



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



October Newsletter

October 30, 2017

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Non-Print Media Link

THE URSINUS CORNER

Fun Fact: Ursinus College is going carbon neutral in 2060. Now you probably did not know this since it is not advertised around campus. With 43 years before we are expected to have ZERO carbon emissions what does this mean for Ursinus? In 2007, Ursinus signed the [AC-UPPC](#) and we finalized our [Climate and Sustainability Action Plan](#) (CSAP) in 2013. In Ursinus' CSAP our baseline CO₂ emissions is 12,027 from 2010 levels. Our first goal is coming up in just three years with a 25% decrease. Many of the strategies in place to reach our goal by 2060 include increasing conservation within existing buildings, installing real-time energy monitors, and studying ben-

efits of shutting down our heat plant during the summer. In the long term future Ursinus hopes to bring solar panels, and self-generated wind energy to campus. Luckily our [net emissions in 2013](#) was 10,704, so it has gone down! But we still have a long way to go from being completely carbon neutral. We at least have some additional time compared to some other colleges, which have set goals to go carbon neutral by 2020, [Dickinson College](#). We can all do our part in going carbon neutral by turning off the lights, taking shorter showers and using a reusable water bottle. You can find out more about carbon neutrality on the [Sustainability Page](#).

THE GLOBAL CORNER

Ursinus is not the only organization concerned about going carbon neutral; it is an international global issue. The [Global Carbon Project](#) was created in order to help make an agreed knowledge base to lower the rate of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Becoming carbon neutral involves three basic steps: [calculate, reduce, and balance](#). You may have heard of the [Paris Agreement](#) where countries all over the world agreed to keep global temperatures from rising above pre-industrial levels by 2 degrees Celsius by reducing their CO₂ emissions levels. As of right now, 168 Parties have ratified the agreement and are in the

process of making a plan to lower emissions in their respective countries. The US has agreed to reduce CO₂ levels by 28% in 2050 and in order to reach that goal the [Clean Power Plan](#) was created for each state to individually decrease emissions levels. The Global Carbon Project and the Paris Agreement go hand-in-hand. In 2017, [CO₂ levels reached increased to 410 ppm](#). These numbers show, that we are not any closer to being carbon neutral on a global scale nor does it aid in avoiding the 2 degree Celsius rise. Carbon dioxide is a very potent greenhouse gas and as long as levels continue to climb then global temperatures will continue reach that 2 degree Celsius increase.

THE FELLOWS CORNER

Kait Lawrence



Hi all, my name is Kaitlyn Lawrence, and I'm one of the Office of Sustainability's Foods Fellow this year! I'm a junior here at Ursinus, as well as an Environmental Studies and Anthropology double major. I've always been interested in becoming more sustainable, as well as strengthening the relationship between humans and our food system. I'm also really passionate about bees! I'm currently planning an event for raising awareness for Honeybee colony collapse and the importance of bees within our food system, along with a few events in the works with the Office of Sustainability (OS), so keep your eyes peeled!

Sustainability Tip of the Month:

Always carry a reusable water bottle with you that way you can refill it around campus and decrease the amount of plastic you use!

Sustainability Article of the Month:

[China to ban production of petrol and diesel cars 'in the near future'](#)

Quote of the Month:

"As the quote goes, 'After the last no, comes a yes. On that yes, the future of the world depends'. We need to get to the 'yes' on solving the climate crisis."

- Al Gore

COMING YOUR WAY:

Check out the new OS Bulletin Board

