



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# St. John's College



St. John's  
College

60 College Ave.  
Annapolis, MD, 21401  
410-295-6927  
[www.sjc.edu](http://www.sjc.edu)

Academic Institution/College  
Member since January 2018

## Management and Leadership



### Environmental Team

#### **Membership**

*In the fall of 2017, the Environmental Sustainability Task Force was created by President Panayiotis Kanelos to analyze best management practices and explore new opportunities for St. John's College. While the college has long made efforts to make environmentally friendly improvements to campus, the new grassroots task force will build on those efforts and find new ways to lead St. John's into the future. The Task Force consists of 18 members including students, staff, and faculty and meets bi-weekly.*

#### **Mission**

*In keeping with the College's commitment to remaining environmentally and fiscally responsible, the Task Force will examine how the College uses energy and other resources on our campus, and will make suggestions for more responsible, efficient and cost-effective practices. The group will promote sustainability throughout the college and will engage all members of the campus community.*

#### **Deliverables for 2017-2018**

- *Have begun outreach to community with posters in public spaces and near recycling bins*
- *Have placed "Think Green" signs near light switches*
- *Begun Green Conversation campaign*
- *Purchased additional recycling bins for staff and faculty offices*



### **Annual Goals**

- *Increase recycling, reduce waste*
- *Reduce energy and water use*
- *Continue community outreach and education efforts*
- *Hold events to promote reducing, reusing, and recycling*
- *Explore cost-savings and grant opportunities*



### **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

#### ***Living Shoreline***

*In partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, St. John's removed a wooden bulkhead shoreline along College Creek and replaced it with a rock sill and sand shoreline. The project was completed in 2006 and the shoreline is now a lush home of native marsh plants that protect the shore, increase oxygen levels for aquatic animals, and provide natural habitat to birds and wetland creatures. To date, it is the largest restored natural shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay. To preserve and maintain our shoreline, semi-regular clean up days are held where students, faculty, and staff assist in picking up trash along the creek.*

#### ***Natural Rainwater Garden***

*St. John's installed a rainwater garden on campus as a gift of the 1993 senior class and completed in September 2002. This garden contains a variety of trees and grasses native to Maryland and allows for natural collection of rainwater. The garden is adjacent to one of the parking areas on campus to help control runoff and there by prevent pollution of the creek and natural shoreline area.*

#### ***Community Vegetable Garden***

*The campus also hosts a community garden for the use of students, faculty, and staff. A small garden club run by students maintains the space and promotes gardening and environmental education on campus.*

## **Waste**



### **Recycling**

*There is a robust single-stream recycling program and the campus has been recycling in some fashion for nearly 15 years. Recycling bins are available throughout the grounds, as well as on every level of the dorm rooms and office buildings. The Environmental Sustainability Task Force completed an inventory of the recycling bins around campus in the fall of 2017 and the facilities team is addressing areas found to have insufficient recycling bins by purchasing new bins or replacing bins in need of repair.*

*In addition to recycling glass, plastic, paper, and aluminum waste, the College Dining Hall recycles and filters deep fryer fat and our building and grounds crew collects scrap metal for recycling. Our print shop recycles all scrap paper from printings and*

*purchases recycled products as much as possible, including all college letterhead and envelopes.*

*Quantifying recycling is difficult. The hauling company does not track how much it takes away; however, the recycling collection is four times per week rather than three times per week for trash. On average, we are recycling more waste than is being taken to the landfill. There is significant cost savings the more we recycle, as the cost of recycling is roughly \$28 less per collection than landfill waste.*

*Awareness and education about our recycling program is ongoing: Resident Assistants and Senior Residents are responsible for ensuring that students in the dormitories are encouraged to put their recyclables in the proper areas. Bi-monthly advertising campaigns are underway to refresh the campus awareness of our recycling program.*

**Composting**

*The College's Dining Hall sends out food scraps, soiled food paper, and all food processing waste to be composted by Waste Neutral. The average amount of food waste composted is 16 tons per year. The Dining Hall recently changed the visibility of the composting program, so that dining hall patrons are more aware of the composting initiative and more engaged in supporting this program.*

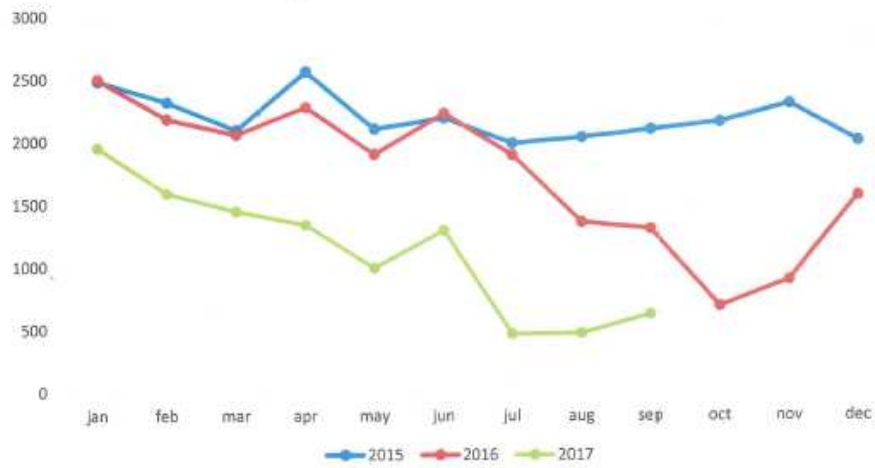
*Yard waste is also composted. St. John's College sends out about 18-22 tons of yard waste annually to be composted/used for mulching at the Anne Arundel County landfill.*

**Energy**

**Energy Efficiency**

*The College achieved significant energy savings with the replacement of the hot water boilers, dehumidifiers, electrical control system (energy management system), and rebuilding/replacement of hot water and chilled water circulating pumps in the Greenfield Library in 2016. New boilers were installed in August 2016, and the Trane Energy Management System was installed in 2016. The graph below reflects the energy savings in the College's gas purchases before and after the system upgrades. As the red (center) line of the below graph shows, the number of therms of natural gas purchased dropped more than 25% from greater than 2,000 therms to less than 1,500 therms during periods when the outside temperature was only a little warmer. The green line (lowest line) shows continuation of the reduction of therms.*

Heating Therms Purchased to Heat Library



<b>2015</b>	37°	33°	28°	48°	64°	72°	79°	80°	77°	66°	57°	49°
<b>2016</b>	46°	34°	43°	53°	59°	70°	78°	83°	81°	68°	59°	43°
<b>2017</b>	37°	41°	45°	50°	61°	68°	78°	76°	70°			



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

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