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On Saturday, April 22, Isaiah Smith '17 and Hannah Miller '18 participated in the Climate Justice Unity March, which ends in Des Moines on Apr. 29 with a rally for climate justice and jobs.

CENTRAL TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE

This April newsletter celebrates a month of great activities leading up to Earth Day, with a special focus on Central's ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Climate Change is a particularly timely topic as thousands around the world gather on April 29 for the People's Climate March.

Since 2007, Central College has had a stated goal of achieving carbon neutrality by the college's bicentennial, in 2053. This year, we completed a rigorous process of planning and analysis, in hopes to meet that goal even sooner. A diverse group of campus stakeholders worked with local and national experts to explore opportunities to save energy through smart investments in efficiency and renewable energy, all while saving money and providing students a hands on role researching and implementing solutions. I encourage you to read the group's recommendations online in the [Climate Action Plan](#) and model different strategies with this [online analytical tool](#). Together, these provide a roadmap to reach carbon neutrality by 2025 or sooner.

We are already hard at work on several projects identified in the plan. This summer, we will begin pilot testing a solar-powered flare to destroy methane at the landfill south of Pella. On campus, we are planning for a major upgrade to our heating infrastructure, converting from steam to hot water boilers. We are also exploring the possibility of a large solar array, either on campus or in collaboration with the City of Pella. I am excited by the great events this month, the projects underway, and all the committed people here at Central College and around the world working together to tackle climate change!

Brian Campbell, Director of Sustainability Education

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Collin Strickland '17, became interested in sustainability when he took Intro to Environmental Studies and learned about human-caused environmental problems.

Outside of school, Strickland constantly strives to use less energy, recycle everything he can, eat local, and grow food in a garden.

Strickland is proud of Central's commitment to sustainability.

"I am so proud to attend a college who is committed like Central is, and I hope other students (incoming) realize that it is so important to attend a college that will help them save money in the future by living sustainably."

He would like to see more students talk to professors, Board of Trustees, Class Deans and other leadership about issues related to sustainability, as well as research new ways to make campus more sustainable.

"If students voice their opinion, it has a greater impact on our administration than it does coming from professors or other staff members."

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Mike Lubberden, Director of Facilities Planning and Management, plays a large role in making Central a sustainable campus. In '95, he was inspired by Bill McDonough and shared his ideas with the Central administration, which eventually led to focusing on environmental stewardship for the Weller Center.

Since Lubberden began in '78, he has been a pioneering sustainability leader, overseeing energy upgrades to many buildings, construction of the Field Station, and three LEED-rated buildings.

Lubberden lives in an energy efficient home with geothermal heating and solar thermal panels, and he has worked to increase his church's energy efficiency, seeing a strong link between sustainability and faith. "It's really about caring for creation and ensuring a healthy planet for future generations of all people, especially the oppressed."

He is proud of Central's new [Climate Action Plan](#) and would like to see the plan integrated into all aspects of our future campus master planning efforts.

ALUM OF THE MONTH



Marnie Stein '96, works for the Iowa DNR as a senior environmental specialist. Stein was one of the first students to major in environmental studies. She completed an environmental audit of the school in her senior seminar class, learned about the environmental movement in the US in Environmental Literature and completed an internship at Friends of the Earth in London.

At the DNR, Stein annually calculates the total greenhouse gas emissions for the state and reports them to the Governor and Legislature. She also is in charge of implementing any climate change regulations promulgated by EPA in Iowa.

Outside of work, Stein and her family garden, add as many plants as possible to the world, compost at home and support the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund.

Stein has enjoyed watching all of the changes Central has made, but would like to see a wind turbine and solar garden near campus.

EARTH MONTH AT CENTRAL



Thanks to [Iowa Bike and Fitness](#), and owner Kris Van Gent '15, for hosting Bike Repair Day.



Students planted carrots, beets, and other spring crops at several garden workdays.



Students pedaled a bike-powered blender to make healthy green smoothies. created with the bike blender.



Katie Douglas '17 of Pella's [Sequoia Fitness](#) helped students and employees reconnect with nature and their bodies with an afternoon of outdoor yoga.

SUSTAINABILITY BLOG

Check out [new blog posts on Earth Month at Central](#), plus this earlier post [Central College Ski & Board Club](#) winter break trip with Assistant Professor Sara Shuger-Fox. The group explored climate change and corporate sustainability with author, advocate, and business leader Auden Schendler of the Aspen Ski Company and Protect Our Winters.

GREEN DRINKS

Central College hosted the second annual Green Drinks Sustainability Networking event on Sunday, April 23, attracting over 60 sustainability professionals, Central alumni, faculty, staff and students interested in renewable energy, city planning, land conservation, community organizing and other sectors of sustainability. Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie even stopped by to talk about the efforts of the college and the city to respond to climate change. As part of the college's Earth Month celebrations, the group gathered on the rooftop patio of the Market One Building in Des Moines for an afternoon of relationship building and making new connections. Throughout, Faryal Dotani and Harry Doyle from Modus Engineering



offered tours to highlight the sustainable design features of the LEED Platinum building, which they designed and graciously offered for the Central College event.

Green Drinks was organized collaboratively by the college offices of Career and Professional Development, Sustainability Education, Alumni Relations and the Center for Community Based Learning, with delicious food and drink from Central College Catering. Check out [more photos online](#), and join us again next year as we continue to come together to grow and support the inspiring work happening in Iowa and the people dedicated to making our communities healthy and just places to live.

COMMUNITY GARDEN KITCHEN CLASSROOM

Check out our new fundraising video! We are in the process of applying for a grant to receive funding for the community garden kitchen classroom. You can vote everyday until May 12th. [Follow this link to vote!](#)

ENERGY SAVE-OFF

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Energy Save-Off Competition! To track energy reductions, student residences were divided into four categories: dorms, pods, green pods and townhouses. The winners of each category were Pietenpol 2nd Floor North, Pod 110, Green Pod 119 and Ketchum. Congratulations to the overall winners: Green Pod 119 for using the least energy in April, 31 KWH/person, and Pietenpol 2nd North for Visit energy.central.edu to see current and past energy consumption.



Cody Bock '17 (right) chats with Tej Dhawan and Karen Spencer Dhawan, both Class of 1991, at the Green Drinks Sustainability Networking event on Sunday, April 23.

Central College

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