

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from Sustainability Council Chair.....1
- New Sustainability Coordinator Appointed.....1
- J-Mac Residence Hall Earns Energy Star Certification.....2
- Transportation Solutions Celebrates DU's Green Commitment.....3
- DU Introduces New Campus-Wide Furniture Sharing Program.....3
- Miser Keeping an Eye on DU Campus.....4
- DU Law New Home for Prestigious Energy Law Journal.....4
- "Mr. B-Cycle" Masters City-Wide Bike Sharing Program.....5
- Get Involved!.....6
- Council's Corner.....6
- Upcoming Events.....7
- Contact Us.....7

### Letter from the Sustainability Council Chair

Greetings, Members of the DU Sustainability Community!

Winter is a great time for us to take a moment to look back on all we have accomplished through the year, and what remains to be done. As we look back, I am extremely proud and excited for all that we have done, collectively, to make this campus a more sustainable place. This year, the Sustainability Council has successfully created two new, extremely important, committees focused on mindful consumption and social justice. Our Transportation Committee worked closely with Transportation Solutions and the City of Denver to paint sharrows on High Street, helping to ensure that motorists and bicyclists can share the road safely. The Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle committee worked to install the campus's first outdoor recycling bins and greatly expand the composting system. Furthermore, as you read through this newsletter, you will also learn about our two most recent accomplishments: the Outreach Committee's launch of a campus-wide furniture sharing program and the Best Practice committee's successful search for a sustainability coordinator.

These are just a few of the highlights from this year, and there are many, many more exciting accomplishments to come! As we gear up for earth month, I invite everyone in the DU community to learn more about what we are doing, what we can do, and how you can help.

Fred

Federico Cheever  
Professor of Law and  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Sturm College of Law

### New Sustainability Coordinator Appointed

On February 16th, Council Chair, Federico Cheever announced that Chad King will be joining the University of Denver June 15, 2012 as the first University Sustainability Coordinator. Chad has his Ph.D. and M.S. in Environmental Science from University of Arizona. He was most recently at Ohio Dominican University as Founder and Co-Chair of their University Sustainability Council and Assistant Professor of Environmental Science. Chad has worked broadly on sustainability in higher education presenting and working on incorporating sustainability across the curriculum, carbon footprint analysis, environmental policy, university sustainability reporting, environmental justice, habitat res-

toration, service learning, and recycling. At Ohio Dominican, Chad worked intensively on faculty development, staff engagement, student participation, and community projects. He helped build networks with local and regional groups and engaged with the national sustainability movement in higher education. When Chad arrives, he will begin work on launching the new DU Center for Sustainability. Please join the Council in welcoming Chad to the DU community, and be sure to look for more exciting information about the DU Center for Sustainability and its new leader in future issues of the DU Green Pages!

# J-Mac Residence Hall Earns Energy Star Certification

*By Chase Squires, originally appeared in DU Today*

Johnson-McFarlane, we're going make you a star. An Energy Star, that is.

The University of Denver's three-year overhaul and energy upgrade at Johnson-McFarlane residence hall — commonly known as J-Mac — has earned the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star certification, placing the facility in the top 25 percent of college residence halls nationwide.

Buildings that earn the certification typically use an average of 35 percent less energy and release 35 percent less carbon dioxide.

"Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental sustainability while also lowering energy costs," says Christy Cerrone, assistant director and sustainability coordinator for DU Housing and Residential Education.

DU Energy Engineer Tom McGee says the award is the culmination of years of work.

As the hall was renovated, McGee says, DU looked for ways to include the best products available and to leverage rebates and other special programs. At every turn, conservation was a major goal as DU moves forward to its goal of becoming carbon neutral, McGee says.

"Energy conservation is where you want to start and do everything you can," McGee says. "Efficiency is a key."

The University replaced existing windows with better insulated windows, upgraded the heating system, installed more efficient hot water exchangers, upgraded lighting and painted the roof white to better reflect summertime sun.

While DU is home to several LEED gold-standard buildings, the Energy Star program looks at internal efficiency rather than building standards. It's a different standard, and McGee says that some buildings built to LEED standards might not qualify for Energy Star certification.

The EPA Energy Star program measures buildings against similar facilities nationwide. The program was instituted in 1992 as a voluntary partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency.



