



# EcoNotes



Volume 7, Issue 2

Claremont McKenna College

December 2000

## Students Make a Difference

In this issue of *EcoNotes* we focus on student environmental activities on campus and at large. There are many opportunities for students (and faculty and staff) to get involved. Several years ago, environmental efforts were truly that—efforts. Now environmental awareness has become an integral part of our lives. The City of Claremont and Claremont McKenna College have made it easy for each of us to reduce waste through trouble-free recycling programs; provided enticing incentives for us to rideshare; and utilized energy- and water-efficient technology in our infrastructure.

It is important, however, to keep raising the bar on our environmental efforts. We should continue to participate in existing programs and look for new ways to improve the way we live and work. Student programs are often a key source for this energy and inspiration. The student body of Claremont McKenna is both bright and energetic, a perfect combination that leads to innovative new ideas.

We hope you will read this issue of *EcoNotes* and find new ways to live with the environment in mind. This issue, and an archive of past issues, can also be found on the Claremont McKenna Web site ([www.mckenna.edu](http://www.mckenna.edu)). Past it on.

---

## Exercise Your Environmental Heart, Get Paid – CMC Apartment Recycling



--By Virginia Lee '01

A great opportunity to get environmentally friendly at CMC is to recycle with the Eco Club Apartment Recycling. We recycle on Saturday afternoons depending on our volunteers' schedules. Here is the perfect opportunity to get smelly and sweaty. How many of you need extra encouragement to do your laundry? Then come and recycle! (Kidding! There is, of course, much more to recycling than stench.) Give a little, workout, and learn something while you're at it.

Aren't you just the littlest interested in how your recyclables are processed? You can step behind

the scenes of a recycling plant and help sort recyclables to see for yourself. Come once, come twice... it's up to you and your liking.

Money from recycling goes towards the 5 College Eco Club and Apartments. CMC work-study students can even get paid to do this! (Lucky ducks...)

Contact me at x71392 or [vlee03@mckenna.edu](mailto:vlee03@mckenna.edu) or Kristen Bertoli at x72787 or [elastic\\_jeans@hotmail.com](mailto:elastic_jeans@hotmail.com) if this tickles your fancy.

# EcoNotes

## Recycling Efforts at CMC

Here are the latest recycling statistics, gathered during the first week of October 2000.

Building	Percentage Recycled
Appleby	33%
Auen	33%
Beckett	33%
Benson	40%
Berger	16%
Boswell	52%
Fawcett	44%
Green	49%
Marks	30%
Phillips	31%
Stark	42%
Wohlford	45%
<b>Total Residence Halls</b>	<b>Average 38%</b>

The recycling total for the Academic and Administrative buildings for the same time period was 49%. While we are definitely making strides in our recycling efforts, there is still work to be done. We encourage everyone on campus to use the blue recycling bins.

Please remember that trash that is contaminated with food (pizza boxes, paper plates, etc.) can not be recycled. If it is thrown into the recycling bins, the entire batch must be placed in the regular trash.

## What Else Can Students Do?

An Interview with Lara Glueck '01



**What environmental efforts are you currently involved in?** Due to policy of letting students take out trays, there is shortage in cups, plates, and silverware at Collins, since students do not take the responsibility of returning them. The manager now has to use disposable ones --an extremely wasteful remedy. My goal is to work

with the Dean of Students to find alternatives to this policy. One suggestion is that Collins adopts the MalloTT Commons practice of holding meal cards while students eat outside. Another suggestion is that we follow the UCLA dining hall practice of allowing students to take out food that they can carry without plates and take out drinks with their own mugs.

Another project is to find safer cleaning agents for the campus. Recently, some schools have adopted measures to make this a requirement, since the health of the housekeeping staff, faculty, and students are at risk. I have submitted a list of these products to Story House.

My senior project is a documentary film about the debate surrounding the plan to build the biotech Keck Graduate Institute on the Bernard Biological Field Station. My plan is to provide the Claremont community with as much information as possible and give members of the community an opportunity to express their opinions before the March referendum.

**Why is this important to you?** Observing conservation practices of some countries in Europe gave me the realization that America is still very wasteful with its resources and should improve its practices. Since environmental efforts are effective in these countries, I am convinced that we can also implement these practices. A large impetus for me is that I want to preserve the environment for our children and the coming generations. My friends and family are equally important, and I do not want to see them coming down with cancer, respiratory problems, or other health concerns. Knowing that species are going extinct right at this moment also reminds me that we should seriously reconsider the repercussions of our anthropocentrism.

**What other opportunities are available for students to become involved?** Twice a year, the Environmental Concerns Committee, comprised of students, faculty, and administrators, meets to discuss environmental concerns concerning the CMC campus. You can contact the Dean of Students office to find out when there are new openings. The five-college Eco Club meets at 10:30 p.m. every Wednesday in Bauer. The Hemp Shak, on 119 West 2nd Street in Pomona, is a great resource for discovering alternatives to paper and cotton. By becoming a Sierra Club member, you can not only participate in local hikes and trips, but you also receive a monthly magazine that provides a good overview of the environmental issues facing us today and what actions we can take.

**Thank you, Lara!**

*EcoNotes* is published by the Environmental Concerns Committee, a group comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Any submissions or comments can be directed to the Administrative Services department. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.