



# College of Saint Benedict Sustainability Newsletter

APRIL 2018

## *“Stash It, Don’t Trash It!” during spring move-out: April 30–May 13*



*Stash It, Don't Trash It!* is an annual event held by the CSB Sustainability Office and CSB Residential Life & Housing during spring move-out to enable students to keep unwanted items out of the landfill by giving them to Catholic Charities and The BIG Sale!

Catholic Charities is a local social service

agency that supplies Stearns County families in need with non-perishable food, gently worn clothing/shoes, toiletries, and other household items. Collection for these items will be in residential lounges.

Furniture, small appliances, electronics, and decorations (which Catholic Charities doesn't accept) are stored for the summer and sold back to students at The BIG Sale

during move-in weekend, with all proceeds benefiting the Sustainability Office. For these items, look for the collection tarps near outdoor trash and recycling areas.

Do you have questions about what you can give, or are you interested in volunteering as a Dumpster Intervention Specialist (you'll get a CSB Sustainability t-shirt!)? Email [csbsustainability@csbsju.edu](mailto:csbsustainability@csbsju.edu)!

## *ETL's 11<sup>th</sup> documentary on the cultural & spiritual significance of water*

By Brennan Lafeber, Co-Director of Extending the Link

What does water mean to you? This question has been the centerfold of Extending the Link's 2017-2018 project.

Extending the Link, or ETL, is a student-run organization at CSB/SJU that creates annual documentary films on under-told social justice issues. With the motto “Think Globally, Act Locally,” ETL focuses on global issues with the intention of inspiring local action.

ETL's 11<sup>th</sup> documentary, “*Nibi Eteg: Where the Water Is*”, explores the cultural and spiritual significance of water. The film shares the stories of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and the people whose lives revolve around the Ganges River in India.

Six members of ETL and faculty sponsor Matt Callahan spent winter break in Kolkata and Varanasi, India, learning about and documenting the sacredness of

the Ganges River and the pollution that contaminates it. The team heard from people of many backgrounds and groups in India that all see the Ganges water as being a sacred resource. The Hindu religion, in particular, uses that water as a carrier to the afterlife. Without that water, *moksha* (salvation) is not possible.

The group spent time last semester hearing from members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota. A loss of culture and spirituality has affected the tribe in past years, but members of the tribe that were interviewed have been working hard to teach future generations of their indigenous roots. The team learned of the importance of water in their spirituality and culture, and will be sharing these stories in the film.

The documentary premieres 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, SJU and will be

shown again at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Alumnae Hall, Haehn Campus Center, CSB. The screening is free and open to the public. It will be accompanied by interactive activities before and after the film for students to get connected and involved. These activities will continue through the week for ETL's Water Week.



# UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED EVENTS



**APRIL 19, 2018**  
ETL's "Nibi Eteg:  
Where the Water Is"  
Humphrey Theater, SJU  
7:30 p.m.

**APRIL 20, 2018**  
Sustainability Fair  
The Great Hall, SJU  
2-5 p.m.

**APRIL 22, 2018**  
Bennie Day of Service  
9-12 p.m.  
  
Race Without A Trace 5K  
St. Ben's Monastic Woods  
11:30 a.m.

Earth Day Clean-Up  
Meet at Gorecki Fireside  
12-2 p.m.

**APRIL 23, 2018**  
ETL's "Nibi Eteg:  
Where the Water Is"  
Alumnae Hall, HCC, CSB  
5:30 p.m.

Fair Trade Coffee Visit  
Tasting: Gorecki Fireside  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Presentation: Gorecki 204C  
4-5 p.m.

**APRIL 23-28, 2018**  
ETL's Water Week

eARTH Week Exhibition  
Alcuin Library, SJU

**APRIL 27, 2018**  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of  
the MN Legacy Amendment  
Guild Hall, SJU  
4-7 p.m.

## CSB Endorses Putting a Price on Carbon

By Julia Abell, Brie Baumert, Chris Malicky, Brigid Mark, Elise Miller, Anna Rahrick, Carter Scheele & Maria Schrupp

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, President Hinton signed a letter which endorses carbon pricing at the national level. St. Ben's joins 41 other colleges and universities who have signed to demonstrate their support for carbon pricing. According to Our Climate, the organization that launched this endorsement initiative, the letter is being shared with state and local lawmakers, the higher education community, and the public to garner support to move policy action forward.

Carbon pricing is a broad term used to describe policies that assign a cost to carbon dioxide emissions to incentivize industries to reduce their production of greenhouse gases and transition to a clean energy economy. We know that excessive carbon dioxide emissions contribute to climate change, increasing the frequency of severe weather events, infectious disease, food insecurity, human displacement, military insecurity, species extinction, and social injustice. Right now, everyday people are

paying for the damage climate change is causing. For example, people have to pay for health care costs, property damage, crop damage, and more caused by climate change. A price on carbon helps shift the burden back to those who are responsible for climate change and have the power to reduce contributing emissions.

