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As students, we should be involved and informed about how our school is directly effecting the environment and what we can do to help reduce our carbon footprint. We are comparing other Minnesota colleges and universities to what MSUM is currently lacking before we hire a Sustainability Coordinator, and taking ideas from the students about what they want to see being done.

### **What is a Sustainability Coordinator?**

At most schools, Sustainability coordinators are hired to help implement policies and procedures to help increase the college or university's sustainable efforts. They act as an advisor and coordinator when working with other offices and committees to help build a school where faculty and students are involved in the effort for a more sustainable friendly school. This usually includes ways to reduce waste while increasing recycling practices, developing greener transportation for students on campus, and food and water waste. Many colleges are also revamping current building designs to become LEED certified.

For information about LEED, click the link: <http://blueberrypdx.com/leed-certification.htm>

Some common themes of sustainability offices at large universities like Yale and even Minnesota's Concordia College and Bemidji State are:

- **LEED certified buildings**
  - Yale has 9 total, Concordia has one
  - Concordia also installed 12 solar panels on [Walsdee Biohaus](#)
- **Bike Sharing Programs**
  - Bemidji has "[Bucky's Bikes](#)" which is a service started by the Sustainability Office that lets students rent bikes for a semester!
  - Concordia Moorhead's Facilities managers use modified bikes to get places on and around campus with tools
- **On-campus student led organic farms and sustainability internships that help lead projects**
  - Click the link to watch a video about Concordia's garden!  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/cobberweb#p/a/u/0/8s-INB-5wxg>
- **Electric/hybrid cars**
  - Yale has special shuttles on their campus and Concordia now has 2 electric cars in their campus fleet
- **Reusable water bottles**

- Bemidji gives out free reusable water bottles to its incoming Freshman, to reduce plastic water bottles and styrofoam cups!
- **Strong recycling programs**
  - Concordia has instituted “[Trash-Can Free Classrooms](#)” in hopes that students will then see the recycling bins outside of the most classrooms and recycle
  - Yale already recycles 21% of their annual waste and plans to increase it 25% by June 2013
- **ReRev**
  - At Bemidji State, students campaigned for a device called ReRev, that collects kinetic energy from the ellipticals in the Wellness Center to help power the building: <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/sustainability/projects/energy/>

For more information on other top-notch sustainable schools, click the following link!

<http://www.aashe.org/resources/example-job-descriptions>

Right now MSUM hasn't shared all of its big plans with students once they hire a sustainability coordinator, but in the responsibilities listed on their job application, they list the following:

Act as an environmental awareness educator for the MSUM community.

Conduct a campus sustainability assessment identifying opportunities for continuous environmental improvement and implement programs to deliver the desired outcome.

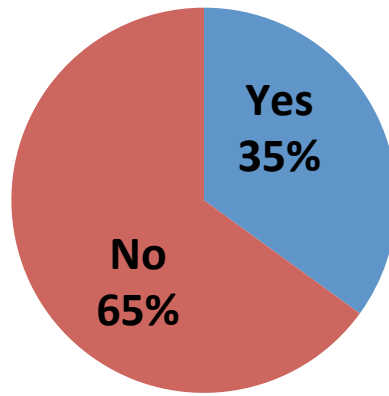
Serve as an ex-officio member on the Sustainable Campus Initiative Committee (SCIC) providing coordination of the Green Fee distribution and leadership to committee members.

Provide resource material and information to faculty, staff, students, and consultants or others outside the university upon request.

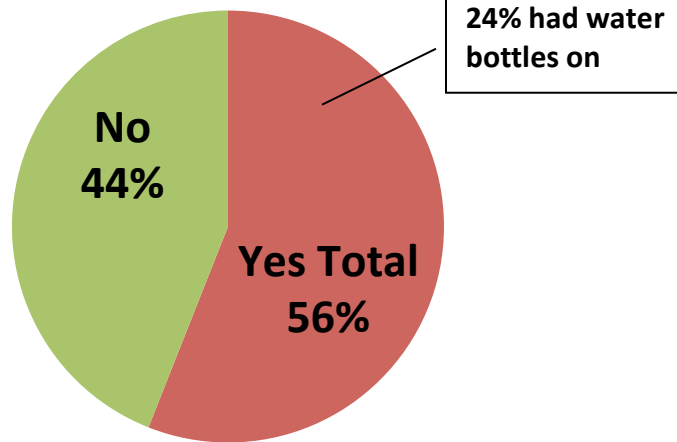
Orchestrate on-campus conferences and workshops on sustainability to disseminate information and educate the campus and broader community.

