



DID YOU KNOW?

- Air conditioning and heating account for almost 50 percent of the electricity used in the average American home.
- By the year 2040, DC's municipal water system may have difficulty meeting the region's demands during periods of drought without water use restrictions.
- A single mature tree can absorb as much as 48lbs of CO2 per year and release enough oxygen into the atmosphere to support two human beings.

Source: <http://go.gwu.edu/sustainabilityfacts>

GW LAUNCHES SUSTAINABILITY MINOR

The Undergraduate Minor in Sustainability allows students to explore the challenges of sustainability and to think about how to develop solutions to pressing issues at the local, regional, and global scale. It introduces students to the concepts, principles, and issues that inform the sustainability paradigm and will also integrate classroom and community-based learning and research in a program that prepares students to apply the sustainability perspective to their future endeavors.

For additional information on our sustainable practices, curriculum, research and outreach please visit sustainability.gwu.edu or email sustaingw@gwu.edu

ON CAMPUS



GW is making strides to improve performance in its old and new buildings through renovations of building systems. These efforts have resulted in energy and water efficiency projects that significantly reduce the university's climate and water impacts.

GW has saved 40 million gallons of water over the past four years and will continue to conserve more through engagement activities such as the residence hall Eco-Challenge, RecycleMania and Earth Hour.

Students play a key role in some of GW's waste reduction activities such as the award-winning Green Move-Out program, which turns students' trash into treasure by donating it to local charities. Keeping trash out of landfills is a key way GW can reduce its impact on the surrounding ecosystems.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Students learn the skills to address the global challenge of climate change, and how to be critical thinkers and problem solvers on water issues. They are often exposed to the systems and interdisciplinary thinking needed to conceptualize and tackle complex ecosystems problems. Visit our website for our list of Green Leaf courses.



IN THE LAB

From researching changes in permafrost in the Arctic Circle to studying the complexities of solar technology policy to evaluating how public buildings approach the LEED process, GW professors are studying all angles of the climate change spectrum. Faculty are also investigating technologies and policies that enable more sustainable water use around the globe.

Researchers across GW are finding evidence that supports more sustainable urban ecosystems. For example, Professor Hartmut Doebel in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and his research assistants tend to their honeybee hives as part of GW's apiary installation, one of the largest in DC. Bees buzz on the Foggy Bottom Campus and at the student-run project on the Mount Vernon Campus.

IN THE WORLD

Planet Forward, GW's innovative citizen journalist project dedicated to finding the best solutions to climate challenges around the globe, gives GW students the opportunity to tell their stories to the world. GW is committed to helping enhance the local watershed and students have participated in numerous river clean up events. Students are also

working to engage their peers to help reduce bottled water consumption through events like the Tap Water Taste Test. GW is also committed to creating a healthy ecosystem and using its streetscape and plantings to attract biodiversity, limit stormwater runoff and help improve air quality in the region.



The GW Office of Sustainability provides a strategic home for sustainability initiatives at the George Washington University that are implemented in partnership with stakeholders across the organization. At George Washington, we seek to engage the world by exploring the important issues of our time including policy and governance for sustainability with a vision to create resource systems that are healthy and thriving for all. Through efforts underway in operations, teaching, research, and outreach, the university is committed to being a model of sustainability.

www.sustainability.gwu.edu or email sustaingw@gwu.edu



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