Kill-a-watt Training for Weekly Teams
January 2016

**Make it memorable:** Create a unique experience. Inform. Inspire. Engage. If you have them pot a plant, tell them about why that matters. Brainstorm awhile before deciding on your event; don’t just go with the first idea someone has.

**Invite faculty:** Contact them early & often! Be a good host. Introduce them, meet them in lobby, moderate questions, encourage interaction, give them guiding questions in advance. See the list in your below for ideas.

**Be organized:** Meet with your group early. Sort out and write down the details: Who will set up food? Who will emcee the event? What kinds of things will happen at the event? At what time? Who is responsible for each of those things? When will we go around & invite people to come to the event? Use the program planning worksheet from your RD.

**Advertise:** Early posters & Facebook events, go around & invite people, ask RAs to invite people during rounds, make it interactive: have a table in the lobby around dinner time, take a poll or survey ahead of time & give results at the event.

**Feed my Sheep:** Provide good food (& advertise what food will be there!) You may order food through the dining hall website, make food, or get food at a grocery store.

**To Compete:** In order to “get credit” for Kill-a-watt, attendees MUST fill out a point card & drop it at the box at the desk or at the event. Have the SC or event leader take a head count at your event and report that number to your dorm SC.

**CLC Resource: Planning programs for Kill-a-watt**

*This list is only a starting place for exploring many ideas associated with sustainability and environmental awareness.*

*Creativity is key with events. Be interactive. If you show movies encourage conversation or discussion following the films. Also consider using just clips or movies or just sections of books to incorporate into discussion. This guide should be used as springboard for any activities you would like to put together. If you have suggestions of things to add or things that don’t work well, please let us know.*

**Points**

- Points are awarded for dorm events & tap-in events during the month of Kill-A-Watt.
- Dorm events where a faculty member is the main component =double points

**Form for reporting points:** (We will email a link to a representative from your team)
Calvin Faculty

Invite a faculty member to speak at a dorm event. Make sure to contact them ASAP if you would like to have any of them be part of an event and be specific with dates, times and locations. On the day-of, meet them in the lobby & introduce them. Here are some suggestions:

- Herbert Fynewever, hrf3@calvin.edu, sustainability and world views
- Keith Grasman, kag4@calvin.edu, Investigations in Winter Ecology
- Matt Halteman, mch7@calvin.edu, Philosophy Professor, animal rights and veganism (Peaceable Kingdom)
- Gail Hefner, gheffner@calvin.edu, Director of Community Engagement, director of Plaster Creek initiative
- Matt Heun, mkh2@calvin.edu, Energy Issues.
- Arlene Hoogewerf, ahoogewe@calvin.edu, Green Cuisine
- Mark Mulder, mtm3@calvin.edu, Urban issues
- Dave Warners dwarners@calvin.edu, Watersheds, plant ecology
- Jamie Skillen jrs39@calvin.edu, Environmental thought
- Scott Townley, Scottdtownley@gmail.com, Works with Hope Farms, a community farming program for refugees. https://www.bethany.org/blog/hope-farms-q-a-with-scott-townley
- Douglas A. Vander Griend, dav4@calvin.edu, Chemistry professor, Dumpster Diving

Activity Ideas

1. Buy some small pots or paper or plastic cups, buy some dirt and plant seeds. Educate students about plant care and have them grow their own plants.
2. Hand out resources about how to use the bus & where the bus can take you in Grand Rapids. Make a push for students to get their discount cards & use the bus.
3. SWAP! Bring all your stuff you don't want down & we'll set up some tables & have a big ol SWAP! Show "Story of Stuff" before the swap. Give out resources about where the nearest 2nd hand stores are located. Start a semi-permanent swap box in your basement or lobby.
4. Have a REALLY FREE TRADE fair. Bring "services" or “goods” you want to offer or get & exchange things with others who come to the event. It might be like a service auction, only no money is exchanged.
5. Encourage students to turn off their lights and play a game together in the dorm basement.
6. Gather all the plastic water bottles from your building and make a sculpture/display of them, with facts about bottled water & the effect using bottled water has on the environment.

Utilizing Website Resources

- Renewal is a Christian college movement towards creation care. There are some good resources on the site for bible discussions, documentaries, and websites: http://www.renewingcreation.org/resources
- Evangelical Environment Network: http://creationcare.org/ EEN seeks to equip, inspire, disciple, and mobilize God's people in their effort to care for God's creation
http://www.betterworldshopper.com/ Teach people about the “Better World Shopper” guide. It comes in a booklet or online, and gives letter grades to companies & brands, depending on how humane & sustainable their practices are. You could make this into some kind of jeopardy/guessing game & guess the letter-grade of major companies.

http://www.sustainablegr.com/ Introduction to Sustainability in Grand Rapids, highlighting city-wide efforts to be more sustainable: (5 minute video, & the city's written sustainability plan)

Explore the concept of Environmental Justice & Environmental Racism & the ways environmental degradation can lead to the exploitation of the specific populations.


Greater Grand Rapids Food Systems Council http://www.foodshed.net/ (has a great guide on Grand Rapids Local Food Guide)

Documentaries Most that are online may be shown publically. If you want to show a documentary not available for free online it must be shown in a non-public space. (i.e. student room). The following may all be shown in a public space.

● Story of Stuff – 20 min animation about overconsumption in the US & its environmental effects. Available online: http://www.storyofstuff.com/
● Flow – Irena Salina’s award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis. She builds a case against the growing privatization of the world’s dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a domineering world water cartel. http://twilightearth.com/water/flow-for-the-love-of-water-full-documentary/ has several 10-minute clips of this video.
● What Would Jesus Buy – a funny anti-shopping preacher man made a documentary about our addiction to shopping. Youtube “shopocalypse gospel choir song” Might be a fun intro to something else https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4Ag72GgbUI
● A short video about where our electronics end up: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5A5zVNmkuZk

General Issues to Consider
For more information about any of these issues, please contact Deanna Geelhoed (Sustainability Intern) at deanna.geelhoed@gmail.com

Water pollution, acid rain, run-off problems, water scarcity, water conservation, hydroelectricity, water scarcity in 3rd world countries (freshwater supplies getting contaminated, Living Water International is working to drill wells in many areas)

1. What are the environmental effects of using bottled water and bottled pop? (& why does Calvin use so much bottled water?)
2. Learn about the origins and safety of Grand Rapids’ water supply: http://www.grand-rapids.mi.us/126
3. The runoff from Calvin College goes into Plaster Creek. Calvin has a group working to preserve the health of Plaster Creek. Learn more about that here: http://www.calvin.edu/admin/provost/prcw/

Air pollution, emissions, global warming, incineration (incineration is how landfills get rid of waste. What are the positive and negative environmental effects of this practice?) exporting pollution (chemicals created in
one part of the world drift to other parts of the world; this is called the globalization of pollution)

1. Where does our power come from? power & fuel issues, why conserve electricity? solar energy, wind energy
2. Mountain Top removal. (Much coal comes from mountains in West Virginia. It has a rough effect on the area).
3. Where does the electricity come from, that powers Calvin College?

Over-consumption, land use issues, urban sprawl, overpopulation, wastefulness, recycling, burning prairie grass (usually a good thing!)

2. Visit the Calvin Nature Preserve & go for a hike. Call and inquire about a guided hike (closes at dusk)
3. Take a trip to a local restaurant, or store, or ministry that has commendable sustainability practices.