

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

February 7, 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

The Bowdoin College Sustainability Office has recently implemented a sustainable room certification program that recognizes students who commit to a variety of sustainable living practices. This includes commitments to reductions in waste and energy use, as well as dining hall choices and laundry practices. The program has been able to formalize the concept of sustainable living practices and hold students accountable for those practices. In conjunction with room certification, students can have a member of the sustainability staff audit the energy conservation of their room. The audit examines lighting, heating, refrigerators, and cooking implements to help students maximize the efficiency of their energy use. The Sustainability Office has worked closely with the Residential Life Office to circulate the dorm room certification forms across the freshmen residence halls and college houses.

For a room to become certified, all of its occupants must commit to at least 20 of the 26 sustainable living practices. Upon returning the signed and completed forms to their residential hall's Eco-Rep, the room receives an official certification door seal. In the three months since the program began, in November of 2012, 35 rooms totaling over 100 people have participated in the dorm room certification process, with more outreach planned for the spring semester. This innovative way of utilizing social marketing to promote pro-environmental behaviors has proven to be a positive experience for all involved and we are excited to see the program expand.

Sincerely,



Keisha Payson
Coordinator for a Sustainable Bowdoin

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