

Name: Koleigh Vachereau
Username: Koleighvachereau
Email: koleighvachereau@gmail.com
School: University of Vermont

Day 17 greener

Food Waste

Grade: C+

For this PGC theme my school is performing well from the sustainability perspective. They have compost bins all over campus as well as trash and recycling. Food places on campus are using sustainable packaging like compostable silverware and to-go boxes. Any food left over in the dining hall goes to the workers or compost. In the areas where they could improve is when it comes to how it effects the community. Often times most of this food waste just goes to compost but doesn't help out the college students or the families around our community. If it goes to JUST compost, that is great but there is a huge population of food insecure people. The waste that goes in the compost could be donated as well.

Meatless Monday

Grade: A

My school is performing extremely well in this category. Due to students' high demands through many meetings and conversations my school finally as of last year, 2018 began Meatless Mondays. In most of the dining halls there are meatless options that are wonderful and follow the FLOSN criteria. Because of health conditions they still have meat products available on hand upon request and certain dining halls still serve meat but majority 95% of the campus has meatless options every Monday. The room for improvement I would suggest is that they do wonderful pasta dishes and stir fry for meatless options, but they should explore other cuisines and foods to try out that are meatless. People on campus want variety.

Organic

Grade: B

My school has great local organic options that are readily available for students on hand at all times at all dining places. It is performing well at meeting the mission of having organic ingredients. They lack the education for people to continue to be organic and how to do it on a budget. Often times our school forgets about the lower-middle class incomes so people eat organic on campus and then go back home to eat unhealthily. There also should be places on campus where people can buy food other than take out for organic items that are not just snacks or sandwiches. For example, a small market or grocery store.

Water

Grade: B

Our campus has a strong area with reducing its water consumption daily. Installed in every building are hand air dryers in the bathroom. Some buildings have paper towels, but they are from recycled paper. My school has also decided to stop carrying single-use plastic water bottles on campus to encourage people to carry a reusable water bottle. They have several water fillings stations. Other than that, they also have the low-flow toilets where you can choose to flush for pee or poop. In the resident halls they also have low flow showers. Where they can improve upon the water consumption is with the fountains. The fountains are constantly running water which leads to millions of wasted gallons of water a year. Though it is pretty it is a waste of water.

Social Justice

Grade: A

My school, the University of Vermont is well known for its social justice and being a very “green” and ecofriendly school. So, when any injustice happens when it comes to the environment at school and being sustainable students are always willing to speak up and make the administration change things fast. We see this through the composting initiative, the reduction of plastic water bottles on campus as well as low flow toilets and more! Our school led the Climate Strike March in Vermont by bringing the most people to protest this issue. We also have protests around campus all the time about pressuring our administration to divest in fossil fuels and invest in green energy. This is such a hot topic at my school they might do a sit in and shut the executive office down. Where I think my school could improve on is the education of people when an issue like this arises and how to protest. Often people are only protesting for a rise in popularity, to fit in or to just be part of a social media post. People often are forgetting the message that people are bringing to the table and want to do it for popularity.