



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.

Garrett College

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Higher Education

Member since November 2009

Management and Leadership

Environmental Team

Garrett College has a "Green Committee" which meets on a monthly basis. Members include staff from all areas as well as Faculty. The Director of the Library is the chair of the committee. The goal of this committee is to create awareness among students and the College community as a whole, for the need to act in a responsible manner to protect our environment.

Garrett College is also a member of the Mountain Maryland Green Committee that involves the Chamber of Commerce, businesses and other local public and private organizations with common environmental sustainability goals in Garrett County.

Members of the Garrett College Green Committee have led activities such as tree planting with faculty staff and students during "Earth Week" to promote environmental awareness. The Sub-Committee works on an on-going basis with staff and students to re-enforce college-wide recycling efforts.

Environmental Policy Statement

Garrett College is located in a region of exceptional natural beauty. The forests, farmlands, lakes, streams, and wetlands that surround Garrett have provided resources for Garrett County's cultural and economic development. The health of these resources is critical to the county's continued well-being. Recognizing the value of its unique surroundings, Garrett seeks to serve as a leader in environmental awareness by fostering within the college and

community an appreciation for the environment; by promoting a reasoned, balanced approach to environmental issues facing the community; and by striving to operate in an environmentally-sensitive manner.

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

One of Garrett College's Signature programs is the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology Program (NRWT). This is very popular with students and is also a State-wide Designated Program. The Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program strives to graduate technicians who are prepared for employment in the field of natural resources management and environmental protection. The program takes a holistic approach to resource management, emphasizing wildlife and fisheries management and soil and water conservation.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Over the last ten years, the College has monitored and restored many wetlands and streams in and around Garrett County through the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program. Specifically the College is working through the Power Plant Research Program to monitor and restore critical wetlands degraded by acid mine drainage in the upper Potomac watershed since 2001. This watershed provides drinking water and a recreational resource for about 15 million people between here and Washington D.C. Funding for the project is approaching \$500,000 and more than 60 students have worked on this project to date.

Work is also in progress to restore stream flow in Hoyes Run near the Keystone Quarry in McHenry. The College is using experimental grouting material made from coal combustion byproducts to seal fractures in the streambed caused by years of blasting in the quarry. The goal is to improve water quality and quantity in order to sustain one of the last headwater streams in the area that supports a naturally reproducing brook trout population. There has been significant community involvement on this project and many students have participated. Brook trout populations are returning.

Faculty and students also work with several local citizen groups on watershed issues. The College has carried out dozens of projects with the Youghiogheny Watershed Association, The Allegheny Highlands Conservancy, the Savage River Watershed, the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, George's Creek Watershed Association, to name but a few.

One of the aforementioned projects that students have been involved in is the Nature Conservancy Western Maryland Conifer Restoration project. This is in

three locations covering more than 50 acres. Measurable results are available for tree planting in this project. During the last 6 years a total of 26,500 Red Spruce, 1,500 White Pines have been planted with a total of 284 volunteers.

Garrett College students in the NRWT program have also identified critical breeding habitat for the northern saw-whet owl, a species listed as critically imperiled in Maryland. Spring calling and nest box surveys run by Garrett students since 1991 have led to the discovery of 8 nests, the only nests ever found for this species in the State of Maryland. Students also capture, measure, and band northern saw-whet owls as part of a migratory boreal owls monitoring project. Overall students have mist-netted and banded over 2500 owls and the information gathered is part of a large group of interested parties called OwlNet. and is reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The College's Green Committee also conducts environmental outreach activities. The following activities were conducted in FY 2009 the week of Earth Day and similar activities will be conducted in FY 2010:

Monday - A campus and Bumble Bee Road Clean-Up.

Tuesday – “Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Swap Day” students and staff brought in items in GOOD condition to be swapped for free.

Wednesday – Earth Day tree planting ceremony.

- “Green Awareness” displays set up in the cafeteria and in the hall outside the library
- Natural Resources and Wildlife (NRWT) display
- AmeriCorps students had a display illustrating the recycling initiative
- NRWT Wildlife Club students had a display of wildlife needing to be preserved and the owl banding project.)
- A tree giveaway (donated White Spruce trees from the DNR). 200-250 trees given away
- A “Blackout Day” where all unnecessary lights, appliances, computers, etc. were shut off while not in use, or not really needed.
- A Tree Giveaway at the Lakers Ball Game.

Waste



Recycling

Garrett College, through it's Facilities Department, currently recycles the following materials: paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, toner cartridges, light bulbs, motor oil, tires, and batteries.

Beginning in January FY2010, the College will weigh cans, plastic and paper recycling and will be able to report this.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

Garrett College is in a rural area and is surrounded by farmland and woods and as such has taken great care in the planning of its facilities to meet optimal standards for stormwater management. Currently all 60 acres of the campus use the following best practices in storm water management: keeping pollutants out of storm drains, integrated pest management practices and reduced fertilizer applications at minimum rates.

The Campus Facilities Department also uses each new building opportunity to improve stormwater management on campus. Improvements include bio-retention, reduction of paved areas, and roof run off to vegetated and permeable areas. A planned Community and Recreation Center building includes a bio-retention area under a paved parking lot to reduce storm water run off. This project should be completed in December 2011.

Profile Updated April 2011



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

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

