

Project Green Challenge: Day 17

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CHALLENGE

Look back at the PGC challenges from days 1-18 and consider these themes in the context of your campus. How is your school performing? In what areas is it excelling? Where is there room for improvement?

My School: Alfred State College

1. Day 14 Meatless Monday- Grade A+: Here at my school they take into consideration the many different lifestyle eating habits of their students. At our central dining hall, they have many options every day and all meals of the day for vegans, vegetarians, people with different food allergies. My school even goes a step further and has a nutritionist on staff to take orders for people with special requests when it comes to what they eat. This is mostly only offered in the central dining hall to improve maybe have more options for vegans and vegetarians at every food service around campus.
2. Day 13 Food Waste- Grade C: Here on campus we have a system known as meal swipes, and each student depending on the plan they buy (which are all really expensive). Each student has a certain number of swipes per week the most common is 14 meal swipes a week (\$2,535 per semester). If you don't use all of your swipes then you are essentially losing money you can't get back. So many students use their swipes and load their plates with tons of food to get the best of what they are paying but, in the end, they waste a lot of food by throwing most of their large meals away unable to finish. To improve this the school should implement just the dining dollars plan which is placing amount of money on your student ID say \$450 of dining dollars and you can use that whenever you want throughout the entire semester, that way students don't feel like they have to get meals to make up for the expense and plus it would save a student over \$2,000.
3. Day 11 Fashion- Grade A-: Here on campus we have many sororities and one sorority in particular, Delta Chi Omega and they have this project that they have been running for many years called project prom. This project is where many of the sorority girls go to dress stores and see if they would donate dresses that are no longer able to be sold at their stores (due to minor damages or just displayed dresses not for sale). They also ask other

teenagers to donate some of their old prom dresses. They sort out the dress by size and every year let teenagers getting ready for their formals come in try on dresses and take one home, for free. The school does a great job advertising this project and its big event every year. To improve upon the idea of upcycling Alfred should open a thrift/upcycling store on campus to advocate more for this effort.

4. Day 10 Social Justice-Grade A: Here on campus our school allows any student to create a club or organization and through many of the clubs here there are movements. A couple of weeks ago I saw a lot of sidewalk art all around campus and the messages were to stop cat calling around campus. I think this campus does a great job in letting the students have voices.
5. Day 2 Footprint- Grade B-: Here on campus there are many efforts of trying to make this school more sustainable off of natural energy. We have our own windmill that generates power and we also have solar power throughout parts of the school. The one thing I think we could use work on is cutting down on the electricity we use building and lights inside remain on all day and sometimes into the night, to help improve that we should turn off lights every time a room is not in use.