

SV Foundation rewards Bethany's Green Team; campus group cited for energy conservation, recycling efforts

On November 6, board member Leon Burch presented Bethany College Green Team members with a \$589 check from the Smoky Valley Community Foundation.

The money, which will be used to purchase additional recycling bins for campus, represents only a small portion of the sustainability work taking place on campus.

The Green Team is composed of more than 200 Bethany students, staff, and faculty and community members. The group jump-started activity on campus with an official Green Week in September.

Since then, events and meetings have celebrated, examined and promoted Bethany's core value of sustainability.

Bethany marked Campus Sustainability Day October 22 with open forums and a sustainability banner display, on which people wrote down progress reports and ideas.

Next up is America Recycles Day, which Bethany celebrated Friday, November 14. The Green Team has organized a series of campus challenges, including creating an outfit using only recyclable items and photographing recycling in action.

Campus Pastor Noni Strand re-

flected on Bethany's progress in an October chapel talk: "Right here in our own community, over 200 people have stepped up in some way to act on behalf of God's creation. From making pledges to recycle more, use less electricity, take shorter showers, ride a bike rather than drive a car - the list goes on - to joining together to think more deeply and act more decisively about what it really means for us to claim sustainability as our core value, members of this community are showing that we believe in something bigger than ourselves."

The Green Team has joined with Bethany's Student Congress to implement recycling in all campus residence halls. Volunteer student groups collect and transport newspaper, glass and plastic for recycling. Aluminum cans are collected for "Kans for Karson," a drive benefiting Karson Schierling. Karson, who is in treatment for cancer, is the son of Devin and Jessica Schierling, Bethany's associate dean for student life and director of career services.

Office paper recycling has been introduced to the campus for the first time. "Paper accounts for as much as 40 percent of the volume of waste in public landfills. College campuses

are heavy users of paper, so whatever we can do to reduce the amount of paper we use, and recycle what we can't avoid using, will make a big difference," said Jayne Norlin, associate vice president for development, who wrote the recycling bin grant.

Initially, a three-yard bin to collect office paper was placed between Anna Marm Hall and Alma Swenson Hall on campus. When it filled within days, it was exchanged for a larger, six-yard bin. The paper is recycled through McPherson Solid Waste Utility.

By decreasing the weight and volume of trash collected on campus, office paper recycling will help with both environment and fiscal sustainability. Another step in this direction includes the work of a newly-formed Energy Audit Team. The team includes twenty students, staff and faculty who will act as energy deputies, assisting Bethany Director of Operations Jeff Barkman in completing a survey of campus energy usage. The task involves counting and calculating use in order to determine ways energy could be conserved.

Looking towards the future, the Green Team also has formed a Community Garden Team, an Education/Information Team and an Earth Day Team on campus.

For more information, contact Noni Strand or visit the Green Team's Facebook group.



Above: (l-r) Green Team members Jayne Norlin, Darrell Purdy, Emily Heronemus, Noni Strand, Beth Pifer, and Kathy Lindgren receive the check from Smoky Valley Community Foundation board member Leon Burch, a Bethany Alumnus. Below: (l-r) Green Team members Jenny, Natalie and Kathy show off their outfits, created using recyclable items as part of a campus challenge.

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