

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BLOOM ON CAMPUS

In October, more than 200 Exonians turned out for the annual Earth Fest to listen to music, carve pumpkins and taste delicious food. Energy-inquisitive crowds



(Top) This Earth Fest booth was a popular stop last fall for Exonians who put their palates to the test by sampling cups of tap water versus bottled water.

(Right) Students savored some local-grown foods and learned from other students about the health and environmental benefits of eating such fare.



gathered at student-run booths, which promoted the advantages of locally grown foods, bans on mountaintop mining and removal of natural resources, tap water versus bottled, and swapping incandescent bulbs for energy-saving compact fluorescents. Exonians also staffed a booth for Power Vote, a national organization that works with schools to highlight the importance of clean energy. Two ESSO student clubs—Pennies for Peace and Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty Walk (CROP Walk)—also participated.

In January, the Academy's first Sustainability and Stewardship Assessment Review concluded a six-month study of energy used on campus. The information included a variety of energy, water consumption and waste totals, including electricity usage and food waste. Once assessed, the data will become the basis of the Academy's environmental master plan, a baseline from which realistic, energy-consumption goals can be set. Later this spring, a sub-group of the Environmental Task Force will

create a vision for Exeter's campus sustainability efforts based on the findings.

With a sustainable future in mind, Principal Ty Tingley and Principal-Designee Tom Hassan gathered in November with Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Wilhelm, Energy and Environmental Management Director Rudy Cartier, and Carbon Committee students to sign the Green Schools Alliance Pledge—a formal promise to reduce the Academy's carbon footprint, in conjunction with a host of other schools. Nationwide, almost 160 private and independent schools have signed the

pledge, including more than 40 from New England. Wilhelm says, "Combined with support for the pledge, the assessment's results will give us a solid basis from which we can begin to form actual expectations, particularly in light of the current economic struggles."

—Famebridge Witherspoon

JENNIFER WILHELM (2)

To learn more about sustainability initiatives and events at Exeter, visit www.exeter.edu/sustainabilitynews.