Faculty members overseeing the process are also talking about getting a better MATBUS program that works with MSUM students and adding additional water bottle fountains to help reduce plastic water bottle usage. Our group surveyed about 50 different students for each poll question below, in an effort to see what should be considered at MSUM for sustainability:

**Do you use the new Water Bottle Fountains on campus?**

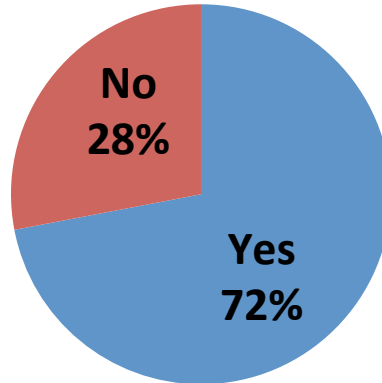


**Do you use a reusable water bottle?**



**NOTES:** If we gave away Reusable Water Bottles like Bemidji for Dragon Days, students are more likely to use them!

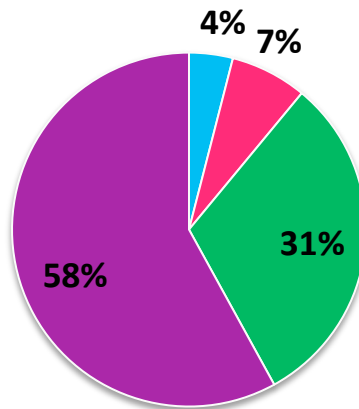
**If you could rent bikes on campus with your student ID, would you drive less?**



**NOTES:** Students said they were worried about having one more large fee added to their tuition costs. Possibly fundraising could be done for initial costs? The students that said No said they lived too far away.

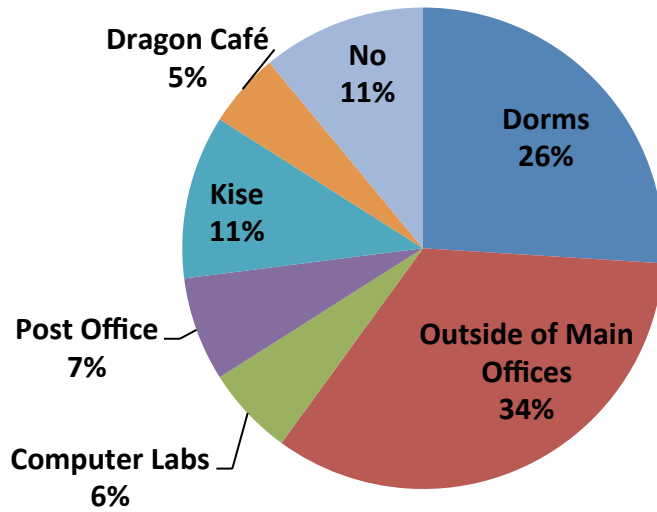
**During your time at MSUM Have you ever rode the City bus?**

■ Once a Month ■ Every Week ■ Less than 5 times a year ■ Haven't Rode



**NOTES:** Students that said no claimed they preferred to drive and the MATBUS system was too confusing and time consuming. Data given out also showed that roughly only 1,000 MSUM students used the MATBUS in the last year.

## Do Students know where recycling bins are on campus?



**NOTES:** The shocking part of this survey was that most students buy food and drinks at the Dragon Café, but hardly any students knew there were recycling bins there. This goes for the campus computer labs as well. This shows that students are most likely just throwing away all trash instead of recycling paper, plastic bottles, cans, and the cardboard boxes the food comes in.