Help us reach our Goal! MRF operators are standing by…

As we approach the end of the calendar year, our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) staff is feeling anxious. Their mission is to help reduce the College’s waste stream. Their long established goal is to achieve a 60% diversion rate, or better. Last year they were just shy of that goal at 59.1%; an improvement over the 2005 diversion rate of 56.4%, but still a disappointment. “It leaves us Recyclers feeling like, ‘Come on now, man...only .9 of a percent!’”, says one anonymous source.

However, it takes a lot of materials to make up that .9 of a percent, and these folks cannot do it alone. THEY NEED YOUR HELP - and it need not be complicated. Just put your recyclables in the bins conveniently located in every building on campus. If you are walking across campus and have an empty beverage container, carry it to your next destination and toss it in a bin there, instead of one of the outdoor bins of mixed trash. Collectively, these small efforts pay off.

Supervisor of Waste Management Melissa Beckwith is passionate on the subject. “If everyone did their part and we still fell short of the 60%, we could live with that. We could then say that we (as a Community) are doing all we can do with the current system, and then look at other ways to divert waste. Unfortunately, after examining the trash that comes out of many buildings and seeing that the bags of ‘trash’ are full of recyclable materials, we have a long way to go before we have reached the point of ‘doing all we can with what we have.’ It’s like preparing for an exam and getting a grade that was based on someone else's performance. Everyone at the College needs to own their piece of pride when it comes to our sustainability efforts. Here I am specifically talking about recycling. Please join us in our efforts to reach that 60% diversion rate. We know it’s possible; in 2003 we reached 62.8%.”

Remember, faculty and staff are not allowed to bring personal trash to College dumpsters. Your free ride to the landfill and adds weight to our waste stream, taking us further away from our 60% diversion goal.

For information on what is recyclable at the College, please visit our website: http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/recycle/topics/recyclables.htm

2nd Annual Facilities Services All-Department Meeting

Our department gathered in October for our annual “state of the union” review and discussion. Project Manager Jen Bleich treated us to an overview of the Campus Master Plan. There will be an all-Campus Master Plan forum announced at a future date. Project Manager Tom McGinn and Assistant Director Mike Moser discussed the birth of biomass at Middlebury, the general workings of the biomass facility, and the progress of its construction. We recapped the
accomplishments of the past year, recognized new employees who have joined our team, and remembered the adventure known as The Valentine’s Day Blizzard of 2007. Our look at the future included Facilities Services’ role in the Campus Strategic Initiative, approved projects for FY ’08, the completion of a comprehensive department handbook, and a professional analysis of the campus’ physical assets.

In the course of day to day activity, we sometimes forget how far we have come. This annual meeting provides an opportunity to recap the milestones we have reached, show appreciation for the tremendous contributions of our staff, and look forward to the coming year.

**What Else Have We Been Up To?**

Since the close of academic year ‘06/’07 an incredible amount of work has been completed on campus. The highlights:

- **97 Adirondack View** was renovated for use as the new Palana House.
- Exterior stone work, roofing, and office interiors were completed at the **Axinn Center**.
- Ground was broken for the **Biomass** project.
- A boiler replacement in the **Central Heating Plant**.
- The **CFA** costume storage facility was improved.
- **Exterior maintenance** in many areas of campus: masonry, roofing, painting, paving, and grounds improvements.
- An innovative chilled ceiling cooling system was installed at the **Fitness Center**.
- The **Garden for the Seasons** at the College Library was replanted.
- Interior improvements and replacement of the septic system at **Hadley House**.
- The **Hillcrest** renovation was completed, and Environmental Studies faculty moved in.
- **Inspection** and preventative maintenance of all campus fire extinguishers and residential boilers.
- The **men’s soccer field** was upgraded with synthetic turf.
- Renovation of the kitchen and a new heating system for **The Mill**.
- **Nelson** arena was resurfaced for tennis.
- **Proctor tennis courts** were refurbished with new surface, new fence, and expanded play area.
- **110 South Main Street** was renovated as a residence for Panther football and basketball fan, Butch Varno.
- **Steam and water mains** between the Axinn Center and College Library were replaced.
What's Going On Now?

Axinn Center – The Axinn Center project is on schedule for occupancy by the 2008 summer Language School program. The majority of landscape plantings, site lighting, and sidewalks are complete. Soon pedestrians will be able to cross through the site from Porter Field Road to Old Chapel Road.

