Stonehill College is committed to building a culture of sustainability, and also embraces innovation and thinking outside of normal boundaries.

This report illustrates the many initiatives undertaken campus-wide in Stonehill’s commitment to sustainability.

Environmental Stewardship Council (ESC)

The ESC is responsible for leading Stonehill’s sustainability efforts through its diversified membership that includes faculty members, students and representatives from each division of the College. The ESC met six times during the 2014-2015 academic year: October 16, 2014; November 13, 2014; December 11, 2014; January 15, 2015; February 12, 2015; and March 19, 2015

I. Sustainability Education Efforts and Events

- **Stonehill Goes Green** - Stonehill Goes Green is a campus-wide initiative to promote environmental sustainability within the Stonehill community through policies and practices including recycling, efficient energy use, and waste reduction. This effort is being guided by the Environmental Stewardship Council. Detailed information can be found at [www.stonehill.edu/green](http://www.stonehill.edu/green).

- **Green Announcements** – During the academic year, the Environmental Stewardship Council shares a "Green Tip" with the Stonehill community each month to highlight important sustainability efforts on and off campus and to suggest simple ways in which we are all able to reduce our impact on the environment. The objective is to raise overall awareness of environmental issues and demonstrate how easy it is to make a difference.

- **Green Execs** – Leaders from Stonehill’s student environmental groups met five times during the year (September 9, 2014; October 21, 2014; November 11, 2014; January 26, 2015; March 20, 2015) to inform one another about initiatives and to plan larger green events like the Sustainability Fair and Jamnesty.

Stonehill has several active student groups that help to raise environmental awareness including Students for Environmental Action (SEA), Mindful Living Environmental Action Committee, ENACTUS: Enterprise, Action and Us, Food Truth (includes Real Food, Compost and No To-Go Groups), Programming Eco Reps, and Sustainability at Stonehill (an SGA focus group). Further information on these groups can be found at [http://www.stonehill.edu/offices-services/stonehill-goes-green/green-student-groups/](http://www.stonehill.edu/offices-services/stonehill-goes-green/green-student-groups/).

- **Res. Hall Eco Reps** – Beginning this year, seven students were elected to represent their residence halls for matters of sustainability, helping to manage the Stop the Drop contest, and to further improve sustainability in their residence halls throughout the year.

- **The Farm at Stonehill**
  - A second **hoop house** was constructed at the Farm during the summer of 2014 through a grant by the Harold Brooks Foundation and a generous gift by the Class of 1964. This growing structure allowed the Farm to harvest and donate produce beginning in early spring this year.
  - A 15'x25' **permaculture garden** was planted on campus during the fall of 2014, using compost from the Farm and leaves collected by Facilities Management. It is layered with compost, mulch and cardboard and also includes small fruit trees, perennial plants and an herb spiral. This is a
group effort between the Farm and students from the Directed Study in Food Security and Permaculture.

- In another collaborative effort, a perennial edible forest garden was planted at the Farm this year. The goal of this project was to create a healthy and edible forest ecosystem that can sustain itself with minimal maintenance, while enriching the community and the environment. This initiative was funded by the Green Fund.

- **People’s Climate March** - Approximately 50 members of the Stonehill community were among thousands that participated in the People’s Climate March in NYC on September 21, 2014. The goal of this event was to encourage world leaders to act now to slow climate disruption.

- **Models of Sustainability in Higher Ed.** - On October 20, 2014, Bridget Meigs and Devin Ingersol served on the panel "Models of Sustainability in Higher Ed." at Bridgewater State University as part of their campus’s Sustainability Day. They gave a presentation highlighting Stonehill’s green initiatives.

- **USDA's Food Day** - On October 24, 2014, the Food Truth group held a Pancake Eating Contest highlighting local and fairly traded ingredients.

- **Connecting For Change 2014** - Many Stonehill students attended this event, presented by the Marion Institute. This year’s event was held in New Bedford on October 24th & 25th as a solutions-based gathering that brings together a diverse audience to create deep and positive change in their communities.

- **BioBlitz** – In October 2014, in an example of great community collaboration, many Stonehill students and faculty members joined other local naturalists, teachers and students from Brockton High School for a three-hour “BioBlitz” on the nearby 125-acre Brockton Audubon Preserve. The group, organized in six teams, identified more than 100 organisms on the property. Along with providing an educational opportunity, this initiative was aimed at encouraging an appreciation of biodiversity within the City of Brockton and providing information for the Wildlands Trust, manager of the Preserve, to share with visitors.