(L to R): Tom McGee, Scott Schrage, Justin Price, Christy Cerrone, Kate Gregory

*"Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental sustainability while also lowering energy costs."*

*- Christy Cerrone*

## Transportation Solutions Celebrates DU's Green Commitment

by Chase Squires, originally appeared in DU Today

Using public transportation earned University of Denver staffer Marijke Swierstra a new method of private transportation.

Swierstra, an administrative assistant in DU's advancement office, regularly takes advantage of her DU-issued Eco Pass, which grants free access to the Denver area's RTD system of buses and light rail. So earlier this year she signed up for Transportation Solutions' "Ride, Walk, Roll, Win" promotion, which encouraged the campus community to pledge to leave the car at home and commute to work by an alternate method at least once a week.

Her pledge to go green got her something red: a new Schwinn motor scooter. Swierstra won the grand prize drawing from Transportation Solutions, a public-private partnership dedicated to promoting alternative transportation in southeast Denver.

"The last time I rode a scooter I was 15 years old," Swierstra says.

But she'll be an expert in no time, says Mark Rycroft, whose business, Scooters on Broadway, partnered with Transportation Solutions for the promotion. Rycroft, a standout hockey player with the Pioneers from 1997–2000, went on to play in the National Hockey League before coming back to Denver to start a business. He says Denver, with a dry, moderate climate, is a perfect city for scooters. He sells both gas and electric models.

"By the sixth lap around the parking lot you'll be a professional," Rycroft says. "A scooter like this is so easy to ride; it's easier than a bike. You don't even have to pedal."

Another feature Swierstra likes about her shiny red scooter: It gets 100 miles to the gallon and will be perfect for running errands in her neighborhood.

As for getting to work, Swierstra says she'll still depend on RTD, which she usually rides 3–5 times a week.

"The Eco Pass is really a great benefit to staff and faculty," she says. "More people should use it."

Rich McClintock, executive director of Transportation Solutions, says as a result of his team's efforts to get more DU community members to pledge to take alternate transportation to work at least once a week, some 1,000 faculty, staff and students signed up for the promotion between July and October.

"We had a very strong show of support across campus," McClintock says. "It's just one day a week, but it makes a difference. It's a clear commitment by the DU community to find transportation solutions."



## DU Introduces New Campus-Wide Furniture Sharing Program

The DU Sustainability Council is very pleased to announce the implementation of a new campus-wide furniture sharing program. This program will enable departments to easily find, access, and use existing DU furniture – reducing unnecessary waste and also reducing the time and money spent purchasing new office furniture. How does it work? It is as easy as 1–2–3:

### If you have excess furniture:

1. Email [green@du.edu](mailto:green@du.edu) with a photo and description of the item, along with the location. If you have space to store the item, that is great! If not, just place a work order with Facilities to move it to the E-3 storage unit.
2. You will receive a label with a furniture sharing tracking number. Print the label and tape it to your furniture item, and the item will be posted online at <http://www.du.edu/green/dudoing/furnituresharing.html>.
3. If a department is interested in your item, they will place a work order to have Facilities relocate it.

**DUING  
SOMETHING**  
[du.edu/green/](http://du.edu/green/)

### If you want or need furniture:

1. Visit <http://www.du.edu/green/dudoing/furnituresharing.html> to view available items.
2. Place a work order with Facilities requesting that an item be moved (either from another department, if listed, or from the E-3 storage unit). Please reference the furniture sharing tracking number noted on the listing.
3. Email [green@du.edu](mailto:green@du.edu) to notify us that your item has found a happy home! The item will be removed from the furniture sharing program.

Of course, there are a few things we should mention about this wonderful new program:

- For large furniture moves, Facilities may request that departments work with

Bailey's Moving & Storage to facilitate the move.

- Furniture is available on a first-come, first-served basis – so please make sure to get your work orders in quickly if there is an item you want!
- You can view an item in the E-3 storage unit before deciding to take it, just contact Facilities and ask if someone can let you in.
- Twice a year, items will be made available to DU employees for any purpose (including personal use). The remaining furniture will be donated to be reused or recycled.

After only a week in full gear, this program has already been used campus wide to help departments find and clear out furniture. We invite you to learn more about the program by visiting our website at <http://www.du.edu/green/dudoing/furnituresharing.html>, where you will find a step-by-step guide, some handy FAQs, and a complete list of available furniture.

## Miser Keeping an Eye on DU Campus

*By Chase Squires, originally appeared in DU Today*

The soda vending machines at the University of Denver just got a little smarter.

