



Sustain Champlain

**GO GREEN:**  
**Your Guide to**  
**Sustainable Living at**  
**Champlain College**



CHAMPLAIN  
COLLEGE

## Credits

This guidebook was created in the Spring of 2008 by Zach Mangione, of the Vermont Campus Energy Group, (now the former Vermont Campus Sustainability Network) with the assistance of Sarah Cohen, Librarian at Champlain.

The second edition, published in the Fall of 2009 was updated by Christina Erickson, Sustainability Coordinator at Champlain College.

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## Welcome Students!

GO GREEN was created to let you know all about sustainable living at Champlain College. But what does that mean? Sustainability is commonly defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Simply put, it means not using up our resources before they are replenished. It means to be mindful of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of our everyday lives.

GO GREEN contains information that will be useful to you during your life at Champlain and beyond. We've prepared this guide because, whether we're conscious of it or not, everyone is affected by the decisions each of us makes on a daily basis. GO GREEN is by no means an exhaustive guide to college "green living", but is rather a way to get you started.

We hope that whether this guide encourages you to just change a few light bulbs or get fully involved in the sustainability movement on campus, you'll find it worthwhile. Enjoy!

-The Sustain Champlain Team

*This guide is printed on 100%  
post-consumer content paper.*



## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

### Reduce Your Waste

- ✂ **Ask yourself — is this something I really need?** Go for less packaging. Bring your own mug/bottle/bag.

### Reuse

- ✂ **Reuse bags** at the store, glass jars for drinking glasses or as water bottles, and yogurt containers for leftovers.
- ✂ **Collect scrap paper** and make your own notepads.
- ✂ **Donate your unwanted things** to a local charity or thrift store.

### Recycle

- ✂ **Recycle mixed paper and cardboard** (newspapers/ magazines/catalogs, printer paper, envelopes/junk mail, corrugated cardboard, cereal and other food boxes).
- ✂ **Recycle all plastics #1 through #7**, including laundry soap and shampoo bottles.
- ✂ **Recycle glass bottles and jars**, metal food cans, soda and beverage cans.

### Compost

- ✂ **All food scraps** (including meat & dairy) can go into our industrial compost system. Uncoated paper products, pizza boxes, and BPI certified cups & utensils can also be composted

**For a full recycling guide, see [www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net) and please remember to SORT IT OUT!**

*“Every person is the right person to act.  
Every moment is the right moment to begin.”  
- Jonathan Schell, author, Fate of the Earth*

## Save Energy

- ✦ **Turn off lights, electronics and appliances** when they are not being used or if you leave the room for more than 5 minutes. Many appliances (TV, DVD, game consoles, stereos) and chargers (use power even when they are not being used. To stop these appliances and chargers from stealing energy, **plug them into a power strip and turn it off when not in use.**
- ✦ **Screen savers don't save any energy!** Program your computer to enter sleep mode when you are not using it.
- ✦ **Use LED bulbs** in place of incandescent bulbs. LEDs use up to 75% less energy and last 10 times longer. During the day take advantage of natural sunlight.
- ✦ **DON'T open windows and doors to the outside in heated or air-conditioned rooms.** DO put in a SchoolDude work order if you have a heating or cooling problem. For heating set your thermostat to 68° or below to conserve energy.
- ✦ **Use cold water** to wash your clothes ( the “colors” cycle on most campus machines) and hang them to dry when possible.
- ✦ **Unplug and defrost your fridge** when leaving for an extended period of time. Be sure to leave the door open so mold doesn't form inside.

### Did You Know?

- ✦ The Carriage House residence hall utilizes a combined heat and power generator system, which simultaneously generates both heat and electricity, to both improve efficiency and decrease the college's carbon footprint.

## Conserve Water

- ◆ **Do not leave the faucet running** while brushing your teeth, shaving or doing dishes.
- ◆ **Keep your showers short.** Try five minutes or less! You'll conserve both water and energy to heat the water.
- ◆ **Stop the leak!** Put in a SchoolDude work order if you find a leak. A leaky faucet can waste over 200 gallons of water a year.
- ◆ **Tap into Champlain.** Producing bottled water uses vast amounts of energy and resources and creates millions of pounds of waste. Here in Burlington, we are fortunate that Lake Champlain provides us with clean, healthy drinking water (which is far less expensive than bottled water). Most buildings at Champlain have water fountains or water refill stations.

### Did You Know?

- ◆ Both the IDX Gymnasium and Perry Hall have “green roofs” carpeted with plants which retain storm water runoff and provides building insulation.

*“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.” - ancient proverb*

## Ecological Eating

- ❶ **Not too much:** Be conscious of portion size in order to reduce waste.
- ❷ **Eat food that is produced, processed or distributed by Vermont companies.** Eating locally supports the Vermont economy and reduces energy for transportation.
- ❸ **Eat lower on the food chain** by sampling some vegetarian options. Meat production can be energy, resource and pollution intensive.
- ❹ **Avoid using disposable cutlery and dinnerware.** Bring your own and opt for reusable items.
- ❺ **Eat organic.** Organic food is grown without toxic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- ❻ **Compost** your food waste.

### Did You Know?

- ❶ Champlain College purchases most of its produce from Black River Produce. Black River partners with Vermont's farmers, food producers and chefs to preserve Vermont's rural identity and its working farms. Champlain is also a member of the Vermont Fresh Network, a partnership between chefs & farmers.