- **Eco Rep Symposium and Workshop** – Five Stonehill College students attended this overnight program held at Tufts University in November, which brings together the region's most passionate student leaders for sustainability. They have the opportunity to share insights from their campus experiences and build networks for future sustainable ventures. One of our students participated in a panel discussion regarding Stonehill’s composting program.

- **Sustainable Agriculture Course - Final Presentations** – On November 13, 2014, students presented their topics which included Biochar, Tower Gardens, Cover Crops, Crop Rotation, Edible Forest Gardens, Soil Fertility, and Season Extension with Cold Frames.

- **Vampire Energy Survey** - Several students enrolled in an environmental science course interviewed staff throughout campus to see how they plug in their electronics, what gets turned off and/or unplugged at night, etc. They are collecting this plug load and “vampire energy” data in order to assess behavior patterns on campus and to consider ways to decrease this standby power usage.

- **Night Hike** - Arranged by Eco Reps, a night hike led by Dick Grant took place on November 13, 2014, incorporating a spooky “vampire energy” story.

November 18, 2014, the Martin Institute presented lawyer, activist, and social entrepreneur Dean Cycon to discuss how he uses his business to create meaningful economic, social, and environmental justice throughout the coffee lands of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. He is a co-founder of Coffee Kids (a non-profit development group) and Cooperative Coffees, the world’s first fair trade roaster’s cooperative.

- **John Clarkeson, Mass Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs: "Massachusetts' Energy & Environmental Issues"** – On November 19, 2014, Mr. Clarkeson spoke on current issues in the state's environmental policy, highlighting climate change adaptation as well as the economic implications of making effective public policy. He was also seeking interns to work for the EEA.

- **Blackout Battle** – During November, a team of students enrolled in Environmental Ethics led an energy conservation competition, held between Pilgrim Heights Village and O’Hara Village. After Thanksgiving break Pilgrim Heights Village dropped their electricity use by 15.6% and O’Hara Village by 7.2%.

- **Jessa Gagne, guest lecturer in Principals of Environmental Sciences** – In December, Jessa Gagne, Stonehill’s Energy Manager, spoke to Prof. Kerri Mullen’s classes where she discussed what an energy engineer is, reasons for sustainability (social, operational effectiveness, fiscal), energy conservation projects completed on campus, project payback periods, utility incentive funding, energy and water reduction goals for the College, and what students can do to reduce their energy consumption while they live on campus and continue doing after they graduate.

- **Wintergreen Event** - Honors Environmental Ethics students sponsored the Wintergreen Event, held on December 4, 2014, which allowed the Stonehill community to explore ways we can reduce consumerism on campus. Participants enjoyed eco-trivia (with prizes of New England Aquarium Tickets purchased through the Green Fund), learned statistics on student possessions, created an eco-art project, and experienced the Stonehill Gratitude Campaign, where approximately 350 participants shared what they are thankful for. Additionally, unwanted clothing was collected and donated to the Charity Guild in Brockton.

- **Campus Farmers Webinar** – In February, Devin Ingersoll, the Farm’s Outreach Coordinator, participated in this webinar for discussions on the different management structures used to achieve a campus farm’s specific mission and to hear from individuals involved in student-run and staff-managed campus farms and how they’ve overcome challenges such as leadership retention and funding through the years.

- **Campus Conservation Nationals 2015** - Eco Reps (15 freshmen, 5 sophomores) began the process in the fall to prepare Stonehill for this three week nationwide contest. The contest, which began in February and focused on water and electricity usage, was led by some of those same students along with members of the Water Learning Community. A small sample of residence halls (O’Hara, Corr, Villa Theresa, Boland and New Hall) participated. Unfortunately, due to the extreme weather, the results were disappointing for Stonehill and many other contestants. Stonehill’s results: 403.8 kWh saved; 0.2% overall reduction.

- **Divestment Speaker** – On March 24, the SEA hosted Shea Riester, Campus Divestment Coordinator of 350.org, who spoke and answered questions about fossil fuel divestment in general and the process.
- **Film Screening and discussion of Food Chains** – Presented by the Farm, Food Truth and the Office of Community Based Learning on April 14, 2015, this film screening was followed by a discussion surrounding issues shared in the film including immigration, farm worker rights, and fair trade.

