

Middlebury College
The Program in Environmental Studies
2008-2009 Fact Sheet

<http://www.middlebury.edu/~es>

Mission:

The Program in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College seeks to provide students with an interdisciplinary, liberal arts education. It focuses on diverse facets of the relationship between humans and the environment through study in breadth and depth. The faculty of the program is committed to excellence in teaching and in scholarship. To achieve this mission, the program has established the following goals:

- To provide students with an educational foundation.
- To give all students a solid background in the sciences.
- To require students to achieve depth in a particular discipline.
- To expose students to the breadth of approaches to thinking about the environment.
- To offer a synthetic, interdisciplinary major for each student.
- To provide student opportunities in independent scholarship.
- To encourage students to study off-campus.
- To provide an effective system of student advising.
- To develop a community of alumni across generations.
- To be a resource for environmental education.
- To provide courses at all levels of the ENVS major that incorporate service-learning to enhance the learning experience, engage students in community issues, strengthen professional environmental skills, and promote civic responsibility.

Environmental Studies Majors:

- Approximately 95 current students among the sophomore, junior, and senior classes have declared majors or minors in ES.
- 879 students have earned B.A. degrees in ES since 1965.
- In terms of number of student majors, ES is the 6th largest major at Middlebury College.
- Graduates of the ES Program have gone on to a wide range of occupations, including law, journalism, politics, business and finance, education, government service, conservation, environmental science, environmental organizations, public health, and planning.
- Approximately 1000 Middlebury College alumni are now working in environmentally related fields.

Structure of the major:

- All ES majors take four core courses: Natural Science and the Environment, Conservation and Environmental Policy, Nature's Meanings, and Geographic Information Systems.
- All ES majors choose an area of focus, made up of six to eight courses in a specific area.
- Currently students may focus in one of thirteen areas: architecture and the environment; conservation biology; creative arts; environmental chemistry; environmental economics; environmental geology; environmental history; environmental nonfiction; environmental policy; geography; human ecology; literature; and religion, philosophy, and the environment.
- All ES majors take a senior year interdisciplinary capstone seminar that features a prominent service-learning component.
- All ES majors take at least two additional environmental courses outside of their focus to provide breadth to their understanding of the human-environment relationship.
- All ES majors, regardless of their area of specialization, take at least three laboratory/field science courses, as well as a course in geographic information systems.

The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest

In June 2007, the ES Program and the Dean of Environmental Affairs moved into the Hillcrest Environmental Center. In May 2008, the building was dedicated as the Janet Halstead Franklin '72 and Churchill G. Franklin '71 Environmental Center at Hillcrest in honor of the Franklins' gift to establish the Green Fund in support of environmental initiatives and programming at the College. Most of the center is a sustainably renovated 1875 farmhouse, with an addition featuring two

new classrooms. The Franklin Center at Hillcrest will be LEED certified in the near future. The building emphasizes the use of local materials and energy and water efficient features.

Fast Facts:

- Middlebury's ES Program was founded in 1965.
- Middlebury College was the first school of higher education to offer an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies.
- The ES Program has developed a curriculum that integrates the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.
- The ES Program at Middlebury College has been highlighted in a number of high-profile publications, including the *Boston Globe*, *Daily Grist*, *New York Times*, *Vermont Life*, and *Newsweek*.
- The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education awarded Middlebury College one of its annual Campus Sustainability Leadership Awards in 2007. The awards recognize institutions that have demonstrated an outstanding overall commitment to environmental sustainability.
- The Sustainable Endowments Institute gave Middlebury College a grade of A- on its 2008 College Sustainability Report Card and named Middlebury a College Sustainability Leader. The College also gained the #2 spot on *Grist's* list of "15 Green Colleges and Universities."

Student Awards, Groups, and Projects:

- Since 1997, ES majors have won 12 Watson Fellowships, seven Udall Scholarships in Environmental Policy; one Fulbright Grant; and one Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship.
- Although not directly affiliated with the ES Program, a number of student groups on campus are active in the environmental arena: Environmental Quality, Middlebury College Organic Garden, Middlebury Mountain Club, the Sunday Night Group, and Weybridge House (an environmental residential house).
- ES majors have the opportunity to conduct independent projects. Examples of recent projects include:
Kathryn Flagg, 2008, *Dead Reckoning, or On the Impulses of Early Cartographers: Selected Poems*
Emily Peterson, 2008, *Louisiana's Vanishing Wetlands: The Quiet Crisis*
Dalal Al-Abdulrazzak, 2007, *The Distribution of Marine Protected Areas in the United States across Levels of Protection*
Lindsey Franklin, 2007, *Eco-theology, Environmental Consciousness and Action within the Middlebury Faith Community*
Asher Burns-Burg, 2006, *Empowering Environmentalism: A Socioeconomic Analysis of Energy Consumption, Awareness, Attitudes and Actions in Vermont*
Patrick Leibach, 2006, *A National Renewable Portfolio Standard: Lessons from Nevada and Pennsylvania*.

Curricular Opportunities:

- Field study for ES majors takes advantage of the College's location in the Champlain Basin. Classes and independent projects involve Lake Champlain, the Green Mountains, the Taconic Mountains, the Adirondack Mountains, the Otter Creek, and the Champlain Lowlands. ES faculty members and student collaborators also conduct research at sites ranging from Alaska and the Rocky Mountains to Costa Rica and Antarctica.
- Many ES majors have conducted internships with national and regional organizations, including the Boston Museum of Science, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Protection Agency, High Country News, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Northeast Organic Farm Association, Orion Magazine, Sierra Club, U.S. Forest Service, and Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Off-campus Study:

- Approximately 60% of each undergraduate class spends at least one semester studying off-campus by the time of their graduation.
- Over the last six years, ES majors have studied in 35 countries, including Australia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, India, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Nepal, New Zealand, Spain, and Tanzania.
- In recent years, many students have studied off-campus at U.S. programs such as the Center for Northern Studies, Round River Conservation, Sierra Institute, SEA Semester, Washington Semester, and Woods Hole Marine Biological Lab.

