



# The Campus Green

FEBRUARY 2012

## PC's SEAC To Host "World Water Week"

Throughout the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>, PC's Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) will be hosting numerous events across campus to promote International World Water Day which is held annually on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. World Water Day was first recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 as a response to a recommendation from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). That year, UNCED requested a day to internationally celebrate fresh water, and that is precisely the purpose of World Water Day. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of fresh water. This year's focus is "Water and Food Security".

With the planet's population recently reaching 7 billion people, an anticipated population growth of two billion more by the year 2050, and one billion people currently living in chronic hunger,

water resources are undoubtedly under pressure. This year's World Water Day aims to create awareness about the amount of water consumed by individuals on a daily basis. Although water consumption may not seem obviously linked to world hunger, the two actually go hand-in-hand.

It is believed that the average human consumes approximately 2 to 4 liters of water each day. However, most of the water that we consume is embedded in the food we eat. For example, producing 1 kilo of beef requires approximately 15,000 liters of water, while 1 kilo of wheat requires 1,500 liters. In order to best cope with population growth and help ensure access to nutritious food for everyone, we need to be aware of water resources and consumption. Everyone can take simple measures to help with this global effort. Such measures include consuming less water-intensive products and reducing

food waste (30% of the food produced worldwide is never eaten, yet the water used to produce is lost forever).

PC's SEAC Chapter aims to become a part of World Water Day celebrations by hosting their own "World Water Week" on campus. Throughout the week they will host numerous water-related events including a trip to the Johnston Landfill, a showing of the film "Tapped", and a "Bottled Water vs. Tap Water" taste test. SEAC will also be working with "PC After Hours" to host a Water Week bingo event on Saturday, March 24th which will feature fresh and local food, and prizes including water filters, water bottles, travel mugs, and gift cards. Please be sure to check out SEAC's "World Water Week" activities.

For more information about World Water Day, visit <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday>.

### 2011 Recycling Statistics

#### Paper:

119,000 lbs.

#### Bottles & Cans:

96,000 lbs.

#### Cardboard:

98,420 lbs.

#### E-Waste:

23, 418 lbs.

#### Fluorescent Lights:

4617 lbs.

#### Scrap Metal:

180,000 lbs.

#### Clothing:

3400 lbs.

#### Food:

2850 lbs.

### Contact Us!



Don't wait around...  
Call us!

Recycling Hotline  
X 1881

Recycle@  
providence.edu

Providence College  
Office of  
Environmental  
Health and Safety

## New Recycling Website is Up and Running!

Please be sure to visit the new Recycling page on the PC website at [www.providence.edu/recycling](http://www.providence.edu/recycling). The page details the where, what, why, and how of recycling on campus for both students and faculty & staff, in addition to current recycling efforts on campus. All "Campus Green" issues are archived on the site's homepage as well.

**Check it out!**

The screenshot shows the Providence College Recycling website. At the top, it says "PROVIDENCE COLLEGE Be Transformed" and "Recycling". Below that are navigation links: "Recycling at Providence College", "Information for Students", and "Information for Faculty/Staff". The main content area is titled "Recycling" and includes a "Mission Statement" which reads: "The Recycling Program at Providence College endeavors to reduce waste on campus, promote the recycling of materials, and maintain and promote a clean, sustainable and environmentally conscious campus." There is a photo of a recycling bin on campus. At the bottom, it states: "Recycling for certain categories of solid waste is mandated by Rhode Island State law. The Providence College Recycling". On the right side, there is a "Contact" section with the following information: "Office of Env 1 Cunningham Providence, Recycling H Fax: (401)86 recycle@pro".

## Recycling Across Campus

Most classrooms are no longer equipped with small blue recycling bins, due to a large amount of mixing of trash with recyclables. Instead, common areas across campus such as hallways, building entrances, study centers, and trash rooms are equipped with large totes for recycling bottles and



cans and paper. If you have an item that can be recycled, please do not throw the item away. Please hold on to your recyclables for just a few more minutes and place them in the appropriate totes. Your actions, no matter how small, can help the recycling efforts on campus!



# What Exactly Is Behind This Year's Mild Winter?



This winter's mild temperatures are certainly raising eyebrows across the nation, as snow has been essentially nonexistent in much of the country. The first week of January brought over 1,000 high temperature records nation wide. So, what exactly is behind this year's unusual weather? Is it climate change? Or is it something else? Let's take a look.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global warming occurs over a far more extensive period of time than simply one winter. In fact, global warming is apparent due to an overall global temperature change of approximately 1.4°F over the past 100 years (although the rate of change has increased over the last 40 years). And although the past decade (2000-2009) was the nation's warmest on record, scientists believe that this year's mild winter is not directly caused by climate change. They

point out that there is a big difference between long term climate change and shorter term weather events. So, if not global warming, then what could possibly be the reason behind this year's unusual winter? One possible answer: "La Niña."

La Niña is essentially associated with cooler than normal water temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean (unlike El Niño, which is associated with warmer than usual temperatures). These cooler Pacific Ocean temperatures bring about lower moisture levels in the atmosphere from California to Washington State. These lower moisture levels can be thought of much like a bathtub. When the temperature of the water in the tub is cooler, it lets off less steam than a tub that contains hot water. Since weather patterns generally move from west to east, very little precipitation has been following the jet stream. La

Niña also pushes the jet stream further upwards towards the U.S.-Canada border, thus resulting in less opportunity for the U.S. to receive any precipitation that it carries with it.

The lack of snow also partially explains the recent high temperatures (along with the northern jet stream). Due to its color, snow reflects sunlight and solar energy, thus reducing the amount of moisture in the air and causing even cooler conditions. When the ground is not covered in snow, brown soils and green grasses absorb solar radiation, which warm the ground and ultimately result in warm temperatures.

Although this winter has certainly been strange, meteorologists are predicting a more normal spring with the weakening of La Niña in the near future. This would allow for temperatures and moisture levels to return to anticipated norms, and possibly an end to this whacky weather!

## Happy Valentine's Day



From the Office of Environmental Health and Safety