

2007

Macalester Sustainability Tour brochure 2007

Macalester College Sustainability Office

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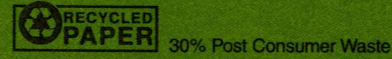
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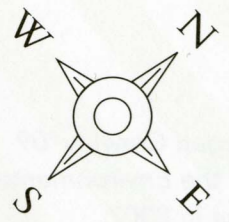
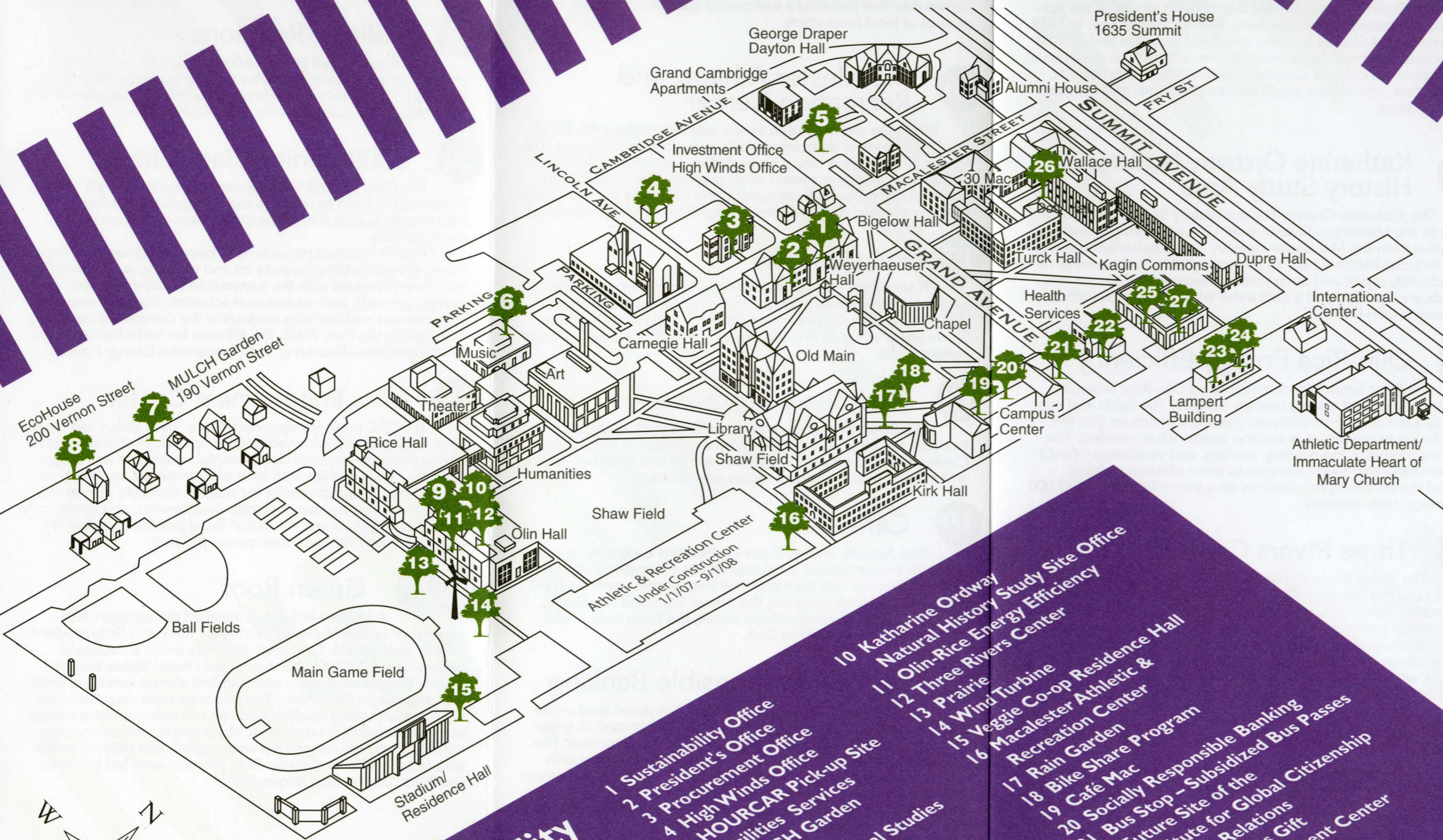


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 MACALESTER COLLEGE

Macalester Sustainability Tour



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1 Sustainability Office

Sustainability manager Suzanne Savanick Hansen (shansen2@macalester.edu), hired in 2008, supports Macalester's sustainability efforts. She works with both operational and academic parts of the college and manages the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. A new sustainability website was introduced in the spring of 2008 at <http://www.macalester.edu/sustainability>.

