



Students at St. John's University Take Part in Earth Day 2009 Movement Across America

April 21, 2009

St. John's University (STJ) and its Earth Club will participate in Earth Day 2009 at the school's Queens Campus on April 22 in a show of support as one of several movements across the country that promotes a greener and more sustainable future.

Scheduled events for the week of April 20 include:

- The showing of the environmental documentary film "11th Hour" in Marillac Hall 138A: 4/20 at 7 p.m.
- The showing of a student film by St. John's freshman Huan Bei entitled: "Closing the Loop" – STJ's Sustainability Effort, Marillac Hall 138A: 4/21 at 12:15 p.m.
- The launching of the Rocket® - an in-vessel food composter for Marillac Dining Hall: 4/22
- "Clean Air Campus" information distribution in Marillac Dining Hall: 4/22 (Noon – 2 p.m.)
- Environmental Awareness Communication on the Great Lawn: 4/22 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- STJ Sustainability Initiatives - A Case Study – "Where we are and what's our compass heading": 4/23 at 12:15 p.m.



On Earth Day (April 22) a model A500 food composter called the Rocket® is scheduled to start up St. John's food composting program. The Rocket® is an in-vessel compost solution that will treat food waste from the University's Marillac Dining Hall facility. STJ has leased the Rocket (with intent to purchase) to confirm beliefs that food composting is a safe, sustainable and hygienic viable alternative to sending food waste to NYC landfills. The A500 Rocket® can treat 80 gallons of food waste per week. In 14 days, the transforms the food waste into compost, which then will be stored for three weeks outside the Rocket® and then will be used for lawns and other green areas, thus closing the food cycle loop.

Student members of the Earth Club will be part of the solution by treating food waste in a sustainable way. Students that have volunteered to operate this food composter will expand their sustainability experience and at the same time help "green" their campus.

In addition, The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has given out a grant to administer their programs to improve air quality by reducing the number of single occupancy vehicle use. To date, eight universities (including STJ) in NYS have signed on to inform their students, faculty and staff about improving air quality as described below. The grant has been awarded to Clean Air NY with the main focus of providing information regarding air quality. Over the past year, Clean Air NY has signed on 5,000 businesses, 6,000 individuals and 100 community organizations. Within this awareness program there is a specific segment entitled Clean Air Campus.

Investigation of on-site food composting and the "Clean Air Campus" participation are just some of STJ's continuous improvement program that fits within the partnership agreement the University has with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These specific initiatives help reduce the problems of overtaxed NYC municipal solid waste landfills and air pollution.

For further information on the Rocket® contact Gerardo Soto, North American Trading House, LLC by e-mail at gsoto@natradinghouse.com or e-mail Tom Goldsmith at St. John's University at goldsmi@stjohns.edu.

Information about the "Clean Air Campus" initiative of the NYS Department of Transportation can be obtained by visiting www.CleanAirNY.org.