For years, scores of those machines have stayed on, brightly lit and chugging away throughout the night, in dark hallways while the rest of the world was sleeping. Not exactly the most energy-efficient way of operating.

Over the past month, crews working with DU Energy Engineer Tom McGee have been busy installing a product called Vending Miser on machines across campus. Looking a bit like a glowing green eye atop each machine, the device senses when no one is around and slows things down. The display lights dim and the compressors slow, cranking up only once in a while to keep the product cold, but saving plenty of energy.



McGee says so far, about 60 of the devices have been installed, with a few more to go. When all the machines are fitted with the Vending Miser, Mcee says the combined energy savings should keep about 66 metric tons of carbon out of the atmosphere each year. That's about 1 percent of DU's annual output.

The \$16,000 cost, split between the University and student funds, should be recouped in energy savings in three to four years, he said.

The manufacturer, USA Technologies, reports some 300,000 Vending Misers have been installed nationwide.



## DU Law New Home for Prestigious Energy Law Journal

*By Chase Squires, originally appeared in DU Today*

The University of Denver (DU) Sturm College of Law is the new home for the international Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law, a product of the International Bar Association, making DU the first United States-based university in the Journal's 30-year history with the responsibility for editing a publication that sparks discussion among some 2,000 of the most recognized international practitioners in energy and natural resources law.

Professor Don Smith, who directs the Environmental & Natural Resources Law & Policy Graduate Program at the law school, says the strengths of the DU program – environmental, natural resources, and energy law at both domestic and

international levels – are well suited to editing what has been called the leading refereed journal in the field of energy and natural resources law.

"It's quite prestigious to have been chosen by the IBA to edit this Journal," Smith says. "For us, as an institution, this is a great achievement. It's a 'vehicle,' in a manner of speaking, to have access to the very best minds in the world, and it will introduce our program to all of these people around the globe. It puts us on the map, really."

The Journal was most recently edited at the University of Calgary (Canada). Prior to Calgary, the journal was based at the University of Dundee, in Scotland.

Dean Martin Katz says hosting the Journal is a perfect fit for DU.

"Our strategic plan commits to demonstrated excellence in environmental and natural resources law," Katz says. "To us, this means being at the center of the international dialogue on cutting edge resources issues. This Journal advances our ability to do exactly that. We are very excited to be able to host the journal at Denver Law."

The Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law is published quarterly. Students and faculty at DU will commission pieces and reports and distribute them for peer review to leading attorneys, putting students in direct contact with those who shape environmental and natural law.

## “Mr. B-Cycle” Masters Citywide Bike-Sharing Program

By Chase Squires, originally appeared in DU Today

Kevin Lynch gave up a car, but not wheels. Lynch, a lecturer at DU's Sturm College of Law Environmental Law Clinic, doesn't have a car. Instead, he commutes the six miles each way to and from work on a Denver B-cycle, those ubiquitous red bikes that users check out and check in with a membership.

And all that checking in and out has earned Lynch the unofficial title of “Mr. B-cycle,” as he winds up this year's B-cycle season with 1,608 miles of total usage — tops on the organization's official ridership list. The next closest person rode some 400 miles less than Lynch. The program went into hibernation on Dec. 9.

“I moved here and I didn't have a car,” Lynch says. “And after a while, I decided not to get one, I was so much happier without one.”

Although he originally had his own bike, Lynch says he emerged from a store one day to retrieve his bike and found someone had smashed it to bits. He heard about B-cycle and decided to give it a try.

The bikes take some getting used to, he says. They are heavier than regular bikes and the big baskets on the front — especially when full — add some elements to the steering. But riders get the hang of it quickly, Lynch says. The bikes are fully adjustable (even for Lynch, who stands 6-feet 6-inches) and have bells and lights on them.

The other challenge, of course, is completing trips in less than 30 minutes. The way the program works, riders purchase year-long memberships for \$65 (other memberships, even daily, are available) and then swipe a card and check out a bike from any of the more than 50 stations around the city. The first 30 minutes are free. The next 30 minutes cost \$1. After that, it's \$4 for every additional half hour. So the key is to take quick trips, check in the bike at another station, then check out a new

bike when needed.

For Lynch, the ride from his home in Denver's Five Points neighborhood to DU is just a bit more than 30 minutes. Lynch's trick is to check in at a station about halfway to work, then check out and continue on.

