

F&ES Releases Sustainability Action Plan

October, 2014

The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (F&ES) this week released a Sustainability Action Plan, developed in cooperation with the Yale Office of Sustainability, which will guide the School's operational environmental priorities through the next three academic years.

The F&ES plan builds on the School's century-old commitment to environmental stewardship and focuses on areas where it can lead in encouraging sustainable practices across campus.

A centerpiece of the F&ES plan is the creation of a new fellowship position to promote the practice of sustainability. The F&ES Fellow position — which will be added during this academic year — will serve as a liaison between students, staff, and faculty on issues related to sustainability and diversity.

"A key part of the F&ES mission is to collaborate with all sectors of society and with key stakeholders across campus to achieve fair and effective solutions to environmental problems," said Melanie Quigley, chief of the School's Environmental Stewardship Committee. "The F&ES Fellow is a key step toward institutionalizing our expertise into applied approaches toward a more sustainable campus."

The release coincides with Celebrate Sustainability, a week of sustainability-related events organized by the Office of Sustainability.

The F&ES Fellow will cement and expand the School's capacity in resource stewardship and conservation in three critical areas:

- 1) **Leadership and Innovation:** The School will test opportunities to expand the way F&ES units — and where appropriate other departments on campus — conceive of and seek solutions to environmental challenges in their day-to-day operation.
- 2) **Materials Management:** Building on recent success with paper consumption, which decreased by a third in one year, F&ES will seek to establish an elevated university norm for materials management by conducting analyses of procurement, use standards, and waste diversion practices.
- 3) **Communications:** F&ES will expand its role as a node for information banking and institutional memory for campus sustainability efforts, including through . on a new website called "Lux et Natura" — an online hub of environment-related news on the Yale campus.

The F&ES Sustainability Action Plan will be implemented in three phases. In Phase One, the Sustainability Fellow will complete detailed and data-driven effort to identify the most effective strategies for action moving forward. Using the F&ES Sustainability Action Plan as a living document, the fellow will work with the F&ES Environmental Stewardship Committee to assess suggested ideas and improvements, take aggressive first action on key projects, and build a budget and strategy for further implementation efforts. In Phase Two, the fellow will work with F&ES and Yale administrators to develop a budget for larger initiatives. In Phase Three, the School will assess progress to date and establish a new set of priority actions.

The F&ES Fellowship will be open to master's graduates of the School. Loosely modeled on Yale's Woodbridge Fellowship, which introduces recent Yale College graduates to the work and administration of Yale, the F&ES Fellow will report to an Assistant Dean at F&ES and work with departments across the School and university, including the Yale Office of Sustainability.