

# THE ECO MOSQUITO

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS AND EVENTS AT HSPH AND BEYOND

ISSUE 4, NOVEMBER 2012

The days are getting shorter, and at some point this month we'll find ourselves in that relatively dull place between the brilliance of autumn and the beauty of a winter wonderland. This November, surround yourself with friends and family and indulge in delicious, healthy food, and you'll have plenty to be thankful for!

## Harvard Backs Up Claims of Green Superiority with Cold, Hard Numbers

We at HSPH appreciate good data. Yes, we may be momentarily impressed by pretty pictures and witty writing, but we all know that it's the data behind it that counts. Last month, we told you that Harvard is one of the leading "green universities" in the world. This month, we want to show you the numbers to back that up. The Office for Sustainability recently released the first ever Sustainability Impact Report online at [green.harvard.edu](http://green.harvard.edu). It gives a university-wide snapshot of the progress that has been made by students, staff, and faculty to reduce the environmental footprint of Harvard's campus. Through interactive graphs, stories, and infographics, the report shows that sustainable initiatives have helped Harvard to improve health, reduce operational costs, increase efficiency and conserve resources. Here are a couple of our favorite facts from the report:

- Harvard University has 78 LEED green building project certifications, more than any other higher education institution in the world!
- The amount of trash created every day per person has dropped 60% since 1996 to .84 pounds per person per day, thanks to our reuse and donation events, single-stream recycling, construction and demolition waste diversion, composting, and electronic waste programs.



## GREEN TIPSTER

Never have an inter-office envelope when you need one? That's probably due to the fact that more inter-office mail flows to the administrative offices at 90 Smith Street than leaves it, and they've ended up with an abundance of your precious yellow envelopes. So, before you waste money ordering new ones, stop by the lobby of 90 Smith Street to pick some up. If you don't feel like walking over, send an email to the Green Team at [ecoop@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ecoop@hsph.harvard.edu) and we'll send you a bundle. Through inter-office mail, of course.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, HSPH and the Medical School both switched to reusable sharps and biohazard boxes in labs, instead of disposable cardboard and plastic boxes. In 2010, at



HMS alone, the program saved 11,000 disposable boxes from being thrown in the trash. How can we improve our use of the Reusable Bioboxes here at HSPH?

## Does Your Office Have What It Takes...?

...To become Green Office certified? Chances are, you're closer to earning this distinction than you think! To become a Green Office, you will need to meet certain sustainability standards set forth in an easy-to-follow online checklist. You can earn one to four leaves, depending on how green you want to get. Leaf One is a very attainable level for all HSPH offices, and includes steps such as shutting off computers and lights when not in use, and making sure recycling bins are available in your office. There are 145 recognized Green Offices at Harvard, but only 5 of them are at HSPH. We can do better! All the information you need can be found at [green.harvard.edu/green-office](http://green.harvard.edu/green-office)



## DON'T MISS THIS!

We love November because we get not one, but two long weekends. Thank you, Veterans, Native Americans, and Pilgrims! This is the perfect time to practice our closing-up-shop skills before the long winter break. Save energy and money by properly **shutting down computers, turning off monitors, and turning down the heat** before you leave for the long weekends. Now take your clean conscience and go eat with wild abandon!



Why, hello. We could not help but notice you. Perhaps this is a bit forward, but the **GREEN TEAM** would like to invite you to our next meetings on Wednesday, **November 28** from 11-12 in Kresge 209 and Thursday, **December 20** from 11-12 in FXB G03. We know you have good ideas to share and we are all ears ;-)

Just in case you're wondering, this newsletter is printed on recycled paper. So if you've read the whole thing and still want more, chances are there's something printed on the back. Though hopefully it's not as interesting as the Eco Mosquito!

Contact us at [ecoop@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ecoop@hsph.harvard.edu)