Biomass – Site work is underway, and Stewart Road is scheduled to reopen during the week of November 19th. Our Landscape Services crew has been temporarily relocated to an office trailer on the outskirts of the athletic fields for the duration of construction. Initial work involves the relocation of underground steam, electric, storm, and sewer lines. Foundations for the addition will be installed over the winter. Completion is scheduled for December 2008. Once in operation the biomass facility will replace 1,000,000 gallons of our current #6 fuel with 20,000 tons of wood chips per year.

Bread Loaf – The Inn has recently received an exterior paint job, and the Homer Noble Farm is being re-roofed.

CFA – All mechanical systems will be inspected and evaluated to ensure they are working as efficiently as they were designed to.

FIC, Hamlin – Construction of a Kosher Kitchen for the new School of Hebrew is in the planning stage.

Field House, Ski Room – The floor has received a coat of epoxy, to which rubberized flooring will soon be added.

Forest – The new Commons kitchenette awaits installation of an exhaust fan, but is otherwise fully functional.

Gifford Annex – Renovation in progress for a Wonnacott Commons multi-use space in the basement.

Sheep Farm Road – The foundation is in place for an additional Facilities Services warehouse. Construction of the building begins soon, with an anticipated February completion.

MRF – Steel framing has been installed for the construction of a mezzanine within the Materials Recovery Facility. The mezzanine will provide 220 square feet of additional storage space where scrap tin will be stored until enough has accumulated for baling. A chute will convey the tin from the mezzanine directly to the baler.
Currently the tin is stored in five 4’ x 4’ x 4’ bins on the floor of the MRF, taking up valuable work space. It takes about a week to accumulate enough tin to make one bale. The bales are about 5.5’ long x 3.5’ wide x 3’ high. Trivia Question: How much does a single bale of tin weigh?

Snow Bowl – The kitchen exhaust system will be modified to improve operation.

Green Bits:

Compost Screening
Another of our past year’s accomplishment was winning an award in the nationwide RecycleMania contest for “Superior Organics Recycling Efforts.” This refers specifically to our composting program. Part of that program is the annual process of “screening” – literally sifting through composted material.

The majority of our composted material is food waste from our dining halls. To that we add horse manure from the Morgan Horse Farm, and wood chips from campus landscaping activities. Screening the material homogenizes it so that it is uniform in size, and well mixed. It also removes any trash and larger particles that may not have had a chance to decompose. Often the horse manure contains rocks, the food waste comes through with miscellaneous plastic, metal, and glass, and the woodchips are larger than ideal for a finished compost product. What is screened off is called “tailings.” Here at Middlebury, we go the extra mile by hand picking any trash from the pile as it comes off the screen. The tailings sit for another year and are screened again. Once the tailings have broken down, they are either used to cover our active compost piles or to create "earthen" berms around the facility.

We screened over 600 yards of compost this year! All of this will be used to fortify our beautiful campus grounds.

Our commercial compost screener in action.

Inter Campus Envelopes
We are too often finding partially used Inter Campus envelopes in our recycling bins. Our recycling crew does their best to rescue envelopes that still have useful life, but each year Mailing Services runs low and must send out an all-campus plea to return envelopes. Please do not recycle inter Campus envelopes until all available address space is used up. If you have an excess of envelopes, please bundle them up and send them to Mailing Services in Forest rather than disposing of them. Students, please leave your inter campus envelopes at the Mail Center.
Trivia* Question:

Over the summer, the exterior of the Old Chapel cupola was painted. We challenged your spatial acuity by asking the height of Old Chapel from ground level to the summit of the weather vane.

Senior psychology major, Matthew Boucher of Atwater Commons submitted an answer after eyeballing a photo of the building. He estimated that the first four stories were about 50 feet high, “then used the tried and true finger-and-thumb-while-squinting method to conclude that the first four stories make up about half the height of Old Chapel.” He then added four feet for the weather vane. The finger-thumb-squint method was surprisingly accurate, bringing Matthew within 3’ of the correct answer. Old Chapel proudly stands at 101’5”.

Matthew is the last proud recipient of our Grille gift certificates. For a change of pace, our new trivia prize is a $5.00 gift certificate to the College Store.

DON’T GO THERE!

Pedestrians and bicyclists, for your own safety (and our peace of mind), please refrain from traveling the roadway between Centeno and the Biomass construction site. This is temporarily a two lane roadway with little room to spare. Please use the sidewalk on the opposite side of the building when traveling to and from main campus to the CFA and athletic facilities. It may in fact be the shortest distance between two points.

*Trivia contest winners receive a $5.00 gift certificate to the College Store. Facilities Services staff members are ineligible to participate in the trivia contest.

Trivia submissions and questions about the information provided may be directed to hovenski@middlebury.edu.

Read past issues of the Facilities Services newsletter at http://www.middlebury.edu/administration/fs/about/newsletters.htm