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.
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.

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

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.

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.