



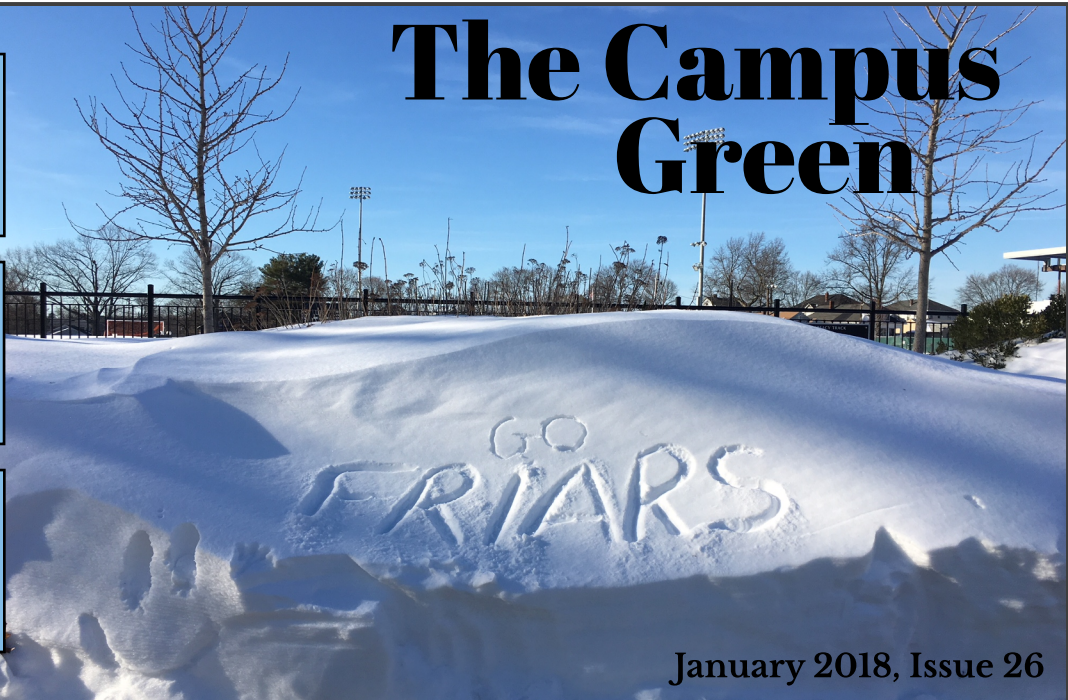
Empty and Rinse Recyclables



Zipcar at PC



Recycling Assessment at PC



January 2018, Issue 26

EcoReps Promote Energy and Water Conservation in the Residence Halls

The EcoReps are a group of student sustainability leaders elected as a part of Residence Hall Council. This program is new to Providence College, and just started this year! EcoReps are responsible for educating their peers on how to live more sustainably in the residence halls. This past fall, students learned about the specific recycling guidelines in Rhode Island, and participated in the Clean Plate Challenge in Raymond Hall, raising awareness about food waste.

During the spring semester, the EcoReps will tackle issues such as energy and water conservation. They will be educating their peers on ways to reduce energy consumption and water usage in their residence halls. Did you know, a leaking faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers! Also, simply turning off your lights when leaving your room, and unplugging chargers when not in use goes a long way toward conserving energy. It's issues such as these that the EcoReps will bring to the attention of the student body. Something as simple as emailing fixit@providence.edu can make all the difference! Also, other plans for the EcoReps this semester include a light-bulb swap, and teaming up with the environmental club, ECO PC, to host a Sustainability Carnival for Earth Day.



Empty and Rinse Recyclables

The Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, RIRRC, specifically asks Rhode Island residents to ensure that their recyclables are "Empty at a minimum, rinsed whenever possible." You can find this statement on the mixed recycling stickers on recycling bins around campus.



