

Sustainability Committee Updates

By Kellie Kirby with contributions from Amy Crim and John Armstrong

The Division of Student Affairs Sustainability Committee met on March 28th to discuss the development of a Division sustainability logo and the steps our departments are making to become a sustainable Division. Thanks to the hard work of several members of the committee (with outside design help); two logos were submitted for review. One logo is simplified, while the other depicts a holistic view of how the Division can work to become more sustainable. The committee hopes that these logos can be used to visually represent the Division's commitment to sustainability.



Currently, departments within the Division are making efforts to become more environmentally friendly. These efforts will be shared with the Division periodically. Highlights from Residential Life's efforts include:

- Each spring, Residential Operations staff supports the campus-wide Sneaker Recycling Drive by coordinating daily pick-ups of donated sneakers and Mt. Sneaker. These sneakers are donated to Nike who provides an underprivileged community with a walking track made of recycled sneakers.
- During closing, recycling centers are placed out for nonperishable food and old electronics. The food is then weighed and sorted. Averaging about 2,500 pounds of nonperishable food, WHAM from Willimantic distributes the food to area soup kitchens. Electronics in good working order are redistributed through WHAM, while those not in working condition are shipped to a prison for proper recycling and disposal.
- A pilot program is currently underway in one building (Beard) in Hilltop Apartments to install Energy Star front load washers and dryers. Traditional top load machines use 20 gallons to wash and 20 gallons to rinse per load – front load machines use 15.3 gallons total to wash and rinse.
- In the apartment areas (Charter Oak, Hilltop, Northwood) low flow shower heads were installed on showers, which reduces the amount of water used by up to 50%, as well as energy used to heat water.