

Sustainability



RISD Facilities and Environmental Health and Safety - Spring 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2

Furniture Inventory Project

Facilities partners with 2nd Life to recycle stored items



RISD's 2nd Life is "an eco-friendly student-run organization within the RISD community. Our goal is to help create awareness and be a model for sustainability in the up-cycling of unwanted supplies, tools, and miscellaneous materials", says co-manager Hilary Wang.

2nd Life operates an outdoor swap shop open seven days a week on Canal Street, in a converted shipping container located between ISB and Design Center. During the colder months the operation usually moves to the lobby of 15 Westminster Street.

This winter 2nd Life has temporarily moved to 351 South Main Street, a RISD-owned property next to Concept Link. Their new "showroom" is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11-5 and Saturdays from 1-5.

2nd Life prides itself on stewardship not just within RISD, but the entire Rhode Island community. Recently, 2nd Life was chosen to participate in the Social Enterprise Rhode Island CHANGE program, which granted the group \$1,000 and provides mentors to help develop 2nd Life in the greater Providence community.

Presently, 2nd Life is teaming with the Facilities department to catalog unused office furniture stored in 15 Westminster Street. Ultimately, a website will display available items and a process will be formulated to get those items to interested parties.

The goal is to create awareness of unwanted furniture and office materials around campus, and make it more accessible for recycling within the RISD community.

For more information on 2nd Life, visit their website at <http://risdsecondlife.com>.

Energy Savings on Campus

Facilities continues its commitment to improve energy systems on the RISD campus. Incorporating principles of an environmentally sustainable operations plan, Facilities strives to reduce the campus' carbon footprint with comprehensive energy audits and research into available energy efficiency incentive programs. Most recently, Facilities replaced steam traps and radiator valves in the College Building which will improve the efficiency of the building's heating system. In Nightingale House, replacing an out-dated oil burner with a high efficiency gas boiler, is expected to save 360 gallons of oil a year.

The ISB's basement steam piping was recently insulated, improving heating comfort on the first floor. Chiller pumping controls were upgraded in the Central Power Plant saving 129,742 kilowatts annually. And in Benson Hall, two high efficiency natural gas boilers were installed. Through the use of natural gas instead of residual fuel oil, and through improved boiler efficiencies, this project will result in an estimated reduction of 116 tons of CO2 emissions and 1200 lbs of NOx emissions each year.



RISD has begun its sixth season as a participant in RecycleMania, a friendly competition among more than 600 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada, designed to promote recycling and waste reduction efforts on college campuses. The eight-week program requires reporting of recyclables and trash collected. With each week's updated rankings, schools can follow each other's performance and rally the campus to reduce and recycle.

RecycleMania's goal is to motivate students and staff; to generate attention and support for campus recycling programs, and to encourage colleges to measure recycling activity in their effort to improve programs every year.

Providence Sustainability Group

RISD's Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Alan Cantara, sits at the meeting table of the Providence Sustainability Group along with representatives from Textron, the City of Providence, Johnson and Wales University, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI, United Natural Foods, GTECH, Providence College, Brown University, Citizens Bank and the RI Green Council. These Providence-based employers formed the group to encourage sharing and collaboration on green initiatives in order to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices at home, at work and in the community. As a result of RISD's involvement with the PSG, Dining and Catering has contracted with P.F.Trading in East Freetown, MA to collect composting materials, estimated at 500 pounds weekly.

Report energy deficiencies such as leaking faucets and drafty windows and doors to:
workorder.risd.edu

RISD Facilities
454-6484
Environmental Health+Safety
454-6780
Facilities@risd.edu
[Finance and Administration](#)

Your recycling efforts make a difference:

- Recycling two aluminum cans saves the equivalent energy needed to power a PC for one workday.
- 5 plastic soda bottles are enough to make the fiberfill to insulate one ski jacket.
- Recycling one glass jar saves the equivalent energy needed to light a 100-watt bulb for 4 hours.
- Every ton of paper recycled saves enough energy to heat and air condition the average American home for at least 6 months.

Supporting the A-R-T-S

Active commitment to compliance and continual improvement in our environmental program

Reduction of pollution through waste minimization, lowered materials consumption, and energy conservation

Training and educating faculty, students, and staff about the environmental and safety considerations of their activities, projects and products

Stewardship in enhancing the quality of life for our students, faculty, employees and neighboring community