

# Sustainability AT ELON

**By Laura Wainman**  
Senior Reporter

Sustainability has been ingrained in Elon's mental dictionary since the creation of Elon's Environmental Advisory Council in 2006. The council, made up of students, faculty and staff representatives, spent a year researching the concept and practice of sustainability and devising the 53-page Sustainability Master Plan to implement their findings at Elon.

Sustainability was made an institutional priority in 2007, which was further emphasized

by the arrival of Elon's first sustainability coordinator, Elaine Durr, last May.

"My job as the sustainability coordinator is primarily to help guide the university toward sustainability through supporting existing programs, as well as supporting research to look into new ideas," Durr said.

Elon has identified several focus areas to work in to further reduce its ecological footprint and create a more sustainable campus, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving resources and educating the community.



## Zipcar

As the recession continues, students alike, cost-cutting is popular.

Zipcar is a car-sharing program that allows students to rent a car for a \$35 annual fee to be able to also purchase a departmental car. All faculty within that department can use the car.

Members can then reserve the car through the Zipcar Web site. The program also includes gas, insurance, and maintenance.

The Zipcar program aims to reduce gas emissions by decreasing the number of cars on campus as well as using Toyota Prius standard gasoline vehicles.



## Bio Bus

Students with vehicles who arrive on campus before 4 p.m. without a car shuttle system has become a popular mode of transportation to campus.

There are currently seven Bio Buses in 2007. The buses run on bio-diesel and 80 percent ultra sulfur diesel as it contains fewer pollutants.

The Bio Buses run five routes from apartment complexes to the Commons and Alameda Commons. The fifth route takes students from the Commons and Alameda Commons to the vehicles on campus or three other locations.

The installation of a GPS system for students to track the exact location of a bus implemented as a resource. It allows students long for a bus to make use of the system.

Elon has 29 other alternative utility vehicles, and plans to add more.

## Lindner Hall

Lindner Hall, currently under construction, is the first Elon building to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver certification. This is a nationally-recognized benchmark for construction and building design sustainability.

While Lindner Hall will incorporate sustainable features already in place elsewhere on campus, it will be the only Elon building to use solar energy and a solar water heating system.

"We have estimated that Lindner Hall will save 96,000 gallons of water a year compared to using standard plumbing fixtures and will be 27 percent more energy-efficient than a building that meets the standard building energy code," Durr said.

The construction of Lindner Hall has also been very "green," as many of the materials used contain recycled content and regional



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