- Trash Bash waste sort, November 2012
- Pajama-Jam & Christmas Bow Making out of Magazines, November 2012
- City Market Field Trip, November 2012
- What's So Green About Juniper Hall?, October 2012
- Recycling Facility Tour at Chittenden Solid Waste District, October 2012
- Junk Mail Reduction Campaign, October 2012
- Faculty Gathering around Sustainability & Social Responsibility, September 2012
- Participated in the Student Activities Fair, September 2012
- 2nd Free Employee Bike Commuting Workshop, September 2012
- Champlain Community Garden Weeding Party, September 2012
- BYOBiz Speaking from Experience Lecture Series, Fall 2012 & Spring 2013



In the News

Various Sustain Champlain projects, initiatives and events were noted on the [Champlain College news website](#), *Champlain View*, Burlington Free Press, including:

- Casella filmed a promotional [video/commercial](#) about the Power of Three – filmed partially at Champlain College and features Christina Erickson
- [Burlington Free Press, published on April 21, 2013](#), by Christina Erickson
- [USA Today article "Awareness of Fair Trade on Campus on the Rise"](#) features quotes by Christina Erickson

Awards

- Listed in the [2013 Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges](#)
- Champlain College received an Honorable Mention for [Way to Go Week](#) in Spring 2012 and attended the ceremony in October 2012.

Collaborations

Collaboration with off-campus groups included:

- Burlington Legacy Project committee member
- Representative for the Burlington Walk/Bike Council
- Vermont Campus Sustainability Network (VCSN)

Presentations/Trainings

Outreach presentations on campus included:

- Student Leader trainings (OLs, RAs, PAs, Student Ambassadors)
- New student Orientation session including distributing stainless steel water bottle
- Monthly new employee orientation sessions
- Various class presentation (see above, under Academics)

Off-campus:

- Christina Erickson was the keynote speaker at the Southwest Regional Eco-Reps Conference held at University of South Carolina (February 2012)

Where do we go from here?

The Sustain Champlain initiative has come a long way in the past seven years when it began in 2005 as the Post Carbon Committee. Now that the [Sustainability Action Plan](#) has been approved, it is time to put it into motion!