- **Film Screening and discussion of Open Sesame: The Story of Seeds** – Shown on April 24, 2015, this film focuses on where our food actually comes from, highlighting Genetically Modified Organisms. Food activist Martin Dagoberto led the discussion on the movement for more transparency with food labeling.

- **Trashion Show** – On April 26, 2015, Food Truth held this successful event to raise awareness around waste, recycling and composting efforts. Similar events are being planned for next year.

- **Water LC Final Projects** - Professor Mooney’s Water LC students presented their final projects on April 28, 2015. The presentation topics included storm water management, water conservation, bottled water, irrigation/landscaping, and food systems & culture water impacts.

**II. Green Campus Initiatives and Opportunities**

- **Princeton Review Rating** – For several years the Princeton Review has been surveying the green practices of higher education institutions and assigning Green Ratings based on the current year’s survey results. In 2012 Stonehill College received a rating of 73. In 2013 our score improved substantially to 84, and in 2014 our score improved yet again to 89. Based on Princeton Review’s rating criteria, Stonehill College was included in their publication *The Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges* in April of 2014 and again in 2015. Here is a link to the 2015 edition: [http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide).

- **Northeast Business Leader for Energy Efficiency** - In March 2015, the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships recognized Stonehill College as a Northeast Business Leader for Energy Efficiency. Partnering with National Grid over the past three years has greatly increased the level of incentive funding awarded to the College, which allows us to complete more energy conservation projects. In the past three years the college has saved more than 1.4 million kilowatt-hours annually, as well as nearly $175,000 in energy costs.

- **Energy Efficiency Initiatives**
  - This year, Cushing Martin, a 37,903 square foot academic building, was targeted for an energy management system upgrade and heating fuel conversion. While the building already had an energy management system, it had many issues that affected occupant comfort and increased utility bills. This building is electrically cooled, and utilizes both natural gas and fuel oil for heat. Prior to the installation of a new EMS, the oil fired burners that serve the primary heating system were changed to natural gas burners. This enabled our natural gas utility provider to provide incentive funding for this project. The total cost of this project was $120,865. Our utility providers offered $41,972 in incentive funding to lower the total cost of the project to the college. The project is expected to save 71,235 kilowatt-hours annually. Due to the fuel conversion, the building is expected to use 5,486 more therms of natural gas. However, the use of oil, approximately 9,000 gallons annually, has been completely eliminated. The net savings is nearly $30,000 per year at current rates.
• Stanger Hall, a 22,549 square foot academic building, was also targeted for an energy management system installation. The building had no existing energy management system, and thus ran continuously year round. This building is both heated and cooled electrically. The total cost of this project was $87,400. Our electricity provider offered $27,500 in incentive funding to lower the total cost of the project to the college. The project is expected to save 416,471 kilowatt-hours annually. The net savings is over $62,000 per year at our current electricity rate.

- **STARS Survey** - The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) developed the STARS program as a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. In FY15, Stonehill College began collecting information and documenting its sustainability measures in accordance with the STARS program. The survey includes quantifying many sustainability related statistics and operating procedures throughout multiple divisions at the College that had not been previously documented. We expect to be able to submit for a bronze rating in FY16.

- **Sustainability Internship Program** - What began as a work study position in January 2013 became Stonehill’s sustainability internship program, which provides interested students the opportunity to support the research, planning and implementing of sustainability projects and initiatives on campus. Student interns work actively with the Energy Manager on projects that enhance the College’s commitment to sustainability. Responsibilities, which are listed below, are based on each student’s interests and skills.
  • Conduct research associated with implementing sustainability initiatives.
  • Create outreach and education documents for sustainability projects and initiatives.
  • Assist with the development of Stonehill’s sustainability website.
  • Work on the College’s sustainability plan.
  • Complete energy audits of buildings and assist with the commissioning of energy management systems.
  • Utilize Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager to benchmark building energy and water usage.
  • Collect and track metrics related to the College’s carbon footprint.

- **Green Schools** - In June 2013 Jessa Gagne was elected to, and continues to serve on, the board of directors for Green Schools of Massachusetts (http://www.projectgreenschools.org). Green Schools is a nonprofit whose mission is to lessen environmental impacts, conserve resources and educate the next generation of environmental stewards. The organization works in connection with a national network of Green Schools. Jessa’s primary contribution to the organization is assisting with the development of the Green Schools Annual Summit and streamlining the registration process of their events with an online registration system.