The recycling center does not wash the recyclables on site, so it is extremely important to empty your recyclables of food and liquids in order to avoid contamination and rotting. Rinsing your recyclables is not a waste of water because it ensures that the recyclables will be fit for recycling later on. Try using a minimal amount of water to rinse and scrub your recyclables. For tough, sticky foods, swish eggshells and water around in the container instead of leaving the water running.

PC Recycling Statistics

RECYCLING	2017	2016	2015	2014
Mixed**	347,140 lbs.	334,400 lbs.	242,600 lbs.	242,000 lbs.
Cardboard	119,200 lbs.	107,180 lbs.	125,680 lbs.	115,320 lbs.
E-waste	18,372 lbs.	12,980 lbs.	12,401 lbs.	9780 lbs.
Fluorescent Lights	2457 lbs.	2509 lbs.	2741 lbs.	3920 lbs.
Ballasts	2265 lbs.	662 lbs.	2085 lbs.	1540 lbs.
Batteries	1806 lbs.	2532 lbs.	1558 lbs.	1520 lbs.

STUDENT MOVE-OUT

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Clothes	2000 lbs.	2500 lbs.	3100 lbs.	3000 lbs.
Food	1650 lbs.	1915 lbs.	2100 lbs.	2800 lbs.

** Switched to mixed recycling in mid 2012

Mixed recycling is comprised of paper, bottles, cans etc.

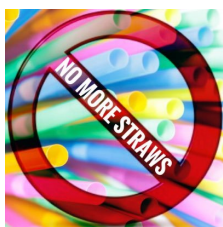
PC has records of recycling rates dating back to 2005.

Zipcar at PC

Need to rent a car for a few hours? Check out Zipcar! Go to the Zipcar website to register, get an access card in the mail, book the car online, and you're good to go! You can book the car for as little as an hour or as long as a week at \$8-10/hour! Zipcars are parked at PC in the garage under the Lennon Field, next to Concannon.



DID YOU KNOW: End to end, straws used in the US in a single day could circle the planet more than two and a half times.



Grounds to Grow on Updates

Since July 2017, Providence College has been participating in a "Grounds to Grow On" program, in which K-cups are recycled rather than thrown in the trash. So far we have diverted roughly 59,500 K-Cups! Used K-Cups are put in a box, provided by Keurig Green Mountain. When full, the prepaid box is mailed back to Keurig where the K-Cups are broken down and recycled. Please remember to shake the box to ensure that you can squeeze as many K-Cups in the box as possible! If you want to participate in this program, stop by Harkins LL18 to pick up a box!



If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at the Office of Environmental Health & Safety.

401.865.1881
recycle@providence.edu
www.providence.edu/recycling

Recycling Assessment at PC

Dr. Sullivan-Watts' environmental biology class spent last semester taking a closer look at how students and faculty recycle on campus. The students conducted a campus-wide recycling assessment only to find that the most common improperly recycled items are Styrofoam cups, straws, and paper cups. All these items are trash, yet they continually end up in the recycling bins.

Straws are not recyclable. Styrofoam is ONLY recyclable if you bring it to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery in Johnston, otherwise it is trash.

Paper coffee cups, like those at Starbucks and LaSalle Bakery, have a plastic waterproof lining inside the cup that cannot be easily separated during the recycling process. In fact, these cups can contaminate the entire load of recyclables during the sorting process. The plastic lid and the paper coffee cup sleeve, however, can be recycled. In order to eliminate the confusion try using a reusable tumblr with a reusable straw!

Many items discarded in recycling bins are full of food or liquid. Food and liquid contaminate the other recyclables making them unfit for reuse. Please take the extra minute to dump out your liquids in a sink, water fountain, or outside before tossing your cup in the recycling bin. Finish your food or throw your food in the trash before discarding your plastic container or paper bag in the recycling bin. That minute ensures that all the other recyclables taken with that load will not be contaminated and sent to the landfill instead. Lastly, if you see others recycling improperly, take this opportunity to educate them! Be a power of example by teaching your peers. Check out rirrc.org!

