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# Tufts **gets green**

Office of Sustainability

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**Volume 2 Issue 14**

**December 2011**

*Dear Tufts Environmental,*

As we wrap up the semester with the last of papers, exams and holiday parties, we just want to remind students and staff alike about shutting down for winter break. Before leaving campus, help save energy and money over the upcoming holidays by taking a moment to:

- Turn off lights.
- Unplug all electronics, including chargers left on power strips.
- Close and lock windows.

For more helpful hints, see the complete [Checklist for Winter Break](#).



We close this year out with a newsletter full of promising steps in the right direction: a fuel switch that brought down greenhouse gas emissions in the Medford Campus, Eco-Rep highlights from the past semester, and the winners of the Tisch Eco-Grant Books Contest.

**May you have a peaceful and joyous holiday break!**

*- Fannie, on behalf of everyone at The Tufts Office of Sustainability*

## Emissions to decrease as Central Heating Plant switches to natural gas

On a quiet Friday last month when the campus was mostly deserted for Veterans Day, Tufts Facilities shut down the Central Heating Plant located between Dowling and East Halls to have the chimney cleaned. No, it was not to help Santa stay soot-free this Christmas - it was the final step in getting the gas turned on for the winter.

The plant began using natural gas as its main fuel on November 30 and significantly lightened Tufts' carbon footprint in Medford. CO2 emissions in FY 2012 in the Medford campus are estimated to decrease by 8% from FY 2011 levels despite a projected increase in energy consumption by 7.8%.

According to Tufts' Director of Facilities Technical Services Betsy Isenstein, the transition is the result of "a fortunate confluence of events".

### In This Issue

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### Eliminate paper! Get your W-2 online

Is it tax season already?!  
Not quite, but it's a good time to sign up to receive your W-2 online!

Not only will you save paper, you'll get your W2 earlier because

Unbeknownst to most people who live and work on the Tufts Medford campus, the Central Heating Plant was forced to switch fuels in the middle of last winter. Shortly afterwards, a routine inspection led to the discovery of issues with two of the fuel tanks outside the Central Heating Plant and prompted the university to move up scheduled upgrades for two boilers that were installed in the 80s. The upgraded boilers are not only more efficient, but they have the ability to burn both natural gas and No. 2 fuel oil. [Read more...»](#)



One of two updated boilers at the Central Heating Plant

## Eco-Reps Fall Semester Highlights



The [Tufts Eco-Reps](#) (as you probably already know) are a group of residential students who work to encourage environmentally responsible behavior in their hall-mates and peers. They just concluded a busy semester, organizing group activities and collaborative projects, as well as representing the Eco-Reps Program at various on-campus and off-campus events.

The fall semester started off with a bang, as this year's newly selected bunch of Eco-Reps completed training and immediately jumped into their new roles by implementing compost bins in their respective dorms and hosting meet-and-greet events.

[Read more...»](#)

## Tisch Eco-Ambassador grant winners

Congratulations to the winners of the [Tisch Eco-Grant Books Contest!](#) Using funds provided by a grant from

electronic W-2s are available online by mid-January, while mail delivery can take until mid-February.

Log into [Employee Self Service](#), select "Payroll and Compensation" and "W-2/W-2c Consent" to agree to receive your 2011 W-2 tax form online. What are you waiting for?



In August 2011, Tufts completed the Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating system (STARS) and earned a Silver Rating. This new section features tidbits from Tufts' submission in order to give people a better understanding of what it takes to be a sustainable campus.

The **Purchasing** subcategory seeks to recognize institutions that are using their purchasing power to help build a sustainable economy. Tufts did better compared to other colleges in the same group, earning **5.6 out of 7.5** possible points for having policies on buying EPEAT energy-efficient computers, Green Seal cleaning products, and paper with recycled content. [Read more...»](#)

**Purchasing  
5.6 (out of 7.5)**

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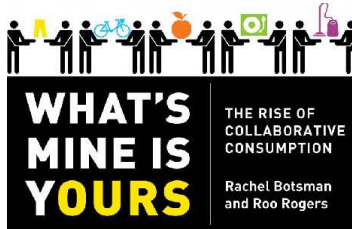
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[TuftsGetsGreen blog](#)

the Eco-Ambassadors program, members of the Tufts community nominated eco-friendly books to add to the library's collection. The complete list of winners are posted on the Tisch Sustainability Team blog.


The Tufts Library Catalog record for each winning book received a notation that includes the nominator's name. Among the books chosen were:

- *Eating Animals* by Jonathan Safran-Foer
- *The Green Book: The Everyday Guide to Saving the Planet...* by Elizabeth Rogers & Thomas M. Kostigen
- *What's Mine Is Yours: The Rise of Collaborative Consumption* by Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers
- *Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash* by Elizabeth Royte
- *Social Marketing: Influencing Behaviors for Good (4th ed.)* by Nancy R. Lee and Philip Kotler



The Tufts sustainability community maintains a shared calendar at [Tufts Environmental Events](#). Check it regularly for new postings!

## Jobs in Sustainability

Job and internship opportunities are posted regularly on the [TuftsGetsGreen blog](#) . Set up a [dedicated RSS feed](#) for the "Career" category so you never miss another post!

### Office of Sustainability , Administrative Intern

The intern will work with Eco-Ambassadors and the Sustainability Council to set up meetings and reserve rooms, send out meeting reminders and follow-ups, take and write-up meeting minutes, organize tours and carools, and conduct research. He or she needs to be reliable, courteous, responsive and very professional. Organization and good note-taking skills and event organizational skills are imperative. This is a great opportunity to see the inner workings of sustainability action! Two positions available, work-study or non-work-study students are welcome. 10-15 hours per week anticipated. Please send a resume and cover letter to [tina.woolston@tufts.edu](mailto:tina.woolston@tufts.edu) if you are interested in either opportunity.

- [Without Walls Eco Practicum \(Sullivan County, NY\)](#)
- [Introducing GreenLink, a new online environmental database for students!](#)
- [Grassroots Campaigns-Assistant Director](#)
- [Lead Intern, The Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition \(MBCC\) / Silent Spring Institute \(SSI\)](#)
- [Regional Conservation Advocacy Coordinator \(part time\), Mass Audubon \(MA\)](#)
- [Commuter Choice Program Coordinator \(Harvard University, MA\)](#)

Additional internship and academic opportunities may be found at the [Environmental Studies Program blog](#).

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