- **Easton’s Green Communities Committee** - The mission of the GCC is to help educate the Town of Easton on clean energy options and measures that can be implemented to reduce energy use, conserve resources and reduce emissions; to assist in the development of cost effective projects on municipal facilities to reduce energy and resource use and develop renewable energy resources; and to promote awareness of new technologies and their potential impact on energy
use and resource conservation. The GCC web page link is: 
http://www.easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/green_communities_committee/index.php

The GCC was interested in learning about Stonehill College’s energy initiatives and the various ways it was able to fund energy efficiency projects. The College’s Energy Manager, Jessa Gagne, presented at their meeting held on January 21, 2015, where she provided an update on the solar canopy installations that are being planned. She also spoke about other initiatives including heating oil and electricity conversions to natural gas, electrical sub-metering, centralizing and expanding the energy management system, and the campus sustainability plan’s goal of reducing energy consumption by twenty percent by FY19.

As one of the largest users of energy in Easton, it is important that Stonehill College communicate its energy efficiency initiatives and metrics with the GCC. This open line of communication allows them to include our initiatives and progress alongside those of the entire town.

➢ **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** - In January 2015, a dual unit electric vehicle charging station was installed in the Sally Blair Ames South parking lot. This unit was donated by Solect Energy, the firm that built our 2.7MW solar farm.

➢ **Solar Installations** – Much work went into planning the installation of rooftop solar panels on the Sally Blair Ames field house as well as solar parking canopies on the Duffy, Boland and Student/Visitor lots. These projects have been delayed due to circumstances with the utility companies; however, it is anticipated that these installations will take place during fiscal year 2016. The parking canopies will include LED lighting and vehicle charging stations. Once these projects are completed, solar energy production will account for 48% of Stonehill’s electrical usage.

➢ **Real Food Challenge** – Since Stonehill College’s signing of the Real Food Campus Commitment in April 2015, Dining Services and several student groups have been working on collecting data for this important commitment - to source 20% of our food from “real” food sources (locally grown, sustainably produced, humanely raised, and fairly traded). This past spring Melissa Mardo ‘17 completed a 2 credit independent research project with Farm Manager Meigs focusing on the Real Food Calculator - which helps to measure what % of our purchases are “real”. The Food Truth student group will be putting together a Food Systems Working Group this fall and will continue the work that Melissa started via a Real Food Sub-committee.

➢ **Dining Services**
  - Working with Sodexo, the College increased local food buying, adding several local meat options to the cycle menu and sourcing produce from local farms.
  - Dining Services has committed to providing fish that only comes from sustainable sourcing.
  - Dining Services has committed to reducing the single use to-go containers. Additionally, a student initiative to substantially reduce these containers was passed by the student body.
  - Dining Services continues to work with student groups to provide data for the Real Food Challenge.

➢ **Composting** - Since the campus composting program began in the fall of 2012, it has expanded to include all pre- and post-served green waste from our three largest dining venues, as well as coffee grounds from Dining Services and our on-campus Dunkin Donuts. The Farm currently receives 75-100 pounds of food scraps each day when Dining Services is in full gear. Planning is
underway to improve post-consumer composting efforts through upcoming events and education.

- **Recycling** – Recycling for the year amounted to 125.52 tons, which is a rate of 17% of all campus waste. The single stream recycling program continues to be successful campus-wide.

- **Water bottle fillers** were installed in Villa Theresa, The Hill and in the Sports Complex this year.

- **Laundry** – Marketing efforts continue to encourage students to wash larger loads using cold water only.

- **Carbon Offsets** - Stonehill College was one of the first 3 schools to join the Lighten the Load program with MacGray Campus Solutions in 2008; its initial year. On Stonehill’s behalf, in 2008 MacGray purchased a ten-year carbon offset certificate to offset the unavoidable CO₂ emissions derived from laundry machine usage on campus. Stonehill is proud to be part of a growing program that annually offsets 15,970,467.11 pounds of CO₂ or 7,697.75 tons per year.

- **Lighting** - In an effort to reduce the College's carbon footprint, students from the Environmental Ethics class installed occupancy sensor lighting in Pilgrim Heights. These buildings were selected as there are four lights in each common room, which are often vacant. While it cost $430 per building to install the sensors, it is estimated that they will save the College about $580 each year.

