



SUSTAINABILITY

at the 'Ville



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SPOTLIGHT: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



Each newsletter a different Sustainable Development Goal or SDG will be featured as part of Millersville University's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and showcase the work being done to realize the full achievement of all 17 Goals. This newsletter installment will highlight the SDG goal of Clean Water and Sanitation.

According to the United Nations SDG website:

- 80 percent of wastewater goes into waterways without adequate treatment.
- 5.2 billion people, had safely-managed drinking water in 2015, but 844 million people still lacked even basic drinking water.
- The world has lost 70 percent of its natural wetlands over the last century.

Millersville University consistently works towards clean water and sanitation. Over the past several years MU has engaged in a number of different initiatives including:

- Drs. John Wallace and Nanette Marcum-Dietrich established the Watershed Education Training Institute in 2015.
- Continued installation of water efficient toilets, faucets, and refillable water bottle stations.
- Faculty engaged in research to better understand factors and barriers related to sustainable, clean water.
- Campus rain gardens that manage storm water onsite, preventing pollution from reaching local streams.
- University partnerships with various local and regional watershed alliances

Sources: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html> (Accessed on 03/02/2021)

POSITIVE ENERGY FUND APPLY BY APRIL 15



Millersville University's Positive Energy Fund puts the power to change the world in your hands. Funded by utility cost savings, rebates and the Lombardo Welcome Center's positive energy performance, the Positive Energy Fund provides micro-grants of up to \$2,500 to faculty, staff and students for projects that advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals for Sustainable Development) are a set of 17 internationally-accepted goals that have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change. Guided by the goals, it is now up to all governments, businesses, civil society and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone.

Over the past several years the Positive Energy Fund has helped MU faculty, staff and students hold workshops on green infrastructure, research into climate change and coral reefs and open educational resources for K-12 students. Each of these projects, and many more, help to make the world a better place and you can do.

Apply now to the 2021 Positive Energy Fund.



THE POSITIVE ENERGY FUND
Millersville University



Q & A WITH THE CAMPUS PLUMBING AND WATER TREATMENT STAFF



Each newsletter, the Office of Sustainability interviews sustainability champions on campus and highlight various departments that go above and beyond. This newsletter edition features Glenn Henry from the campus plumbing shop.

During a normal year, the university uses about 39.9 million gallons of water. However, in 2020 that number dropped to just over 33 million gallons due to the campus closure in March. Water originates from a groundwater well on the university's property. Prior to arriving in our faucets and toilets it goes through a treatment process to remove any possible bacterial contamination and to soften the water. It is then pumped to the water tower near the Jefferson building.

While the number of gallons used annually seems high, the university has been consistently reducing our daily usage because of the installation of water efficient toilets, faucets, and refillable water bottle stations. Glenn shared a few statistics about these savings. "Average use (per day) in 1986 was 189,940 gallons. In 2019 that amount was 109,225 gallons. In 2020 it was down to 90,517 gallons." He goes on to say that because of the educational approach and consistent watch on reducing water waste we have been able to reduce our total usage and our footprint as it pertains to water. As a back up in case of emergency, the university is connected to the Lancaster City Water System.

What happens after the water goes down the drain? Glenn explained the university's sanitary sewage is routed to the Millersville Borough's wastewater treatment plant. The stormwater is channeled to various basins. Basins serve a variety of purposes including collection and solids settling (e.g. soils and leaves). From there it either discharges to local streams, groundwater percolation or evaporation.

Glenn also has some good advice to share to the campus community. "Let's try to use our common sense and keep this valuable resource that this area has been blessed with. Do not let the faucet or toilet run all the time. We do not have an unlimited supply of this stuff. An adage I can remember is "Waste not, want not". Yeah, its corny and old fashion but like money, I'd rather have more than enough than too little."

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

Saturday, March 20 marked the official start of spring. For many, this time to reorganize spaces, and declutter. Before you go all-in and start to tidy up your space like Marie Kondo, it is important to plan what to do with all the unwanted items when you finish. Sure, throwing away things is easy, but it typically is not the most sustainable. One action item of the UN SDG Goal 12 is to greatly reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse. Here are some tips to help you realize this action item and others under Responsible Consumption and Production.

- Consider donating gently used clothing and housewares to local, community based organizations or stores.
- Contact local shelters and food pantries regarding donations of new or gently used items, clothing, and food.
- Repurpose t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other clothing items into a keepsake quilt or blanket.
- Recycle old electronics like laptops, printers, TVs, and smartphones. Many large box stores have electronic recycling programs. Be sure to properly remove any identifiable information prior to recycling.
- If you have old automotive fluids or parts like engine oil or tires, contact your local mechanic about recycling. Note that some may do it for free or at a cost, depending on what it is and quantity.

In addition to these tips, also consider completing preventative maintenance and safety tasks including replacing smoke detector batteries, checking fire extinguishers, cleaning air ducts, replacing any air filters, and cleaning dryer vents.

