

## ***Environmental Statement of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University***

### **Preamble**

Good stewardship has been a Benedictine hallmark for over 1500 years. Saint Benedict urged his followers to "...regard all tools and goods of the monastery as sacred vessels of the altar." (RB 31:10) "Believ[ing] that the divine presence is everywhere" (RB 19:1), St. Benedict calls us to respect and revere the common things of everyday life and by extension, our natural environment.

Therefore, as Benedictine institutions of higher education, Saint John's University and College of Saint Benedict view the natural environment as an expression of God's creative wisdom and seek to cherish and honor it "so that in all things God may be glorified." (1 Peter 4:11 in RB 57:9)

We see ourselves as responsible for good stewardship of the natural environment and seek to take a leadership role in exercising this responsibility, affirming our commitment to use educational activities to promote environmental awareness, global thinking and collaboration on the local level.

### **Commitments**

1. In our ongoing operations, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will strive, as sustainable communities, to:
  - a. conserve natural resources and support their sustainable use;
  - b. conduct affairs in a manner that safeguards the environmental health and safety of students, faculty, staff and communities;
  - c. reduce the use of toxic substances and the generation of wastes, and promote strategies to reuse and recycle those wastes that cannot be avoided;  
and
  - d. purchase renewable, reusable, recyclable and recycled materials when feasible.

The Chief Financial and Administrative Officer and the Chief of Physical Plant at Saint Benedict's and the Vice President of Finance and Administration and Assistant Treasurer for Plant at Saint John's, or their delegates, shall have the responsibility for these areas.

2. In pursuit of our educational missions, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will strive to:
  - a. foster an understanding of and a responsibility for the natural environment;
  - b. assist faculty and students to become knowledgeable about the environmental and health issues that affect their discipline;
  - c. encourage research and scholarship which focus on the natural environment;
  - d. conduct research and teaching in an environmentally responsible way; and
  - e. provide a forum for study and debate about environmental issues and their relationship to other social issues, and invite the participation of members of government units, environmental organizations, industry, and academia.

The Vice President for Student Development at Saint Benedict's and the Vice President for Student Development at Saint John's and the CSB/SJU Provost, or their delegates, shall have the responsibility for these areas.

3. In our student and employee training, the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University will strive to:
  - a. encourage students and employees to study safety and environmental issues; and,
  - b. foster an environment which welcomes suggestions for ongoing improvements in the areas of safety and the environment.

The Vice President for Student Development and the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer at Saint Benedict's and the Vice President for Student Development and Vice President of Finance and Administration at Saint John's, or their delegates, shall have the responsibility for these areas.



MaryAnn Baenninger  
President  
College of Saint Benedict



Dietrich Reinhart, OSB  
President  
Saint John's University

*Issued by the Presidents Lyons and Reinhart on January 11, 2001  
Reaffirmed by President Baenninger on October 7, 2004*