Forty countries and more than 20 cities, states, and provinces already use carbon pricing mechanisms, and more are planning to implement them in the future. Along with this worldwide endorsement, carbon pricing also has bipartisan support in the United States; at the college level, over 20 US college republican groups are working to create their own carbon pricing plan. At CSB, we feel that carbon pricing aligns nicely with our Benedictine values of Stewardship, Justice, Community Living, and Common Good.

We, as students, know that our generation will have to face the consequences of

climate change, so we feel responsible to take action. We heard about the Higher Education Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative at the Citizen's Climate Lobby of Saint Cloud and thought it would fit well with our school's sustainability initiatives, including our President's Climate Leadership Commitment and the We Are Still In campaign. After consulting with staff and faculty, we organized to show support from the student body. We then presented to the CSB Sustainability Council, who unanimously voted in favor of signing the endorsement letter. Following their advisement, President Hinton signed the letter endorsing carbon pricing.

We are proud to say that our school is leading by endorsing carbon pricing, which has the potential to quicken the transition to renewable energy and mitigate climate change. St. Ben's is taking a stand to combat a global problem.



*Carbon pricing incentivizes industries to transition away from producing fossil fuels and toward a clean energy future.*





## CSB/SJU FACULTY & STAFF: PLEASE TAKE OUR COMMUTING SURVEY!

We aim to capture more precise information for our annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, as well as explore interest in alternative commuting options and commuting improvements.

Please take the ≈10 minute survey at [csbsju.edu/csb-sustainability/commuting-survey](http://csbsju.edu/csb-sustainability/commuting-survey) by May 1. Thank you!

### Celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment!

Join the MN DNR and other MN agencies and organizations for this free event filled with family-friendly activities aiming to engage and inspire people from across the community to get involved with their parks and trails and to learn about the opportunities the Legacy Amendment offers.

**April 27 from 4–7 p.m.**

Guild Hall at Saint John's University  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Email [csbsustainability@csbsju.edu](mailto:csbsustainability@csbsju.edu) if you're interested in volunteering!

## *CSB Culinary Services explores transitioning to Fair Trade/Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee*

CSB Culinary Services and the CSB Sustainability Office recently completed a coffee survey in preparation for a visit to campus by Sun Coffee Roasters, who could supply Culinary Services with Fair Trade & Rainforest Alliance coffee through CSB's current beverage vendor, Bernick's, based in St. Cloud.

"Culinary Services is considering bringing Fair Trade coffee into some of our outlets in the near future. We are excited about this opportunity as it parallels with the mission of our college in supporting the dignity of one's work, stewardship, and justice," says Kim Poganski, Director of Culinary Services.

91% of the 317 survey respondents were in favor of transitioning to Fair Trade and/or Rainforest Alliance coffee (81% strongly supported; 10% somewhat supported), while 8% were neutral in their opinion. When asked why, 66% of respondents gave ethical/moral reasons, 33% gave environmental reasons, and 11% specifically mentioned our Benedictine values or Catholic heritage.

A representative from Sun Coffee Roasters will be at CSB on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, offering coffee samples from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in Gorecki Fireside and presenting on the company from 4–5 p.m. in Gorecki 204C. Culinary Services hopes to see you there!

## *Saint John's Abbey Arboretum sprouts new stewardship initiative with the Abbey Conservation Corps*

By John Geissler, Saint John's Abbey Land Manager & Director of Saint John's Outdoor U



The inspiring and biodiverse 2,944-acre natural setting of the Saint John's Abbey Arboretum that we enjoy today did not happen by accident. It is a gift from previous generations who possessed a conservation ethic and a vision for the long term.

Now is our opportunity—*your* opportunity—to pay it forward! Our new initiative—the Abbey Conservation Corps—is inspired by the tradition of that conservation ethic. We need the

help of volunteers to ensure that the next generation at Saint John's is gifted with a resilient landscape.

There is no application or prerequisite required, and volunteers can expect to work on some of the many stewardship projects planned for 2018, including Oak Planting, Buckthorn Bust, and Pine Knob Restoration Planting. Please join us at our Weekly Wednesday Workdays from 1:15–3:30 p.m.

Our first service project will be tree planting for the Solar Farm Wild Fruit

Orchard. Please join us on Saturday, May 5 any time between 9 a.m.–3 p.m. We will be planting 500 fruiting trees and shrubs. Please register at [csbsju.edu/outdooru](http://csbsju.edu/outdooru) or by calling (320) 363-3163.

Establishing the Abbey Conservation Corps of volunteers will benefit our stewardship efforts and will build upon our mission to engage with people in ways that provide community, education, and spiritual renewal.

*Article adapted from "Gypsy Moth Alert," published in the Abbey Banner, Spring 2018.*