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Getting involved -- sustainably

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THE LAST WORD



Getting involved — sustainably

AFTER ROLLING OUT OF BED 15 minutes before class starts, the Purple Paladin's life begins. Class, class, lunch, class, meeting, workout, shower, dinner, meeting, library, crash!

It doesn't sound much different from the life of any other college student. What is different, though, is that Furman students go through the daily grind sustainably.

Furman's numerous sustainability projects and programs are so much a part of students' daily lives that they may not even realize that their routine actions are, in fact, reducing their environmental impact. Furman students use less water because of low-flow showerheads, consume organically grown herbs from the Furman Farm, and soon, their apartments will be heated and cooled with geothermal heat pumps.

With a little effort, students can become even more involved in sustainability issues by volunteering

at the Furman Farm, joining one of the many sustainability-oriented student groups, or collaborating with professors on sustainability research.

To further engage the campus, I have worked with the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability to help establish a Campus Sustainability Help Desk, through which we answer questions from students, faculty and staff. Also, through my contributions to the sustainability blog (<http://furmangreenscene.wordpress.com>), I am able to share my thoughts on sustainability issues and foster discussion on campus.

From my experiences this year, I have learned that one doesn't have to be an environmental sciences major to become involved in campus and national sustainability efforts. I'm no scientist, but I can use my interests in communications and journalism to raise environmental awareness. My work at the Shi Center has helped reveal these passions.

In celebrating the dedication of the Shi Center for Sustainability, we recognize Furman's role in producing generations of environmentally responsible citizens. Furman's comprehensive approach to sustainability helps us realize the impact of our actions today and how they will shape our world tomorrow.

— **LANDRI TRIPP**

The author, a member of the Class of 2013, is from Shelbyville, Ky., and plans to major in Spanish. She is a Bank of America Sustainability Fellow, a renewable award for incoming students who aspire to become leaders in sustainability in their communities. She made these remarks at the March 2 dedication of the David E. Shi Center for Sustainability.