

# Kansas Green Teams

**Kansas Green Guide – Your Bi-Weekly Guide to Sustainable Living**

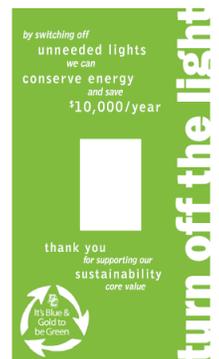
**Green Team Feature: Bethany College**

**August 17, 2012**

Bethany College has an active Green Team that started in the fall of 2008. There are 150 faculty and staff as well as over 600 students on campus. Many participate in meetings and activities of the Green Team, such as the collection of recycling or special events. The Green Team started through the leadership of Noni Strand, Campus Pastor. She saw there were pockets of interest throughout campus and decided to call together a meeting of those interested. Since its inception, the Bethany College Green Team has had many accomplishments. They have broken their Green Team activities into categories. They are: Campus Facilities, Computer Services, Recycling, Conservation, Food, Lifestyles, Awareness/Education, Transportation, Curriculum, Worship and Spirituality and Networks. Here are some highlights of their accomplishments:



- The Green Team organized “Deere Days” to clean up a closed residence hall, Deere Hall. Volunteers helped haul trash, retain usable light fixtures, recycle metal, and clean up the mess inside. Some of the piping, furniture and other resources from Deere were re-purposed and reused on campus.
- A campaign to reduce energy usage on campus resulted in the purchase and installation of custom light switch covers. These were placed on light switches in buildings all over campus.
- The Community Garden is in its fourth year. Various events, including Earth Day events and Saturday work days have been quite successful in engaging students, faculty, and staff in the joy of the Garden.
- A sustainable coffee shop designed by students is being built in an old physics lab. Many re-used and re-purposed items have been incorporated, including the counter from a nearby coffee shop in McPherson, Kansas, that went out of business; old classroom tables and chairs and chandeliers from the president’s inauguration five years ago. The flooring and paint are eco-friendly products, and the ceiling is open to the pipes and building framework that were revealed when the suspended ceiling was removed. The coffee comes from the local roaster. The vision for this project is to establish a student-directed living classroom that promotes and models a sustainable community.
- An annual Earth Day event promotes education and outreach of the Green Team message. The event features a keynote speaker, special Chapel service, Green Team meeting, special cafeteria entrées, workshops and Community Garden work time.
- Students from the Green Team started a bike share program. Old, donated bikes are refurbished and made available for students to use any time to bike around town, across campus or out in the country. In their first month of use, the two experimental bikes could be seen all over the place every day.



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