Enrichment Activities:

- The weekly Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series brings students, faculty, staff, and members of the community beyond the College together over lunch to hear from a broad range of speakers—students, faculty, alumni, and environmental professionals—on conservation and environmental topics. In addition to helping foster an ES community on campus, students can learn about different environmental careers and develop useful connections.
- The ES Program has recently received significant grants from The Henry Luce Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support initiatives in environmental science, the ES senior program, student-faculty research, study abroad, and environmental studies-international studies linkages.
- The ES Program sponsors the Annual Scott Margolin Lecture in Environmental Affairs. Since its inception in 1988, speakers have included Gus Speth, Gov. Madeline Kunin, Norman Myers, Scott Russell Sanders, William Cronon, Walter Reid, Terry Tempest Williams, David Orr, Stephen Schneider, Joseph Bruchac, Rick Bass, Michael MacCracken, Reed Noss, Lawrence Buell, Michael Dombeck, Paul Ehrlich, Baird Callicott, Eileen Claussen, Michael Mann, and Barry Lopez.
- The ES Program has helped to sponsor a number of conferences and exhibits on campus. These include Spirit and Nature (1990), The Future of the Northern Forest (1992), Sense of Place (1993), Wilderness in the Northeastern Landscape (2000), and Renewal: Perspectives and Possibilities in an Age of Climate Crisis (2005), and The Symposium on Climate Change Research (2008).

Environmental Studies Faculty:

- Fifty-three faculty from 23 departments are affiliated with ES.
- Ten faculty members with training in biology, chemistry, economics, geology, history, literature, political science, and religion have positions shared with the ES Program.
- Environmental faculty and administrators have served on national, state, and local committees including the EPA Technical Outreach to Small Communities, Land Trust Alliance, Northern Forest Lands Council, Step It Up, Vermont Family Forests, Vermont Land Trust, Weybridge Planning Commission, and Wildlands Project.
- ES faculty are active in the governance of a number of professional societies related to their academic disciplines, including the Association of American Geographers, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, National Association of Environmental Professionals, Orion Society, and Society for Conservation Biology.
- Renowned environmental author Bill McKibben holds the position of Scholar in Residence in ES.
- Areas of research interest of ES faculty include bioregionalism, conservation biology and genetics, environmental history of the American West, environmental literature and writing, human ecology, human population issues, poverty and environmental degradation in developing countries, public lands policy, regional impacts of global climate change, sense of place, trace metal contamination, and tropical ecology and geology.

2008-2009 Program Administration:

Kathryn Morse, ES Program Director and Assoc. Professor of History
Nan Jenks-Jay, Dean of Environmental Affairs

ES Staff: Jack Byrne, Director of Office of Sustainability Integration; Diane Munroe, Coordinator for Community Based ES; Janet Wiseman, ES Program Academic Coordinator

Steering Committee: Dan Brayton, Jack Byrne, Molly Costanza-Robinson, John Elder, Rebecca Gould, Jon Isham, Nan Jenks-Jay, Chris McGrory Klyza, Marc Lapin, Nick Muller, Kathryn Morse, Diane Munroe, Pete Ryan and Steve Trombulak

Affiliated Faculty:

Glenn Andres, History of Art and Architecture
Vickie Backus, Biology
David Bain, English and American Literatures
Tom Beyer, Russian
Dan Brayton, English and American Literatures and ES
Pieter Broucke, History of Art and Architecture
Alison Byerly, English and American Literatures
Ray Coish, Geology
Molly Costanza-Robinson, ES and Chemistry
Matt Dickerson, Computer Science
John Elder, English and American Literatures and ES
Miguel Fernandez, Spanish
Rebecca Gould, Religion and ES
Heidi Grasswick, Philosophy
Nadia Horning, Political Science
Jeff Howarth, Geography
Jonathan Isham, Economics and ES
Nan Jenks-Jay, Environmental Studies
Chris McGrory Klyza, Political Science and ES
Anne Knowles, Geography
Matthew Landis, Biology
Marc Lapin, Environmental Studies
Andi Lloyd, Biology
Pat Manley, Geology
Tamar Mayer, Geography
Michelle McCauley, Psychology
Bill McKibben, Environmental Studies
Don Mitchell, English and American Literatures & Film and Media Culture
Thomas Moran, Chinese
Kathryn Morse, History and ES
Nick Muller, Economics and ES
Jeff Munroe, Geology
Peter Nelson, Geography
Charles Nunley, French
Andrea Olsen, Theater and Dance
Lynn Owens, Sociology/Anthropology
Jay Parini, English and American Literatures
Ted Perry, Film and Media Culture
Bob Prigo, Physics
David Rosenberg, Political Science
Peter Ryan, Geology and ES
Sallie Sheldon, Biology
Mike Sheridan, Sociology/Anthropology
Yumna Siddiqi, English and American Literatures
Kathy Skubikowski, English and American Literatures
David Stoll, Sociology/Anthropology
Steve Trombulak, Biology and ES
Jacob Tropp, History
Dave West, Geology
Jay West, Humanities
Kit Wilson, Humanities
Rich Wolfson, Physics
Helen Young, Biology