

KNOX CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015-2016 academic year was one of milestones. In addition to the successful growth over the past few years in the major initiatives run through the Office of Sustainability, Knox attained a number of firsts and records. The following annual report summarizes and highlights the successes achieved in sustainability during the 2015-2016 academic year.



Student volunteers helped host a waste-free Commencement.

Waste stations collected gowns for recycling and food waste to compost. This year, a record low of 2.5 pounds of landfill-only waste was generated.



In April, Knox celebrated Earth Day all month long.

In addition to the annual Earth Day Festival and workshops, the first annual Earth Day 5k fundraiser raised almost \$500 for a Galesburg organization.



Knox chapter of the Food Recovery Network was established.

In its first year, the Food Recovery Network recruited a group of volunteers who meet daily to package and deliver food that would otherwise be discarded, to local community organizations.



Knox earned its first LEED-certified building.

The Gold-level certification for the Alumni Hall renovation showcases Knox's commitment to resource and energy conservation.



KNOX SUSTAINABILITY BY THE NUMBERS



50.38

AASHE AND THE STARS RATING SYSTEM

Knox has been a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) since 2012.

In 2015, Knox earned a Silver level in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) with a score of 50.38.

SIERRA

112

SIERRA MAGAZINE COOL SCHOOLS

Knox was ranked #112 out of 153 schools in *Sierra Magazine's* 2015 list of Cool Schools.



50,857
11,047

FOOD WASTE

Organic waste is processed on site. This year, more than 50,000 pounds were diverted from the landfill.

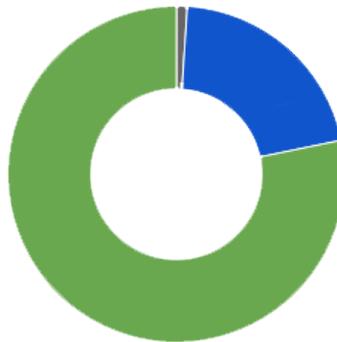
The Food Recovery Network donated more than 11,000 pounds to the community.



2.5

COMMENCEMENT

The waste-free initiative at the 2016 Commencement lunch was a success with only 2.5 pounds of landfill-only waste being generated, just 1% of the total waste.




15,150

MOVE OUT

Students are asked to donate unwanted items, to keep them out of the dumpsters. This year, more than 7.5 tons of reusable clothing, household goods, food, and more were diverted.



100

RECs

Knox participates in the REC (Renewable Energy Certificate) market. For the second year, Knox can attribute 100% of its electricity use to renewable energy.



EPA's GPP

This commitment to renewable energy earned Knox a place in the Leadership Club of EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP). Knox was also recognized for having the largest individual green power purchase among all the schools in the Midwest Conference.



1,380

KNOX FARM

In its second full year, the student-run, campus farm produced more than 1,300 pounds of produce for the Hard Knox Cafe and the campus community.



66

LEED

The renovation of Alumni Hall earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), under its LEED rating system. LEED Gold certification is the second-highest level attainable.

The project earned 66 out of a 110 possible credits. The majority of these were earned in energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and innovative design.



631

UHAUL CAR SHARE

Knox hosts two UHaul car share vehicles, which had more than 600 reservations during the 2015-16 academic year.



75

KNOX BIKE SHARE

Knox runs a short-term and long-term bike loan program. The long-term loan maintains a fleet of 75 bikes and processed 202 loans during the academic year and summer.

OF THE 2016 GRADUATES



83% SIGNED THE PLEDGE

Almost 250 of the graduating seniors signed the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, sponsored by the Graduation Pledge Alliance (GPA), signified by a green ribbon on their Commencement regalia.