



2010

# Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner



## St. Mary's College of Maryland



St. Mary's College of Maryland  
at Historic St. Mary's City

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[www.smcm.edu](http://www.smcm.edu)

*The Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards recognize organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the implementation of sustainable practices, the demonstration of measurable results, and the continuous improvement of environmental performance. Read here how these award winners achieved their environmental successes and continue to move their organization forward along the path to sustainability.*

### **What innovation or set of results are you most proud of?**

At St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), our environmental efforts are championed by our students, who voted to increase their annual fees to expand the College's green enterprises and to implement a variety of renewable energy projects on campus. They've helped the College achieve 100 percent carbon neutrality for electricity through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits. This year we offset 12,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, making SMCM one of the largest purchasers of green power in the region. For this achievement, we earned the Capital Conference title in April 2010 for the EPA Green Power Challenge. The Princeton Review included SMCM in its "Guide to 286 Green Colleges" this year.



*St. Mary's active Sustainability Committee works on both campus and community issues*

### **How do you involve employees in your environmental programs and projects and keep them motivated?**

We've worked hard at incorporating sustainability as part of the institutional culture, from our mission statement and strategic plan down to new student orientation. Carbon neutrality is one of the institution's major objectives in its new strategic plan. We have an active Sustainability Committee, comprised of students, staff, and faculty. Our College trustees support our signing on to the Talloires Declaration and the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Our food service provider, Bon Appétit, designates 45 percent of its food expenditures to local and/or organic food. Our grounds crew received the Audubon International Certification in Environmental



*St. Mary's student-run farm provides produce for the college's food service provider.*

Planning from the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program last summer – the first college in Maryland to receive such certification.

### **How do you measure and ensure continuous improvement in environmental performance? What have you learned from this process?**

In 2007, we improved our energy efficiency by 25 percent through energy performance contracts and green building practices. We are now beginning a second energy contract to continue this improvement. All new construction on campus follows LEED green building practices. We are an Energy Star partner and are working

now to install electric and oil meters on every campus building so we can better monitor our use. Our students learned that our campus-wide recycling efforts could be improved and led an effort to improve results, including composting to the list of ways to recycle.



*3KW photovoltaic array atop college library*

### *How do you set and achieve your annual goals?*

Annual goals are based on the objectives laid out in the strategic plan. The Sustainability Committee reviews initiatives at the beginning of the fall semester and sets objectives for implementation. This had led to several projects like trayless dining in the cafeteria, which, since its implementation, has reduced waste by 23 percent, reduced food costs, and reduced water consumption (used for washing the trays). The students also started a farm

at neighboring Historic St. Mary's City; the farm will provide produce that the College's food service provider will purchase in season. There is growth potential to five acres for the farm as it becomes embedded in the student and community culture. It is widely supported already, with help from the Student Government Association, the Environmental Studies Program, the Sustainability Committee, and members of the St. Mary's community.

### *What's the first step you would recommend that someone take when starting to green their organization?*

Start by reviewing current practices and energy usage and identify more environmentally friendly practices, potential energy saving, and alternative energy sources that might be implemented. There is a lot of information concerning sustainability in education on the web site for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (<http://www.aashe.org>).

*For more information on environmental best practices at St. Mary's College of Maryland, visit the Maryland Green Registry website at [www.green.maryland.gov/registry](http://www.green.maryland.gov/registry) and click on List of Maryland Green Registry Members to view member profiles.*



*Students found creative ways to promote campus-wide recycling, including this recycled tire swing near the Campus Center.*

*The Maryland Green Registry is a voluntary program that promotes and recognizes environmentally sustainable practices in organizations of all types and sizes across the State. Visit the Maryland Green Registry website at [www.green.maryland.gov/registry](http://www.green.maryland.gov/registry) for tips and resources designed to help organizations set and meet their own goals on the path to sustainability.*