2 President's Office

Macalester College has taken a leadership role in sustainability for higher education. In 2000, President McPherson signed the Talloires Declaration, the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. In 2007, President Rosenberg signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which commits us to make a plan to become climate neutral (i.e. no net greenhouse gas emissions).

3 Procurement Office

The Procurement Office seeks to provide the college with sustainable purchasing alternatives that are economically viable and that meet the socially equitable and environmental values of the college. The office has been working to showcase environmentally preferable options available from office-supply vendors. The office is assisted by a sustainability procurement intern.

4 High Winds Fund & HOURCAR

The High Winds Fund is engaged in numerous neighborhood partnerships that support the livability of the neighborhoods surrounding the campus. To promote living near work, the fund provides financial assistance for staff who purchase houses within one mile from campus by offering matching grants up to \$3,000 for home improvement projects. In addition, High Winds provided financing to establish an HOURCAR hub across the street from campus. HOURCAR is a pay-by-the-hour car share program.

6 Facilities Services

Facilities Services has shown significant leadership in implementing sustainability projects involving campus buildings and grounds. Some of the many projects include green building projects, energy efficiency projects, and managing the Zero Waste committee. Recycling started in the 1970s at Macalester and continues to this day.

In 2007, Facilities Services changed the paper towels and toilet paper used on campus to 70% recycled post-consumer waste, Green Seal certified, and non-chlorine bleached products, saving Macalester about \$15,000 a year in purchasing costs. In association with the Clean Energy Revolving Fund (CERF), Facilities Services has renovated several campus houses with more efficient fixtures and blown insulation. In 2008, all 32W 4-foot fluorescent bulbs on campus were replaced with 25W bulbs, which emit a similar amount of light but use a third less energy. This project alone has projected savings of \$30,000 annually.

7 MULCH

MULCH, Macalester Urban Land and Community Health, is a student group with a mission to educate Macalester and the surrounding community about urban agriculture, environmental justice, food, and gardening. MULCH maintains a garden on the Macalester campus and provides fresh produce to Café Mac, the campus cafeteria.

8 EcoHouse

Macalester's EcoHouse is a student residence, renovated to be more sustainable and to provide student research opportunities. The house has a range of green features including sustainable insulation, energy-efficient appliances, wise water use, solar-thermal water heating, worm farm composting, and use of recycled materials.

9 Environmental Studies Department

The Environmental Studies Department serves as the academic cornerstone of sustainability work at the college. In 1973 Environmental Studies became an official program and in 2004 it became an official department of the college. The department has supported campus sustainability through classes, events, newsletters, internships, study abroad programs, and campus-wide projects.

10 Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area

The Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area is adjacent to the Mississippi River in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, 17 miles from the Macalester campus. It was established in 1967 and includes habitats such as tall grass prairie, oak savannah and woodlands, aspen and birch forests, seasonal and permanent ponds and springs, and a backwater lake. The campus office for Ordway is Olin-Rice 217.

11 Olin-Rice Energy Efficiency

Facilities Services recommissioned Olin-Rice Science Center, the largest energy user on campus. The lights and vent hoods were placed on occupancy sensors to ensure that the building is only heating or cooling spaces when needed. The electric motors in the heating, cooling, and ventilation (HVAC) system have also been changed to more efficient variable speed drives. These adjustments save the college over \$70,000 in energy costs annually.

12 Three Rivers Center

The Three Rivers Center at Macalester offers opportunities to use the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers in innovative curricula, student-faculty research collaborations, and community partnerships. The center is a place where various disciplines can explore issues such as urban development, natural preservation, water quality protection, and public access. The center, which was awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is housed in the Environmental Studies office.

13 Prairie

Prairies once covered more than a third of Minnesota. The prairie recreated here was established in 2004 by students and alumnus Tom Ibsen '93 based on an idea from an environmental studies senior seminar. The area includes 70 species of upland and lowland prairie plants that provide food and shelter for animals and butterflies. Prairie plants are low-maintenance perennials that are adapted to the Minnesota climate. The planting helps to slow and neutralize pollutants flowing from the parking lot into the storm drain leading directly into the Mississippi River.

