

SUSTAINABILITY ALUMNI NETWORK

CREATED BY ALUMNI OF BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, GOSHEN COLLEGE,
BETHEL COLLEGE & EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY

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BEYOND COAL AT GC

United with a vision for social justice and clean energy, Goshen College's EcoPax and the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign are working together to influence change locally, nationally, and globally.

Started in 2010 by the Sierra Club, the Beyond Coal Campaign is using people power to demand the retirement of coal-fired power plants by 2030 and encourage renewable energy production. Through the work of passionate, local people, nearly half of the targeted coal-fired power plants have been closed or with planned retirement dates. EcoPax, the student-led club which promotes environmental justice and sustainability at GC, is joining together with the local branch of the Beyond Coal Campaign in Michigan City, IN to close the Michigan City and Schafer generating stations.

"I think that Goshen College has already done a lot of good work in reducing the

amount of energy we use and becoming more sustainable, but I think GC students and the institution have to enter into more direct advocacy efforts regarding energy policy," says Ben Wiebe, one of the EcoPax leaders. Wiebe also acknowledges the ability for the campaign to support marginalized communities in the region, who are literally paying the price (both economically and health-wise) from polluting power plants.

EcoPax has been focused on educating the Goshen community about the climate, health, and economic consequences of mining and burning coal by hosting a screening of the documentary From the Ashes to establish background knowledge on the crisis and inviting Ashley Williams, a member of the Michigan City Beyond Coal Campaign, to speak about the 22 "Super Polluters" in the US (including the Schafer generating station in this region).



Now, the emphasis is on the action. A great time for local alumni to get involved is on Friday March 23rd in Merrillville, IN where NIPSCO is holding a meeting on their 20-Year Energy Plan to get public feedback on the plan. Beyond Coal is planning on sharing their position and there is always power in numbers!

Not local? No problem--join the movement from wherever you are! The Beyond Coal Campaign is a national campaign, so there may be a local chapter near you. To get yourself up to speed on coal-fired power plants, see the resources on the fourth page.

As similarly passionate people: "It is time to fully reckon with where our power is coming from and how our values and convictions should interact with that reality."

Ellen Conrad, GC '17



ALUMNI FEATURE TYLER ESHLEMAN TAOS, NEW MEXICO

Tyler studied Peacebuilding and Development at EMU, while also focusing studies on permaculture design and horticulture. Originally from Harrisonburg, VA, Tyler has been living in Taos, New Mexico for the past two years while working for the Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT), a small nonprofit engaging in sustainability and Creation justice locally, regionally, and nationally.

In Tyler's time at EMU, he provided leadership to bring back the extinct Sustainable Food Initiative (SFI), the student group tasked with campus garden, chicken, and edible landscaping maintenance. During this process, the club went from a disbanded body to gathering funding from various departments and sources on campus and around Harrisonburg to fund student workers to maintain the gardens and food production systems year-round. SFI began to provide locally grown food to students on campus, as well as faculty/staff, the Caf, and other community members--even a restaurant down the street! Today, SFI has continued to grow and now provides food to students at no cost, and encourages students to care and get engaged with the food systems on campus.

Service and Formation openings in Taos, New Mexico

Seeking a more earth-honoring, people-dignifying way of life? So are we. In the desert mountain community of Taos, NM, the Taos Initiative for Life Together (TiLT)'s CADRE program seeks to empower young adults to be agents of change in this moment of unprecedented social and ecological challenges--and opportunities--through community living, homesteading, spiritual reflection, activism, and wilderness adventure. Are you ready?

Visit <http://www.taostilt.org/TiLT-Initiatives/cadre.html> for further information and send inquiries to toddwynward@gmail.com!

Since being at TiLT, Tyler has engaged in high-desert homesteading and agriculture. His work has allowed him to become involved in food justice networks, focusing on inequality around land and water rights as they relate to historical harms between varying economic and political groups in the southwest. Through TiLT, he has engaged in education programs in fields of permaculture and restorative justice, as well as other aspects of community building and development. Tyler's work has him in schools and on farms to work with people of all ages, writing and teaching curriculum to help us all better understand our body's connection to the Earth.

Tyler's next move is heading to Alaska to continue work with land and agriculture justice through farming, education, and policy-level work.

It is Tyler's hope and passion to help others find their own passions--that thing that is tugging on your heart--and to be able to have the resources and ability to pursue it. Whether that's working on a farm, as a teacher, working with policy, organizing social movements--whatever--take a risk. Be bold. Apply for that job you think you have no chance of getting that's halfway across the country. You may be surprised at what happens next.



ca·dre

n. /'kadrē,'kād,rā/ 1. A small group of people specially trained for a particular purpose. 2. A group of activists in a revolutionary organization. Synonyms: body, team, nucleus, core.

EARTH WEEK AT BETHEL COLLEGE

The week before Earth Day (April 22nd), FemCore and the Environmental Action Club are teaming up to sponsor a series of events designed to help Bethel students grow in awareness of the ways that they interact with their natural environment.

From Monday to Friday, different residence halls will be competing to use the least amount of water. On Wednesday evening, students will be invited to go on a trash walk around campus and along the Chisolm Trail, picking up debris as they go. The hope with these two events is to help students understand the ways in which they can both negatively and positively affect the ecosystems they depend on.

THURSDAY NIGHT SPOTLIGHT AT BU

Each week at Bluffton different student-run orgs and clubs get the opportunity to host a Thursday Night Spotlight to bring awareness to their club on campus as a way to get more students involved. This week Sustainability Club is hosting the event and we have decided to make smoothies and share a Ted talk with students. We have done smoothies in the past in coordination with a Tedtalk about composting. This time the Tedtalk will be about recycling followed by a brief discussion in order to hopefully improve recycling practices on campus by making people more aware of what they can and cannot recycle. We are hoping to host a recycling challenge next month around Earth Day and are using this event as a precursor to that so then students will already have some idea as to what they can be recycling! The smoothies this time around have no direct correlation, but who doesn't love a free smoothie??

Taylor Lewis, BU '18



Photo courtesy of BC's Kauffman Museum

On Friday afternoon, students and community members will have the opportunity to pot their own native prairie flowers and take them home with them. These annual species are relatively short-lived, however if transplanted they could propagate and help to improve the habitat for pollinators. Each pot will come with information about the species concerning its ecological role, the relationship that it has had with humans, as well as instructions for care. The design of the event is to help people come to know their flowers in a way they might not have otherwise, and through that, to strengthen or develop an appreciation for native prairie species and ecosystems.

Westen Gesell, BC '18



SOLAR PROJECTS UPDATE

EMU - Fundraising going very well, nearly to \$11,000 out of \$12,000 needed to secure matching grants- still looking at end of April. Visit emu.edu/crowdfunding/solar-project-2018 to learn more.

GC - A collaboration between GC and College Mennonite Church has led to a 924-panel solar project, installed this month. The panels will be the first installed on campus, and will allow the Chapel to rely solely on renewable energy.

"Beyond Coal" cont.

Additional resources:

Super Polluters

12 minute documentary by the Weather Channel focusing on SW Indiana, where four Super Polluter facilities exist in close proximity to each other - can be found on YouTube

From The Ashes

Documentary by National Geographic on what is at stake for our climate, health, and economy if we continue to mine and use coal - can be found on National Geographic's website

Blood on the Mountain

Documentary about the atrocities committed by the coal industry on miners and local communities in Appalachia - can be found on Netflix

CONTACTS



facebook.com/groups/SustainabilityAlumniNetwork



Want to join SAN? Fill out this form: bit.ly/2DJQ6ui



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