

Sustainability in St Louis

This article will focus on sustainability efforts within the St Louis Area. This is just a brief introduction to what several organizations, business and universities in St Louis are doing to become more efficient and sustainable. The Universities located in St Louis are all using newer technology to address the global warming and energy conservation.

1. **Washington University in St Louis** which has accepted Sustainability as a challenge and is working to reduce its use of energy and resources to the level it had in 1990. All new buildings at WUSTL will be LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified and updates in older buildings will implement energy conservation measures including newer more energy efficient lighting, etc. Several Departments at WUSTL are focused on Sustainability and Energy Conservation including the Washington University's Tyson Research Center. Sustainability at WUSM (Medical Center) is working with Individuals and Laboratories to save energy, recycle and conserve. They have created the Power of One to emphasize simple steps that individuals can do to reduce, recycle and reuse. All WUSTL staff and students are encouraged to use Metrolink/buses with the free WUSTL Metrolink pass. Water fountains have been adapted to permit the filling of reusable water bottles. WUSTL has just added a new master's program in Sustainability.

2. **Saint Louis University** is the first and only Jesuit institution of higher learning with a center for sustainability and offers a master's program focused entirely on sustainability. The Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University is focused on developing creative, collaborative solutions to the urgent environmental challenges facing society through innovative academic programming, applied research, and regional outreach opportunities. They also have a pledge for individual staff and student to take to be more sustainable in their daily lives.

3. **AT&T** is also working to generate less energy required and to be a more sustainable corporate company in St Louis. AT&T is deeply committed to environmental sustainability. Their environmental sustainability commitment is based on three tenants: minimizing their Environmental Impact, connecting people and business, and leading innovation and technology. AT&T is committed to harnessing technology and innovation to develop forward-looking technologies that meet environmental needs in unique ways.

Remember each individual can save significant energy drain by unplugging your phone recharger when not charging your cell phone battery.

4. **The Alberici Corporate Headquarters** utilized a Brownfield site to build its Corporate Headquarters as the first Platinum [LEED building in Missouri](http://www.alberici.com) (<http://www.alberici.com>) The company's leader had the vision and commitment to construct the headquarters echoing the highest platinum certification standards of US Green Building Council's (USGBC) 'Leadership

in Energy and Environment Design' (LEED). Alberici construction converted a 50 year old manufacturing facility into a class-A office space which is a model of sustainable design and construction, locally as well as internationally. In addition to the cost savings engendered by sustainable construction practices, the decision to construct a green building with highest standards was also fueled by the organization's hope to attract employees who share similar values of environmental consciousness. The building thus stands as a symbol of organization's philosophy of reducing its carbon footprint as well as initiating a culture change within the organization where responsible business practices become a part of life.

5. The Missouri Botanical Garden's carbon footprint was reduced by 25% while generating a 20% savings in utility costs over the past 10 years. Heating, cooling and lighting systems have been upgraded. Equipment such as computers and copiers meet energy efficiency certifications. All buildings are closely monitored to adjust temperatures when they are unoccupied and solar energy has been installed in some locations to produce clean energy. These actions have saved money and reduced pollution associated with producing energy. The Garden hopes to further reduce their carbon footprint by another 10% in 2011. For example, plans are in place to install equipment to reduce the energy used by vending machines and add insulation to the new skylight in Ridgway Center. Kitchen equipment in Sassafras will be upgraded and more solar energy is being installed. Garden vehicles and other electric and gas powered equipment are being evaluated to seek low emission replacements. They are starting a new campaign to address the 40 to 50% of the Garden's electrical use to operate computers, copiers, printers, coffee spots which are often left on and running when not needed so are focusing on a **Turn It Off campaign!**

We have presented only a few of the sustainable efforts in the St Louis region. We can learn from both WUSTL and SLU who are engaging their students and staff to take the individual steps to decrease consumption, recycle, reduce and conserve – the power of one! We will look at steps that we as individuals can take to reduce our impact on the planet at the March Units. Come to be informed and discuss ways that we can help the earth.

Come to the March Units to participate in a discussion on small steps that can help our environment. Visit the LWVSTL webpage for helpful resources and additional information: LWV Natural Resource Positions, links to LWVUS Global Warming, articles on Sustainability from the ILR, etc. If you cannot make it to a Unit Meeting – please visit the webpage to complete the questionnaire. The unit with the most sustainable average will receive recognition at the Annual Meeting and have homemade treats for the April Unit Meeting. Please visit the webpage prior to your Unit Meeting. Kellye Markowski with the help of Marilyn Werner and Anna are trying to arrange a CFL distribution at the Unit Meetings, Annual Meeting and perhaps the State Convention. Stay tuned!