14 Wind Turbine

Macalester installed a 10kW Urban Wind Turbine in 2003, thanks to that year's senior class gift. Despite its small size, it is an important project for studying urban renewable energy applications. It creates enough electricity to power an average house.

15 Veggie Co-op

The Veggie Co-op, located on the second floor of the stadium, houses 20 Macalester students. Co-op members buy and prepare all of their food in an effort to live as sustainably and cooperatively as possible. The co-op strives to be an intentional community that provides a welcoming space for exploring the politics of food production.

16 Macalester Athletic and Recreation Center

When the old recreation center was demolished, 93.3% of the 15,171 tons of demolition waste was reused or recycled. The former field house is now a horse stable, and other building materials were reused in several other projects. The college hired sustainability consultants to assist in the design of the new building, and the final design promotes significant energy reductions.

17 Rain Garden

A small rain garden infiltrates storm water on the north-east side of the library. Rain gardens are planted depressions designed to absorb rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Storm water will soak into the ground instead of running off into surface water.

18 Bike Share Program

MacBike's Bike Share program allows students and staff to check out bicycles from the information desk in the Campus Center for up to a week. The bikes are free and a helmet, lock, and map of Twin Cities bike routes are included.

19 Café Mac

Bon Appétit, the food service that runs Café Mac, is a leader in environmental accountability and incorporating sustainability objectives into their business through programs such as the Seafood Watch program, the annual Eat Local Challenge, the biannual 100% compostable picnic, the Farm to Fork program, and the Low Carbon Diet.

20 Socially Responsible Banking

The Institute for Global Citizenship has developed a relationship with University Bank, a local bank committed to green lending, green banking, and neighborhood development. The college has invested a portion of our financial resources with University Bank. Students are involved in environmental research with the bank, and an ATM in the Campus Center provides an opportunity for Macalester community members to participate in the Socially Responsible Investment Fund.

21 Bus Stop-Subsidized Bus Passes

Subsidized bus passes are sold at half price to the Macalester community at the information desk in the Ruth Stricker Dayton Campus Center. This program, designed to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions from commuting, is part of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, signed recently by President Brian C. Rosenberg.

22 Institute for Global Citizenship

The Institute for Global Citizenship building is designed to meet the Platinum Level of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. LEED is a green building rating system promoted by the Green Building Council; platinum is the highest rating possible. The design for this building includes green building attributes such as native landscaping, daylighting, indoor air quality, and energy efficiency.

23 College Relations

Publications staff within College Relations are helping offices across the college to plan greener publications and are working with the sustainability manager and Procurement Office to establish new guidelines for sustainable printing.

24 2008 Senior Class Gift

The Class of 2008 has directed its senior class gift to a Sustainability Fund to advance the college's environmental initiatives including climate-neutrality, zero-waste, and clean-energy efforts.

Student-initiated projects have been instrumental in implementing sustainability projects on and off campus. Students have been involved with the sustainable buildings, as well as energy, grounds, and educational activities. Students also work on numerous sustainability projects in the community including redesigning the Ford Plant, the Alliance for Re-Industrialization for a Sustainable Economy, and Cooperative Energy Futures.

25 Civic Engagement Center

The CEC provides opportunities to learn about and experience engaged and informed citizenship. Values of sustainability are implemented in both departmental operations and program offerings. Relationships with local environmental organizations are nurtured as opportunities for student research, off-campus student employment (work-study), volunteering, and community-based learning courses. An Action Fund provides funding for students' entrepreneurial community projects.

26 Green Roof

A student-led group installed the college's first green roof on the "fishbowl" between Turck and Doty residence halls in spring 2006. Later that year they wrote a successful proposal for a \$10,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and installed a more extensive green roof atop Kagin Commons. The plantings used on green roofs reduce heating and cooling loads on a building, reduce energy use, and reduce the urban heat island effect, while increasing roof life span, reducing storm water runoff, and filtering pollutants out of the air and water. Both projects were led by Alese Colehour '09 and Ellie Rogers '09.

This tour was first designed by Megan Crawley '09 and Andrew Meeker '09 as a part of the Environmental Leadership Practicum course in 2007.