And he's learned to partner B-cycle rides with public transportation by using RTD's Eco Pass, which is issued by DU to all students, faculty and staff. Lynch can ride a bus or the light rail part of the way to his destination then grab a bike to finish the trip.

Lynch says he had fun charting his progress on the B-cycle website and leading the pack in miles. But he doesn't expect a reward, the whole idea was just to get where he's going. And now that it's winter, Lynch says he's back on the light rail for the cold months.

“The bikes are great, but they're best if you use them as part of the bigger system,” Lynch says. “It's raining? I take the light rail. I'm wearing a suit for something? I take the light rail. It's a nice day, I grab a bike and get some exercise.”

Mr. B-cycle's tips:

- Get used to carrying a helmet. B-Cycles don't come with helmets. For safety's sake, carry one with you when you ride.
- Think out your route in advance and know where you'll check in your bike. Go online and scout B-Cycle stations in advance. The computer will let users know how many open ports are available.
- Don't worry about special clothing. B-Cycles are built for comfort, and they have all the necessary guards to keep pant legs from getting caught in the chain.
- Be creative. Plan a place to check the bike in for a moment to avoid being charged for exceeding 30 minutes.
- Watch the weather. Riding in the rain is a bummer.



Mr. B-Cycle himself, Kevin Lynch, riding around campus

Denver B-Cycle stations will re-open March 12th. Look for more information about the program, including tips and tricks from the Sustainability Council, this spring!

## Get Involved!

Did you know that you don't have to be a voting member of the Sustainability Council to participate on, or even chair, a sub-committee? That's right! You can participate in a real and meaningful way by lending your time and skills to one of the Council's many sub-committees.

- The **Best Practices Committee** is dedicated to researching, developing and implementing important actions, programs, and policies to make the University a more sustainable organization. If you are interested in participating, please contact committee chair, Tiffany Hutchings, at [Tiffany.Hutchings@du.edu](mailto:Tiffany.Hutchings@du.edu).
- The **Curriculum & Research Committee** plays a critical role in surveying and integrating all three disciplines of sustainability (environmental, economic, and social) into DU's academic programming. If you would like to get involved with this committee, please contact chair, Donald Mayer at [Donald.Mayer@du.edu](mailto:Donald.Mayer@du.edu).
- The **Facilities Committee** is responsible for identifying, developing, and implementing programs to decrease the University's carbon footprint and encourage responsible energy usage throughout campus. Please contact committee chair, Tom McGee, at [Thomas.McGee@du.edu](mailto:Thomas.McGee@du.edu) to learn more.
- The **Mindful Consumption / Dining Committee** seeks to raise awareness among the DU community of the environmental impact of food consumption choices. This committee hopes to make sustainable options – local, organic, seasonal, and fair trade food and drink – more available on campus, which educating the campus community about the connection between nutrition and personal health. If you would like to join in the efforts of this brand-new committee, please contact any of the three committee leaders: Megan Kelly ([Megan.J.Kelly@du.edu](mailto:Megan.J.Kelly@du.edu)), Emma Howard ([Emma.Howard@du.edu](mailto:Emma.Howard@du.edu)), or Mike Harris ([MHarris@law.du.edu](mailto:MHarris@law.du.edu)).
- The **Outreach Committee** manages community and external relations for the Sustainability Council, including web-outreach, special events, social media, various campus programs, and even this newsletter! If you would like to help get the word out, please contact committee chair, Brittany Wilhelm, at [Brittany.Wilhelm@du.edu](mailto:Brittany.Wilhelm@du.edu).
- The **Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle Committee** is an active partner in increasing awareness and availability of reduction, reuse, and recycling programs on campus. Such programs have included indoor & outdoor recycling, composting, hydration stations, and more. To learn more, please contact committee co-chairs, Jess Morton ([Jess.Morton@du.edu](mailto:Jess.Morton@du.edu)), Mike Sickinger ([Michael.Sickinger@du.edu](mailto:Michael.Sickinger@du.edu)), or Megan Marshall ([Megan.Marshall@du.edu](mailto:Megan.Marshall@du.edu)).
- The **Social Sustainability Committee** is focused on the diversity, inclusion, and other human dimensions of sustainability. These social connections are in keeping with holistic international definitions of sustainability, and with the University's own commitment to Inclusive Excellence. If you're interested in helping the work of this committee, please contact committee co-chairs, Cara DiEnno, at [Cara.DiEnno@du.edu](mailto:Cara.DiEnno@du.edu) or Mike Harris at [mharris@law.du.edu](mailto:mharris@law.du.edu).
- The **Transportation Committee** has an important role in encouraging the DU community to utilize alternative methods of transportation, and in making those methods more convenient and accessible. If you would like to help out with these initiatives, please contact committee co-chairs, Ethan Crawford at [Ethan.Crawford@du.edu](mailto:Ethan.Crawford@du.edu) or Tay Dunklee at [Tay.Dunklee@du.edu](mailto:Tay.Dunklee@du.edu).

