

Environmental Committee  
Accomplishments in the 2013-2014 Academic Year

**1. Carbon Footprint**

The main results of the MSU,M carbon footprint were presented on campus by a Sebesta representative on September 25, 2013. MSU,M's biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in FY2012 were, in order (largest first), the use of electricity; the combustion of natural gas and fuel oil for heat; and tailpipe emissions from commuting to and from campus. MSU,M's emissions are roughly the same as those of St Cloud State U, Winona State U, and other comparable institutions. The Carbon Footprint Report can be found at [www.mnsu.edu/greencampus/carbonfootprint](http://www.mnsu.edu/greencampus/carbonfootprint). The next step is a climate action plan for MSU,M – goals, strategies, and action steps to reduce MSU,M's greenhouse gas emissions. (Goal 1, 2012-13)

**2. Climate Action Plan**

The Environmental Committee received funding in the amount of \$20,000 for a successful Strategic Initiative Priorities proposal to hire a consultant to help the Committee develop a climate action plan for MSU,M in the 2014-2015 academic year. (Goal 1, 2013-14)

**3. Swackhamer talk**

The Environmental Committee organized and sponsored a lecture on campus on February 5, 2014, by Dr. Deborah Swackhamer titled "Water Sustainability: Planning for Future Generations." Dr. Swackhamer is Professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy and Co-Director of the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota. She is the lead author of the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework*, a first-ever, comprehensive report commissioned by the 2009 Minnesota Legislature and designed to protect and preserve Minnesota lakes, rivers and groundwater for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. Her talk was well received; about 170-180 from the campus community and the community at large were in attendance. Her presentation can be viewed from the Environmental Committee website at [www.mnsu.edu/greencampus](http://www.mnsu.edu/greencampus) by clicking on Past Events and scrolling down to the date of the talk. (Goal 6, 2013-14)

**4.**



The Recycling Sub-Committee of the University Environmental Committee sponsored RecycleMania 2014 officially for the first time this year. Minnesota State University, Mankato competed against 460 other colleges and universities in the annual competition. Participating schools represented more than 5.3 million students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada.

The contest was marketed using ideas from webinars, RecycleMania information and Sub-committee members. The Recycling Sub-Committee applied for and received both a \$250 stipend and \$75 for the RecycleMania store from the organizers to use toward promoting the contest on campus. An article about MSU, Mankato's participation appeared on the front page of *The Reporter*. Tables were set up at the Sustainability Expo and several times in the Centennial Student Union with RecycleMania promotional items and pizza, resulting in several dozen students signing up to help with the committee in the future. "20 Things Every College Student Can Do to Help the Environment" tip sheets were handed out and posters were hung up around campus. Announcements were e-mailed to bargaining unit members and posted in campus newsletters, on campus monitors, and on the green campus website, MSU, Mankato's Facebook page and Twitter. Results were entered each week with the joint cooperation of the Sub-committee and the campus waste handler LJP.

MSU, Mankato placed first in the "Per Capita Recycling" portion of the "Game Day: Basketball Category"! Our university was one of 29 colleges and universities that took part in this special category. Schools were compared based on recycling and waste minimization efforts made during a single home basketball game. A beautiful award was received for this honor.

Colleges and universities competing in the eight-week competition were ranked according to how much recycling, trash and food waste they collected. Between the early-February kickoff and the tournament's final day on March 29, participating schools collectively recycled or composted 89.1 million pounds of recyclables and organic materials, preventing the release of 126,597 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) into the atmosphere, which is equivalent to preventing annual emissions from 24,823 cars.

MSU Mankato's rankings in specific categories were as follows:

- Grand Champion (recycling rate as a percentage of overall waste):  
MSU Mankato ranked 216 out of 256 total competitors
- Per Capita Classic (recycling of paper, cardboard, & bottles and cans per person):  
MSU Mankato ranked 275 out of 332 total competitors
- "Gorilla Prize" (recycling the highest gross tonnage of combined paper, cardboard & bottles and cans):  
MSU Mankato ranked 186 out of 336 total competitors
- Recycled Paper:  
MSU Mankato ranked 113 out of 148 total competitors
- Bottles and Cans  
MSU Mankato ranked 90 out of 140 total competitors

The MSU Environmental Committee is participating in RecycleMania 2015, working to improve the university's recycling rate and to reduce our campus footprint, while increasing awareness and student involvement. More information and results can be obtained at [recyclemania.org](http://recyclemania.org). (Goal 5, 2013-14)

## **5. Bicycle repair stands**

The Environmental Committee requested and received funding from the Green Transportation Fund for bicycle repair stands on campus. Facilities Management installed three stands – at the southwest corner of Armstrong Hall, at the north entrance of the Otto Recreation Center, and in the Preska / Carkoski Commons Area. At each stand are attached an air pump and various bike tools for fixing flats and doing other basic repairs. More information about the stands can be found at [www.mnsu.edu/greencampus/bikerepairstands](http://www.mnsu.edu/greencampus/bikerepairstands). (Goal 8, 2013-14)

## **6. Sustainability Expo**

The Environmental Committee partnered with two community organizations, Transition Mankato and the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, to hold a Sustainability Expo in the CSU Ballroom on Saturday, April 5, 2014, from 10 am to 4 pm. The Expo was an informational event featuring tables from campus groups and outside organizations that deal with sustainability and environmental issues. Among the 38 organizations that participated were the Center for Energy and Environment, ReStore Habitat for Humanity, Mankato Area Environmentalists, and the Land Stewardship Project. Over 500 people attended. The Mankato Free Press featured an article about the Expo and also gave it an editorial “thumbs up.” (Goal 2, 2013-14)

## **7. Recycling Guide**

A Recycling Guide was developed by Facilities Management with input and help from the Environmental Committee and Recycling Sub-committee. 4,400 copies were printed for New Student Orientation and 100 copies were handed out at information tables during the RecycleMania competition period. (Goal 4, 2013-14)

## **8. Social Media / Green Campus Website (Publicity)**

Integrated Marketing helped promote RecycleMania through the Minnesota State University, Mankato Facebook page. Items were posted on February 19, February 26, March 5, March 13, March 25, March 28 and April 16. These items reached up to 2,515 people!

## **9. Tabling at campus events (Publicity)**

The Environmental Committee made its presence on campus known with a table at the Community Engagement Fair on September 4, 2013, in Meyers Field House, and at the Resource Fair on February 4, 2014, in the Ballroom.

## **10. Barnes & Noble Relationship**

The Barnes & Noble campus bookstore has contributed \$1,000 to the Environmental Committee. This money covered speaker expenses and helped with expenses for the Sustainability in 2013-14. The Environmental Committee appreciates their support.

## **11. Bus Ridership**

In 2011-12, ridership on MSU bus routes was 198-616 rides. In 2012-13, the first year that the Green Transportation Fee allowed students, faculty and staff to ride free with their Mavcard, 353,887 rides were provided; in 2013-14, 401,608 rides. This is an increase of 104% in two years. Two additional bus routes were added in 2012-13 to accommodate the increase.