



Sustainability
Service Corps

Yale Sustainability Service Corps (SSC) Update: Fall 2016

General Update

SSC Semester Recap

It was a busy fall this year for the SSC, as our newly minted Initiatives & Innovations Team jumped right into a “What Sustains You?” campaign, our Materials Management Team continued a series of waste surveys and educated students on what really is in a burger, and our Energy Squad focused on encouraging students to be energy efficient by creating an infographic. The teams met weekly throughout the semester, with SSC-wide meetings once a month to learn about sustainability efforts from other students and to participate in a beach cleanup at Criscuolo Park in New Haven. To view a list of the SSC members click [here](#). See below for updates from our three SSC teams: Initiatives & Innovations, Materials Management, and the Energy Squad!



SSC Members at Criscuolo Park

Team Updates

Initiatives & Innovations Team

With a new identity and mission this semester, the Innovations and Initiatives (I&I) Team set out to fill the gap left by the College Sustainability Coordinators with programming and events for students that were aimed at all Yale College students, rather than being broken down by residential college.

To kick off this new mission of making sustainability an integral part of student life by empowering students across Yale College to engage with sustainability, the Team started the year off by asking students, “What Sustains You?” The goal of this campaign was to connect with student groups to make them feel like sustainability is a core value to their organization. The Team reached out to student interest groups and had them take

a photo describing what sustains their organization, then had them pledge one way they would commit to a sustainability goal tailored to their group. This was a [Facebook campaign](#), where the group whose photo received the most likes would be eligible for a gift card prize. We had



“What Sustains You?” winning photo

seven groups participate, and the winning group, Yale Outdoors, received 53 likes. The Facebook campaign had a wide reach, generating a lot of traffic as each post was seen by up to 1,800 people. Another highlight to come out of the campaign was the fact that the Pi Beta Phi women's fraternity pledged to have a waste audit in their house. This resulted in survey from the SSC Materials Management Team that led to the purchase of a recycling bin for the house.

The second campaign for the I&I team this semester was titled "Why Waste Your Energy?" The goal of this campaign was to play off of the efficiency passion of Yalies to get them to start thinking of ways they could be more energy efficient. The Team kicked this off with a light bulb exchange where students could bring in old incandescent bulbs and swap them out for more efficient LED bulbs. The I&I Team swapped out 32 bulbs, and used the event as a platform to educate students on the longevity of the bulbs, the energy savings they'd result in, and other ways students can save energy in their dorms.

Materials Management

The Materials Management Team ran a "What's in a Burger?" campaign on Cross Campus to help students be mindful both of what it means to waste food, and of how much food is wasted at Yale. The team set up a table with visual representations and data to illustrate the cost of wasting food. They have revised the piece to encourage greater engagement when it is next run.

The Team completed waste surveys in locations such as the KBT, the CEID and Baker Hall. They have written reports on each survey and will follow up on the implementation of recommendations in the coming semester. They are now collaborating with the Office of Sustainability's Cultural Center Liaison to engage cultural houses in the waste survey process. While conducting waste surveys, the team noticed a lack of alternative waste receptacles on campus. The Team has started work on putting universal waste (e-waste) receptacles into public spaces on campus and on advertising the existing systems for [universal waste disposal](#) in the meantime.

The Team conducted a waste audit of entryways on Old Campus and found there to be a lack of recycling bins. The Team conducted an audit of 4 trash bags from bins on Old Campus. They found that only 35% of the waste in the trash bags (by weight) was trash, the rest being recyclable, compostable or liquid. To reduce waste, the Team has started the promotion of improved signage and exchange networks at Yale.



"What's in a Burger?" Popup Stand

Energy Squad

This semester, the Energy Squad created an infographic called “5 Simple Ways to Stay Warm and Be Cool,” containing suggestions on how to achieve thermal comfort in student dorms while saving energy. They also assisted the I&I team in initiatives such as the Why Waste Your Energy light bulb exchange and the What Sustains You photo campaign.

The Energy Squad also began collecting information about best practices of those who participated in last year’s Carbon Charge. To this end, they interviewed Pierson Operations Manager Tanya Wiedeking about Pierson’s energy-saving initiatives such as last year’s pre-winter break energy savings checklist.

Based on the Pierson checklist, the Team sent out a similar printable/electronic checklist to each residential college office before Thanksgiving break. The checklist also included a maintenance issue questionnaire. This checklist was distributed by three colleges: Berkeley, Silliman, and Stiles. The Energy Squad followed up with students who reported maintenance issues by providing contact information for the three colleges’ facilities managers.

Check the SSC out on [Facebook](#) or [online](#).

5 SIMPLE WAYS TO STAY WARM & BE COOL

Too cold? Drafty? Make the best use of your room's heat! Your guide for thermal comfort and energy efficiency

- UNBLOCK YOUR RADIATOR**
Keep bedding, pillows, clothes, etc. off of your radiator.
- TURN HEAT DOWN IF ROOM IS TOO WARM**
Get to know your radiator. Look for the 'How Do I Work' sticker.
- KEEP WINDOWS CLOSED**
Don't open windows to regulate temperature in your room. Turn the radiator knob down! Or call Facilities to get help :)
- USE ELECTRICITY PROPERLY**
Turn off lights and power down electronics when not in use.
- REPORT ISSUES TO FACILITIES OPERATIONS SERVICE CENTER (203) 432-6888**
 - Heating issues (too cold/hot)
 - Leaks: safety hazard and waste of water
 - Any doors and windows that will not close or are excessively drafty
 - Power outages

YOU ARE GOOD TO GO!
Stay warm friends!

<http://sustainability-yale.edu/>