- **Information Technology and Printing Initiatives**
  - **Electronic transcript request** – Students can now request transcripts online and, where appropriate, have an electronic transcript sent to potential schools or employers. This process reduces paper and mail costs.
  - **Network switch and data center server reductions** – Increased use of wireless has decreased the need for wired data ports. IT staff have removed 23 switches from residence halls in the past year and plan to remove another 23 by the end of 2015. IT staff also continue to reduce the number of servers and have virtualized 7 physical servers over the past year. These initiatives reduce energy consumption and ongoing equipment costs.
  - **A print release station** was added to the Graphics Design Lab and printing will now be limited to students in Graphics Design courses. This will reduce printing resulting in reduced costs as these are high quality color printers.
  - The entire college copier fleet was upgraded to new high efficiency equipment, including 28 **Xerox Color Qubes** which have solid ink technology with no toner waste.
  - The college significantly reduced our volume of both color and black & white printing by about 10%.
  - **Blackboard** - A new on-line instruction and communication program was implemented by the academic departments this year, eliminating the need for printed course materials and allowing for on-line handling of student papers.

### III. Annual and Ongoing Events

- **Green Fund** - In July 2012 the College began a program to provide funding for campus sustainability initiatives. Sixteen applications were approved for the 2014/2015 academic year, which included funding a summer intern to work on the Real Food Calculator project,
purchasing re-useable to-go containers for Grab the Green week, prizes for energy and water reduction contests, prizes for sustainability events, outside light timers for student Christmas light displays, hydroponic tower gardens in the Pettit Auditorium, funding an edible forest garden, t-shirts for the Campus Conservation Nationals competition, sending students to the Eco-Rep Symposium, Real Food Challenge Conference, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate Conference, and Bioneers of the Bay Conference, and Green Kit supplies.

- **ENACTUS Furniture Fair 2014** – On August 23, 2014, ENACTUS students held their 4th annual Furniture Fair where unwanted residence hall items from the previous year, including refrigerators, TVs, bed risers and lamps, are collected and resold to incoming students. The Fair reduces disposal and maintenance costs as well as provides freshmen with affordable alternatives. Proceeds and remaining furniture from the event are donated to My Brother’s Keeper, a neighboring food pantry that redistributes and delivers the donated furnishings.

- **Green Kits** – Jointly funded through the Green Fund and the Purchasing Department, Green Kits were handed out to the class of 2018 at the fall 2014 orientation to help instill environmental behavior and values. This year’s kit included reusable to-go containers, drink tumblers, rescued paper notepads, individual recycling bins, laundry detergent pods, hot drink to-go cups, hand towels, pens made from recycled cardboard and a reusable grocery bag. As this second annual event was again well received, kits are being organized for the class of 2019.

- **Sustainability Fair/Jamnesty** – This event, organized by the SGA programming committee, is held on the quad in the fall and spring each year to promote campus-wide sustainability initiatives and to encourage student involvement. Many student groups, including SEA, ENACTUS, Mindful Living, Food Truth, Eco Reps and SGA, as well as Stonehill’s Green Fund, the Farm, Sodexo, Xerox and off-campus groups and vendors, set up informative and interactive displays, often with entertainment and giveaways. This year’s Fairs were held on October 3, 2014 and April 18, 2015, in conjunction with Jamnesty and Earth Day events.

- **St. Francis Pledge Event: “Creating a Climate for Solidarity: From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You”** - Based on the Catholic Climate Covenant’s program, the Stonehill community was treated to a presentation followed by discussions lead by Fr. Jim Lies and Deacon Tim Mouton on October 7, 2014.

- **Stop the Drop** – Each October Residence Life, in conjunction with the Environmental Stewardship Council, hosts a “Stop the Drop” campaign. This contest is conducted between all the residence halls on campus to see which hall can decrease its water use the most from the month before. For October 2014 Holy Cross Center decreased their water usage by a remarkable 16% (gallons/student/day).

- **Grab the Green Week** - During one week in November and in April, Dining Services suspends the use of all clear non-reusable to-go containers, and only green reusable to-go containers are available. The Compost Committee educates students on sustainability, showing how to get by without using disposable containers. During the November 2014 program, students participated in a photo campaign, posing with their new green container, pledging to use this container more often, saving money and also decreasing their carbon footprint in the process. These pictures were displayed in the Commons to remind students of their pledge and to show student support.