



Middlebury's Sustainability Efforts Showcased

By Megan James '05

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

This is the year for climate change action, senior Jamie Henn said. And indeed, 2007 has gotten off to a start that will no doubt make a few heads spin at Middlebury College.

This J-term, Henn and 10 other students spent the month creating a comprehensive carbon neutrality proposal to present to the board of trustees. They have been researching changes the College would have to make, from erecting green energy buildings to investing money in carbon offsets, to considerably reduce its carbon footprint.

In fact, they want to annihilate that footprint altogether. They want to see the College "shift into neutral" by 2017.

This may seem like a lofty goal—just ten years to switch out all of the institution's energy sources, canceling out all of its greenhouse gas emissions—but these students are up to the challenge, largely because of the snowballing enthusiasm and infectious activism generated by the Sunday Night Group (SNG), Middlebury's two-year-old green organization.

The SNG, which began simply as a gathering of a few friends who were frustrated with the lack of activism on campus, was inspired by a class with Professor of International Environmental Economics Jon Isham. This group has since taken hold of the Middlebury community, growing into one of the largest and most active organizations the College has ever seen.

But the best part is, the faculty and administration have also fallen under the SNG spell. The students organizing the carbon neutrality proposal have no doubt their plans will be approved because they've got President Ronald Liebowitz, all their professors and most of the trustees on their side.

"We've gotten really positive feedback from the trustees," SNG member Corinne Almquist '09 said. "And President Liebowitz is excited about the carbon neutrality initiative, too. He's said the Sunday Night Group is the best thing that's ever happened to Middlebury."

To push towards the goal of carbon neutrality, the College announced the construction of an \$11 million biomass plant, slated for completion by fall 2008, which will reduce the institution's greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 12,500 tons a year, using woodchips, a by-product of the local lumber industry, rather than fuel oil to generate heat and electricity.

The College further demonstrated its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint when officials announced the Snow Bowl ski facility and the Alpine and Nordic ski teams would officially be carbon neutral beginning this season. The school purchased carbon offsets from NativeEnergy, a privately-held renewable energy company that funds Native American-owned and operated wind turbine farms and family-owned farm methane projects, to compensate for the greenhouse gases it emits in Snow Bowl operations.

"Things are accelerating on the Middlebury campus, but there's also a big push to get students engaged on a more national level," Henn said. "Now that we are about to be out of school, how can we continue this work?"

Henn will continue his work with Environmental Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben and five recent graduates and former SNG members, planning a nationwide demonstration against political inaction on global warming this spring called Step it Up.

The demonstrators' message will be simple: "Step it up, Congress! Enact immediate cuts in carbon emissions and pledge an 80 percent reduction by 2050."

But Henn's group is far from holding a traditional mass demonstration at the steps of the Capitol. The last thing Step it Up wants to see are the messy trails of travelers' carbon footprints, the greenhouse gas emitted from their cars and airplanes, all the way to Washington, D.C.

Instead, they plan to keep it simple, invite people all over the country to gather in groups on April 14 and send out their message from their own hometowns, from their favorite outdoor places threatened by the changing climate. Each group will take pictures of their demonstration and feed them into Step it Up's website, where the images will be broadcast live.

The band of environmental activists will then spend the rest of the year co-authoring a book, a how-to guide on planning mass demonstrations for like-minded movers and shakers.

McKibben is delighted to be working with this new generation of Middlebury activists, excited to see where their passion for change will lead them.

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A NEW HOME—Hillcrest Environmental Center

All these budding environmental projects need a home, of course, a place where faculty from all different disciplines, who share a focus on the environment, can have offices next door to one another, where students devoted to the greening of the College can convene.

Most departments at Middlebury already have this—students in the sciences rarely leave Bicentennial Hall, musicians and dancers spend their time in the Center for the Arts—but students undertaking the College’s most rapidly growing department, environmental studies, still don’t have a space of their own.

This will soon change, however, with the completion this May of the Hillcrest Environmental Center, a renovated, certified sustainable version of the old Vermont farmhouse on College Street that has served as a space for classrooms, faculty offices and dorm rooms since 1875.

Beginning next fall, the Hillcrest building will house all of Middlebury’s environmental programs, including the campus sustainability program, environmental journalism fellowship program and environmental outreach and service learning programs.

Environmental Scholar in Residence Bill McKibben, Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks-Jay and 14 other ES faculty and staff will fill the offices in the new building, and ES students will have a place to study and hold meetings with a study lounge, a senior seminar studio, student carrels and a technologically-advanced lecture hall for the weekly Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series.

But if the College really wants to show its commitment to the department, shouldn’t it construct a whole new building, something flashy and futuristic-looking like the new library that opened in 2004?

