



Welcome back, Peacocks! This fall is an exciting time to be at Saint Peter's University. The celebration of the Sesquicentennial continues, and it's also the 10th anniversary of the **Sustainability Council**, which has been striving to make SPU and the surrounding areas as Green as possible.

The Sustainability Council membership consists of faculty, administrators and students. The current members are: Dr. Eileen L. Poiani (Chair), Dr. Yosra Badiei, Prof. Mary Anne Gallagher-Landi, Dr. Brandy Garrett-Kluthe, Dr. William Gutsch, Dr. Xiaoyang Huang, Rev. John Hyatt, S.J., Prof. Georgia Kral, Dr. Wanlu Li, Leslie Pineda '24, Dr. John Ruppert, Prof. Philip Sookram, Noelle Sprenkle '23, Dr. Laura Twersky, Dr. Katherine Wydner. The student organization committed to addressing climate issues and sustainable practices is **SAVE** (Student Advocates for Valuing the Earth).

**We would like to welcome some new students into our active group.** If interested, please contact Dr. Eileen Poiani at [epoiani@saintpeters.edu](mailto:epoiani@saintpeters.edu).

## The Sustainability Council marks 10 years

**By Dr. Eileen Poiani, Chair of the Sustainability Council since its founding, and Special Assistant to the President**

The Sesquicentennial year marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the SPU Sustainability Council. The Council's dedicated members – faculty, students and administrators - have fostered a climate of care and concern for the health of our campus and our planet.

The Council can be proud of many noteworthy achievements through the years, including:

- The founding of the *Peacock Planet* newsletter
- Robust April Earth Week events
- Annual Arbor Day tree planting and blessing
- Recycling campaign with bins in residence halls, rooms and promotional t-shirts
- Ocean October: calling attention to plastics in our waterways
- Research projects and submission of reports like GHG Inventory to Second Nature
- Field trips and lectures by eminent climate change leaders
- Trayless dining

- Collaboration with AASHE and NJHEPS

Along the way, these initiatives have led to honors such as the Garden State Greenfest award; inclusion in The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges; Certificate of Innovation in Sustainability as a NJ Sustainable Registered Business; Green Campus Project Award from ICFNJ; and First Sustainability Award from the Hudson County Improvement Authority.

Looking forward, this year we will be participating in Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology, which is an international initiative. Also keep an eye out for the TREX project to collect plastics and convert them into a beautiful outdoor campus bench.

## Take a look before you toss: How to recycle in Jersey City

By Noelle Sprenkle, Class of 2023 - Sustainability Council member and President of SAVE



Have you ever looked at the bottom of a water bottle and wondered what the numbers and symbols mean? The number in the middle of the recycling symbol (it looks like a triangle with arrows) is the key to knowing what types of plastics can be recycled where you are located.

We come into contact with plastics everyday on campus. Learning how to properly recycle these plastics can mitigate harm to the environment and our communities. In addition, recycling is important because we must do our part as consumers and students to ensure Saint Peter's is a Green Campus.

### **What can go in the recycling bin?**

In Jersey City, only plastics with the numbers 1, 2 and 5 can be recycled. When recycling plastic, ensure it is clean from any food waste as this could lead to it no longer being recyclable.

Paper recycling should be placed in a separate bin. Other materials, such as shipping boxes, should be placed next to the bin.

### **What should NOT go in the recycling bin?**

Any plastics with the numbers 3, 4, 6 or 7 are not recyclable in Jersey City. In addition, soiled pizza boxes, plastic straws and cutlery should not be placed in the recycling bin.

### **Where to recycle at Saint Peter's University**

Plastic recycling bins are located in all of the Residence Halls, as well as the academic buildings. Paper recycling is accepted in the O'Toole Library.

To learn more about recycling in Jersey City, visit:

<https://www.jerseycitynj.gov/cityhall/dpw/recycle>

# What can be Recycled at Saint Peter's University?

Plastics 1,2, and 5 are recyclable in Jersey City



## The importance of intergenerational climate activism

By John R. Hyatt, S.J., Sustainability Council member

The environmentalist Bill McKibben has been active in ecological causes for a long time, long before the birth of every single SPU undergraduate, and even many faculty and staff. He recently published a memoir about his life and his commitment to a greener world.

In a recent [podcast with COMMONWEAL magazine](#), McKibben encourages activists to build intergenerational networks.

“Intergenerational work is really important. When I was in my forties I founded [350.org](#), which turned into the first global climate campaign. But I did it with seven college students. One of the things which we did was to promote a massive divestment movement, which took root on campuses all across the country, and indeed throughout the world,” he said.

It’s easy for the young to forget the wisdom of earlier generations, and for the veterans to ignore the enthusiastic energy of the young. McKibben, however, urges cooperation for the sake of greater impact upon the world, which we are all trying to save.

“After college, those kids wanted to keep working. So they formed the Sunrise Movement that brought us the Green New Deal. Young people were doing extraordinary work even before the

appearance of people like Greta Thunberg and the mobilization of tens of millions of junior high and high-school students in this fight," he said.

It will be smart to involve older people in the struggle for environmental justice, too.

"But we are also trying to get older people engaged. "There are 70 million of us above the age of 60... We all vote like crazy... We've got about 70 percent of the country's financial assets, compared with about 5 percent for millennials. But what's fun is when we're collaborating. We've been doing protests against the big banks that fund the fossil-fuel industry... Recently there were many young people, high-school students... who were at the front of the march. But in the back there was a big cloud of people my age, marching under a banner that said 'Fossils Against Fossil Fuels.' That's the kind of spirit it's going to take, and it's great fun to do so across generations," he said.

## Save the date!

On Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 12 p.m.in McIntyre B and C, Dr. William Gutsch, Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences, will present a lecture entitled "Respond to the Cry of the Planet" which is a goal of Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology. Watch for the poster announcement of this presentation.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. the film "Hearts of Glass" will screen at SPU in partnership with the City of Jersey City Dept. of Health & Human Services. The film explores social entrepreneurship at the intersection of disability rights and sustainable, local food production. Food and beverages will be provided at the screening, which is open to the public.



Words to inspire action...

**"Climate change is real; it is happening right now. It is the most urgent threat facing our entire species, and we need to work**

**collectively together and stop procrastinating.”**

**-Leonardo DiCaprio**

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- *Our Vision: The Sustainability Council supports a broad, holistic vision of sustainability, framing our work in pluralism and integrating the right of well-being today to that of future generations.*
- *Our Mission: The Sustainability Council, composed of a broad representation from the university community, initiates and implements institutional, academic and community programs that identify, inspire and foster sustainable practices and behaviors.*

Your feedback, photos, event notices and story ideas are always welcome. Please email them to Peacock Planet editor Georgia Kral at [gkral@saintpeters.edu](mailto:gkral@saintpeters.edu)

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