*“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself.  
Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the  
air and giving fresh strength to our people.”  
- Franklin D. Roosevelt*


## Sustainable Purchasing

- 💰 **Support local Vermont businesses** by shopping at locally owned shops and buying locally produced products.
- 💰 **Reduce waste** by bringing your own reusable bags. Some stores offer donations to local organizations for every bag you do not use.
- 💰 **Purchase durable and reusable products** rather than disposable single-use items.
- 💰 **Purchase items that use minimal packaging and/or purchase in bulk.**
- 💰 **Look for products that contain recycled contents** (especially paper).
- 💰 **Shop at local second-hand and thrift stores.** Buying secondhand keeps items out of the landfill and conserves natural resources.
- 💰 **Bring your own mug.** Save trees and money. Many cafés offer discounts for using your own mug.
- 💰 **Purchase fair-trade products.** Fair-trade certified products pay producers a fair price and promote strong social and environmental standards.

*“Man did not weave the web of life, he is a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.” - Chief Seattle*



## Enjoying The World Around Us

-  The Intervale Center is great for exploring and has over 350 acres of organic farmland, trails, wildlife corridor, native plant nursery and a compost facility. Info: [www.intervale.org](http://www.intervale.org)
-  The Island Line is a 14-mile recreational trail that spans from Oakledge Park along the Burlington Greenway on to the Colchester Causeway three miles into the middle of the lake! Info: [www.localmotion.org](http://www.localmotion.org)
-  Burlington Parks: Burlington has more than 10 parks. Popular destinations are Leddy Park, North Beach, and Waterfront Park all along Lake Champlain. Burlington also has a free skate park down near the waterfront.
-  Cycle the City: This loop tour showcases the history, culture, and natural splendor of Burlington. You'll pass by Lake Champlain, the Winooski River and countless other interesting sites. Info: [www.champlainbikeways.org](http://www.champlainbikeways.org)
-  Outside Burlington: The Green Mountains in Vermont and the Adirondacks in New York make great playgrounds for hiking, skiing, climbing and anything else.

*“Take long walks in stormy weather or through deep snow in the fields and the woods, if you would keep your spirits up.”*  
- Henry David Thoreau

## Getting Around



### Walk, Bike, Board, and Bus

Most of Burlington can be easily accessed on foot. Walking is a great way to get around campus as well as downtown. If on a board, please wear your helmet.



Burlington is a bike-friendly town, with many bike paths and designated lanes. When riding your bike please remember to obey all traffic laws, wear a helmet and always lock your bike securely to a rack. Need a bike? Try the GreenRide bikes! [greenridebikeshare.com](http://greenridebikeshare.com)

### Getting around campus

Free campus shuttle buses run daily to Lakeside/Gilbane, Central Campus, and 194 Saint Paul Street. Check out the current schedule at [shuttle.champlain.edu](http://shuttle.champlain.edu)




### Getting around Burlington

Champlain students, staff, and faculty can ride the local city buses for FREE! Bus service on the GMT can get you downtown, to the Airport and beyond. Simply swipe your student I.D. to board the bus. Schedules are available at [ridegmt.com](http://ridegmt.com)



Still need a car? Try CarShare Vermont! With vehicles located on main campus, 194 Saint Paul Street, and many other locations across the city, students can get FREE memberships. See [carsharevt.org](http://carsharevt.org) for more info.

### Did You Know?

 Bicycle Benefits rewards cyclists for their commitment to healthy transportation with discounts at local businesses. [bicyclebenefits.org](http://bicyclebenefits.org)

## Get Involved

- 🧠 **Center for Service and Sustainability** offers a number of programs to address community needs through service-learning and other one-time opportunities. [champlain.edu/service](http://champlain.edu/service)
- 🧠 **Sustain Champlain** is a campus-wide initiative that strives to infuse sustainability concepts and practices throughout Champlain College by coordinating and promoting best practices within four areas: our institution, academics, operations and culture. [champlain.edu/sustain](http://champlain.edu/sustain)
- 🧠 The Champlain College **Eco-Reps** are a group of students whose focus is to create a campus culture of environmental stewardship. [champlain.edu/ecoreps](http://champlain.edu/ecoreps)
- 🧠 The **Green Revolving Fund** is an investment fund that finances energy efficiency, renewable energy and other sustainability projects on campus. Any Champlain community member can propose a project to be funded. [champlain.edu/greenfund](http://champlain.edu/greenfund)
- 🧠 **The Champlain Apiary** offers students the opportunity to learn about and work with bees. [champlain.edu/bees](http://champlain.edu/bees)
- 🧠 The **Student Government Association** is home to student clubs and organizations. New clubs are created each year to align with student interests. [champlain.edu/sga](http://champlain.edu/sga)

## Resources

- ① **Sustain Champlain**  
[champlain.edu/sustain](http://champlain.edu/sustain)
- ① **Burlington Dept. of Parks & Recreation**  
[enjoyburlington.com](http://enjoyburlington.com)
- ① **Burlington Electric Company**  
[burlingtonelectric.com](http://burlingtonelectric.com)
- ① **CarShare Vermont**  
[carsharevt.org](http://carsharevt.org)
- ① **CSWD (Chittenden Solid Waste District)**  
[cswd.net](http://cswd.net)
- ① **Green Mountain Transit**  
[ridegmt.com/](http://ridegmt.com/)
- ① **Greenride Bikeshare**  
[greenridebikeshare.com](http://greenridebikeshare.com)
- ① **Intervale Center**  
[intervale.org](http://intervale.org)
- ① **Local Motion**  
[www.localmotion.org](http://www.localmotion.org)
- ① **ReSource**  
[resourcevt.org](http://resourcevt.org)
- ① **Vermont Fresh Network**  
[www.vermontfresh.net](http://www.vermontfresh.net)