Jenks-Jay, who also serves as the Hillcrest program committee chair, says absolutely not. The project’s adaptive reuse of space, the very fact that it is not flashy and wasteful, exemplifies the department’s philosophy of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

“This project is the first time that Middlebury College has registered a project with the US Green Building Council to

follow a standard set of sustainable guidelines and be judged by an impartial third party as to how green the project actually is,” she said, referring to the rating system Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

From the outside, the new Hillcrest will look only slightly different. Contractors have deconstructed the existing south annex (more than 80 percent of those materials were reclaimed and reused), making way for a smaller two-story addition in its place, and they have also begun the construction of a western addition.

But Hillcrest’s true selling points are a little harder to spot. One of these is the use of local materials throughout the entire building: Panton stone for the site wall and stone foundation veneer, Barre granite for the kitchenette counter, Fair Haven slate for floors and roofs and hardwoods from the Middlebury College forests.

The lobby counter will be made of Paperstone, a combination of recycled paper and cashew nut resin, floors will be covered in recycled carpet and all the trees and plants around the building will be native species, requiring no irrigation.

But don’t even think about parking your car outside the new building. Hillcrest will have special perks for those who find alternative ways to commute: covered bicycle racks to keep a bike dry in the rain and snow, a shower for people who’ve walked or biked from far enough away that they need to rinse the sweat off their skin before getting to class, and one special parking spot reserved for an alternative fuel vehicle.

“Colleges and universities have enormous influence and should serve as catalysts in becoming a more sustainable world,” Jenks-Jay said. “Today’s students will graduate as members of a global society, one in which the environment is inextricably linked.”

And in terms of environmental activism, she said, the students on campus today are some of the most exciting young people to grace the Middlebury classroom.

“They are not only critical thinkers, but they are creative thinkers and doers,” she said. “They want to see meaningful environmentally-related change take place, and they want to see it sooner than later.” Middlebury better get ready for change, if the Sunday Night Group has anything to do with it.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>End of Season Notes</u>
Men’s Football	6-2	Best record since ‘00
Men’s Soccer	11-6-1	NCAA Regionals
Men’s Cross Country	8th	NESCAC
Women’s Cross Country		NCAA Champions
Women’s Field Hockey	14-4	NCAA Regionals
Women’s Soccer	15-3-1	NESCAC and NCAA Regional Champions
Women’s Volleyball	13-16	NESCAC Quarterfinals
Women’s Tennis	1-1 (team)	Team made it to the NEWITT Championship

A New Face in the Alumni Office

Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations

Meg Storey Groves '85



In the twenty-one years since graduating from Middlebury, I've worked in banking, earned my MBA, marketed fish sticks, Cherry Garcia ice cream, and women's athletic wear, while trying to balance life with three kids. I brought my Mandarin Chinese skills into my kids' elementary school and was rewarded by the students' honest interest in drawing the characters, 'singing' the language and debating Taiwan's

independence. While I may not have been on campus much, Middlebury always held a special place in my life. I kept connected by serving as class agent for several years, participating in the alumni admissions program and I never missed a class reunion.

In my new role at Middlebury, I have the chance to relive my undergraduate years and think about what Middlebury means to more recent graduates. A lot has changed, but the core education and social experience has remained steadfast for all of us. It is about amazing academic opportunities, lifelong friendships, and more extracurricular choices than we can imagine.

Our goal in Alumni and Parents Programs is to design programs and events that keep Middlebury relevant in your lives: homecoming, reunion, fall family weekend, holiday parties, faculty lectures, etc. There is no shortage of ways to stay connected—career networking through MiddNet, talking with prospective students through alumni admissions interviews, organizing a social, cultural or academic event in your local area. Our alumni chapters thrive when more people get involved and take a piece of the action.

My words of advice:

- Get involved in an alumni chapter
- Go to the PantherNet alumni directory at www.middlebury.edu/alumni to update your contact info
- Call the alumni office with questions, comments or concerns (802-443-5183)
- Visit us often at the new alumni office—McKinley House across from the football stadium and golf course.

With hopes of seeing you soon,

Meg



CSO OFFERINGS

UPDATES FROM JAYE ROSEBOROUGH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- The **Immediate Jobs Page** on the CSO home page. This is populated by listings from alumni, parents, and other employers interested in interviewing Middlebury alumni. Although, not extensive, there are often very good jobs listed here. The listings are kept on the IJP for one month.
- **MiddNet Online.** Please sign on, no matter what you're currently doing (with the exception of unemployment). Students like to inquire of alumni at all stages of their career and especially like to talk to young alumni about their experiences. Additionally, use this excellent networking resource for your own information gathering.
- CSO has incredible online resources accessible through our Web page. Great information resources, job-hunting tools, etc. Please call **802-443-5100** or E-mail cso@middlebury.edu for further information or instruction in the use of these resources.
- We provide personal advice regarding career decision-making, job-hunting, and graduate study via telephone appointments. To schedule an appointment, call or E-mail the above.
- And last, we will be re-vamping the CSO Web page over the coming year. If you have suggestions about additions to the CSO Web pages for alumni, please E-mail us.

