

# WHAT'S NEW IN SAINT JOHN'S SUSTAINABILITY

A Bimonthly Publication of the Office of Sustainability at Saint John's University

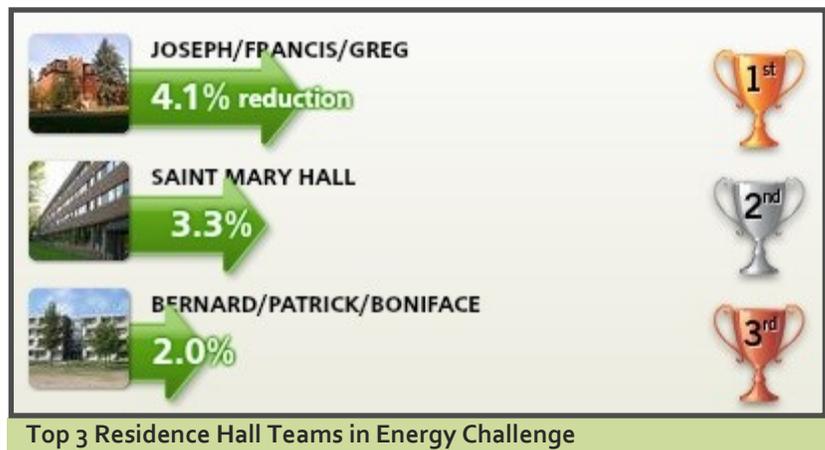
## Big Savings in Energy Challenge

Saint John's competed in a nationwide energy saving competition called Campus Conservation Nationals. The three-week-long competition came to a close on February 22. The residence halls at SJU were divided into eight teams. It was a close race throughout, but the group of Joseph Hall, Francis House, and Greg House ended up on top. Mary Hall, which led for most of the competition was bumped to second place.

The main purpose of this event is to promote a low energy lifestyle. The top seven teams save a total of over 2,400 kilowatt-hours of electricity. This equates to a 3,883 pound reduction of the university's carbon emissions! If students continued these energy-saving behaviors all year, campus emissions would drop by more than 33 tons.

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## SJU to Receive Updated Silver Rating for STARS

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is “a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance” according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The STARS report includes information about the institution's sustainability programs and innovations in curriculum, facilities, and governance. Points are awarded based on how large of an impact each criterion has on an institution's overall sustainability.

Saint John's University completed its first STARS report in 2011, but that original rating has since expired. In February 2015, the SJU sustainability office submitted an updated report to AASHE. It is anticipated that the university will receive a silver rating for its efforts to promote sustainability throughout the campus community. The full report is linked on the sustainability office's webpage. Additionally, it can be viewed on the STARS website.

## SJU Stormwater Project in Early Stage

Saint John's University has been working with the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement several improvements to stormwater runoff around campus. The project is funded in part by a grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Clean Water Fund, which is derived from the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.

This project involves adding stormwater treatment practices near the Flagpole and Watab parking lots. There will also be stormwater practices added near the swimming beach on Lake Sagatagan. The purpose of these improvements is to reduce the amount of sediment, phosphorus, and other pollutants that run into the lakes. This leads to increased water quality and helps ensure the aquatic ecosystem remains healthy.

The early stages of planning are already underway, and additional analysis including soil borings will take place once the ground thaws. These tests will determine what type of stormwater features will work best for this project and how large the various practices need to be in order to treat all of the runoff. Construction could potentially start as early as this summer.



Arial View of SJU; Stumpf Lake Outlined  
Image taken from <[us.geoview.info](http://us.geoview.info)>

## Search for New Fellow Continues

Over the past couple months, the Office of Sustainability has been in the process of hiring its next sustainability fellow. The fellowship is a one-year position that gives recent graduates an opportunity to gain experience in the field of sustainability. The fellow is responsible for helping to lead the university's sustainability efforts through educating and engaging the campus community on these initiatives.

The applications have been reviewed and interviews will be scheduled for the upcoming weeks. Following a training period, the new fellow will officially take leadership of the office shortly after the conclusion of this academic year.

### Contact Us

**Do you have any comments, questions, or project ideas for Saint John's?**

**Let us know!**

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