

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st, 2011
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM

growing Elon's ecological footprint through campus sustainability

Earth Day is just a day; Earth Week is just a week, but sustainability is a constant concern, especially on a college campus

NINA FLECK | Copy Chief | @elonnewsnetwork



IN LIEU OF EARTH Day on April 22, the Office of Sustainability is putting on Earth Week: a celebration for the earth, and a reminder that Elon University's efforts to protect the environment persist year-round.

Events will be held throughout the week to raise awareness of sustainability issues and the initiatives the school offers to combat them.

"I don't think Elon falls short in terms of sustainability, but I think that is a common misconception that Elon students have," said senior Kate Pearce, the Eco-Reps coordinator. "I think that oftentimes individuals do not know everything that the university is doing to be more sustainable and to make it easier for students to be sustainable."

The office addresses an array of everyday environmental concerns, such as food waste and production, carbon emissions, building efficiency, indoor and outdoor air quality, climate and waste on the whole — trash, recycling and compost.

In order to sustain all these things, there are more considerations than the environment alone.

"At Elon, ... sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations' abilities to meet their own needs," said Kelly Harer, the assistant director of sustainability for education and outreach. "When most people think of sustainability, they think of the environmental aspects, ... but it's also important to consider the social aspects and the economic aspects. ... We call those



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK
The solar panels at Loy Farm are one example of how Elon strives to be more sustainable.



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ELONTHON: breaking down the numbers

A look behind the scenes at how the philanthropy exceeded their goal

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A buzzer sounds in Alumni Gym, signifying that \$100 more have been raised for Duke Children's Hospital.

The crowd cheers, and the buzzer sounds again. More cheers, but the buzzer doesn't stop.

It rings 50 times in a row, and

sophomore Caroline Free begins to tear up.

Free flew to Elon University for the weekend from her home in Pennsylvania in order to participate in Elonthon, Elon's 24-hour dance marathon. She's taken the semester off because she was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma, a type of blood cancer, and is undergoing treatment at home this spring.

"I knew I definitely wanted to come back because I was seeing firsthand what people are going through and you never want to see a child go through all the tests and poking and prodding

FUNDS RAISED

\$452K

Participants of the 24-hour dance marathon raised \$452,965.18. \$100,000 more than last year.

that I had to do," Free said.

Free likes Elonthon because it feels personal to her, both because of her own experience, and the chance she gets to listen to children's stories.

"Kids are there at Elonthon to speak and I think it makes it a lot closer to the heart instead of just mailing money halfway across the country," Free said.

When buzzers stopped ringing at the end of "power hour," one of the event's fundraising pushes, Elonthon participants

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