Career Services Organization, Adirondack House, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753

ALUMNI PROFILES

COLIN DAVIS '03

Since graduating I have worked mostly in the building trades. In the fall of 2004 I went to India to work with the Bawa Development Study, an organization my former advisor, Parker Croft, has connections to. While there I completed a site study and design for the first of many rural community centers to be sited near the city of Amritsar.

The following summer I worked for Parker again. This time, living near Bakersfield, VT renovating a 200-year-old farmhouse and watching after his cows. This led to a full time job with a restoration company where I worked on several barns, a house in Addison, and the Sudbury Town Hall.

Last winter (2006) I completed my first house design. The house is now complete and occupied by a teacher from Mt. Abraham Union High School and her husband. As this project was wrapping up I met Robin Ingenthron (husband of Armelle Crouzieres, French Professor) who asked me if I was interested in working for his new electronics recycling business, Good-Point Recycling. Not ready to leave VT, I decided to take a shot at a very different and interesting line of work.

I am currently the director of the World Reuse, Repair, and Recycling Association (WR3A), founded by Mr. Ingenthron. This organization aims to establish standards for a relatively new E-scrap industry, primarily concerning harmful exporting practices. This year my job has taken me to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Mexico, as well as several conferences around the U.S.



While at Middlebury I bounced back and forth between majors before landing on a Geography/History of Art and Architecture joint major. There have been some instances where a particular skill or bit of knowledge from my classes at Midd have helped me in my professional life. What I have appreciated most from my Midd education, however, are the life-lessons, ways of thinking and being, that one picks up through close interactions with amazing people like the late Bob Churchill (Geography) or Parker Croft (Architecture).



BENJAMIN M. PRATT '02

Political newcomer Benjamin Pratt was elected to the Maine State House of Representatives from the 20th District. Pratt, a Democrat, unseated an incumbent in a closely contested race in which the results were re-counted, by staging an aggressive door to door campaign and by running as a clean elections candidate. His district encompasses the towns of Eddington, Holden, Clifton, Dedham, Bradley, and a section of North Brewer. After being sworn in to the 123 Maine Legislature, Pratt joined scores of other house members for two week-long bus tours of the state designed to familiarize members with key initiatives and issues throughout Maine. He has been assigned to the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee. When not in Augusta for legislative sessions or committee meetings, Pratt works as an EMT for Capital Ambulance of Bangor.

News to Note

Young Alumni Committee

The Young Alumni Committee is looking for new members, from the classes of 2003–2006, to fill spots being vacated by the class of 2002. The main objective of this committee is to act as a focus group for the young alumni population of Middlebury College. You will be asked to partake in short surveys, questionnaires, E-mail dialogs, and other fact-finding endeavors put on by the Alumni and Parent Programs office in hopes of discovering the wants and needs of alumni who are 1–5 years out of Middlebury. If you are interested in helping the College better serve its newest alumni, please send an e-mail to Eric Ambrette '04 (eambrett@middlebury.edu) with your latest contact information

Arabic School to Open in 2007

The curriculum is designed for intermediate and advanced Arabic language students, and all coursework for the program will be conducted in Arabic. Students will adhere to the Middlebury College Language Pledge and be housed with Egyptian students in apartments in Alexandria, Egypt. Anticipated enrollment is approximately 15–20 students per semester.



Snow Bowl Goes Carbon Neutral

Middlebury College officials have confirmed that, beginning this season, the Middlebury College Snow Bowl will be a carbon neutral ski facility. According to Middlebury College Assistant Treasurer and Director of Business Services Tom Corbin, “The Middlebury College Snow Bowl may well be the first ski area to take carbon neutrality to this level by offsetting electric, gas, propane, diesel and biodiesel usage, as well as skier transportation to and from the ski area.”

To achieve carbon neutrality, the College has purchased carbon offsets for the ski area’s 2006–2007 operations in the amount of \$7,138 to compensate for a total of 679.9 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The College bought the offsets from Charlotte-based NativeEnergy, a privately held renewable energy company that helps reduce CO2 emissions by funding Native American owned and operated wind turbine farms and family-owned farm methane projects.



Bill Clinton to give 2007 Commencement Address

Former President of the United States Bill Clinton will deliver the commencement address at the Middlebury College graduation ceremony on May 27. President Clinton will also receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Robert De Cormier, Janet Hanson,

James Gustave Speth, Marc A. and Dana Lim vanderHeyden, and Dr. Huda Y. Zoghbi will receive honorary degrees as well.

For more information, go to www.middlebury.edu/campuslife/events/commencement