## Council's Corner

We're sure you've gathered that this is an exciting and eventful year for the Sustainability Council. The momentum is strong after a remarkably productive fall, and we are hopeful that the coming months will allow everyone across campus to become engaged in new ways. Even if you have never thought much about sustainability, this is a great time to learn more about what's going on in your own backyard or office and find out how you can help in big or small ways. April is earth month, and at the University of Denver, we take that seriously! The entire month will be packed with ideas to increase sustainability in your day to day life, ways to become more aware of local and global issues, and a

host of fun and informative activities. If you would like to help organize earth month events, we encourage you to email us at [green@du.edu](mailto:green@du.edu) and we'll put in touch with the right people.

In addition to the earth month festivities, the entire spring and summer will be packed with exciting projects and initiatives, including the launch of the DU Center for Sustainability, continued development of an employee education program, a student-driven solar initiative, completion of a comprehensive social sustainability audit, and many more! With so much going on, one thing we have learned to be absolutely true is that many hands make light work. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved at any level, please reach out to one of the committee chairs (listed above) or join us for an upcoming meeting (list on page 7).



## Upcoming Events

### **Sustainability Council Meetings (open to public!):**

- March 8th and April 12th 8:30—10:00 a.m.  
Location TBD <http://du.edu/green>

### **Sustainability Council Committee Meetings:**

- **Best Practices:** For upcoming meeting information, please contact [Tiffany.Hutchings@du.edu](mailto:Tiffany.Hutchings@du.edu)
- **Facilities:** For upcoming meeting information, please contact [Thomas.McGee@du.edu](mailto:Thomas.McGee@du.edu)
- **Mindful Consumption:** March 1st & April 5th 9:00—10:00 a.m., Health & Counseling Center Group Room
- **Outreach:** March 1st & April 5th 9:00—10:00 a.m., Sturm Hall 457 (AHSS Dean's Suite)
- **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle:** For upcoming meeting information, please contact [Megan.Marshall@du.edu](mailto:Megan.Marshall@du.edu)
- **Social Sustainability:** For upcoming meeting information, please contact [Cara.DiEnno@du.edu](mailto:Cara.DiEnno@du.edu)
- **Transportation:** For upcoming meeting information, please contact [Ethan.Crawford@du.edu](mailto:Ethan.Crawford@du.edu)

### **DU and Other Community Events:**

- **DU Environmental Team (DUET) Meetings:**  
February 29th & March 7th from 7:00—8:30 p.m.  
Nelson 1st Floor Conference Room
- **ELC Food Drive to Benefit DenUM (Denver Urban Ministries):**  
February 27th — March 2nd  
Bring your (non-perishable) donations to: Centennial Hall Cafeteria, Centennial Towers, Driscoll Center Bridge, or the English Language Center
- **RMLUI's 21st Annual Land Use Conference:**  
March 1st — March 2nd  
<http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/rmlui>
- **National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference:**  
March 23rd  
<http://www.nubccdenver.com/>
- **Earth Month**  
Various events throughout April, check [www.du.edu/green](http://www.du.edu/green) often for more information!

Please check <http://du.edu/green> for the most up-to-date information about upcoming meetings and sustainability events in the area. If you would like to add an event to our calendar, please contact [green@du.edu](mailto:green@du.edu) with the date, time, place, and a brief description of the function. Posting of events without a direct DU affiliation is subject to the discretion of the DU Sustainability Council.

## Contact Us:



Visit our website at [www.du.edu/green](http://www.du.edu/green)



Email us at [green@du.edu](mailto:green@du.edu)



Become our fan on Facebook! <http://facebook.com/DUGreen>



Follow us on Twitter [@SustainDU](https://twitter.com/SustainDU)



Receive quarterly e-newsletters by sending a blank email to [green-list-subscribe@du.edu](mailto:green-list-subscribe@du.edu)