



## Melinda's FYI

### Keene State as a steward of place

The beginning of a new academic year signals a reaffirmation of our goals and the building of strategies to achieve them. In their recent Best Colleges in the North rankings, U.S. News & World Report has named Keene State College #10 in Regional Colleges, #5 in Most Innovative Schools, and #7 in Best Value Schools. This news signals to me that we are on the right track as Keene State College continues to distinguish itself for its high quality programs that lead institutions in this region. As we continue to hold our mission, our commitment to quality, and to our students, we must look to the future, position the college for success, and build partnerships. As I look to the future, Keene State must increasingly serve our role as steward of place — giving back to our region, addressing our needs, and supporting our community. I am excited about our promise to succeed here. Through our groundbreaking

sustainability efforts, we are demonstrating our commitment to be leaders in resource management. This week, our campus is part of the Radically Rural Summit, where our students, faculty, and staff will join in the conversation about what it means to be a thriving rural community. And finally, this weekend, we host our annual reunion, where our alums return to celebrate this place and what it has meant to them. Our College is vital, relevant, and an outstanding partner. I feel the responsibility of leading this institution forward while holding to our mission. Our successes are not ours alone, and we will continue to join with thought-leaders and change-makers throughout this region to make positive change. Thank you all!

**I was recently asked to join Chris Coates on his WKBK Sound Off radio show where we talked about many of these issues. Here is the link if you are interested in listening: [WKBK Sound Off](#)**

**[U.S. News & World Report ranking](#)**

## Office of Sustainability Progress Report

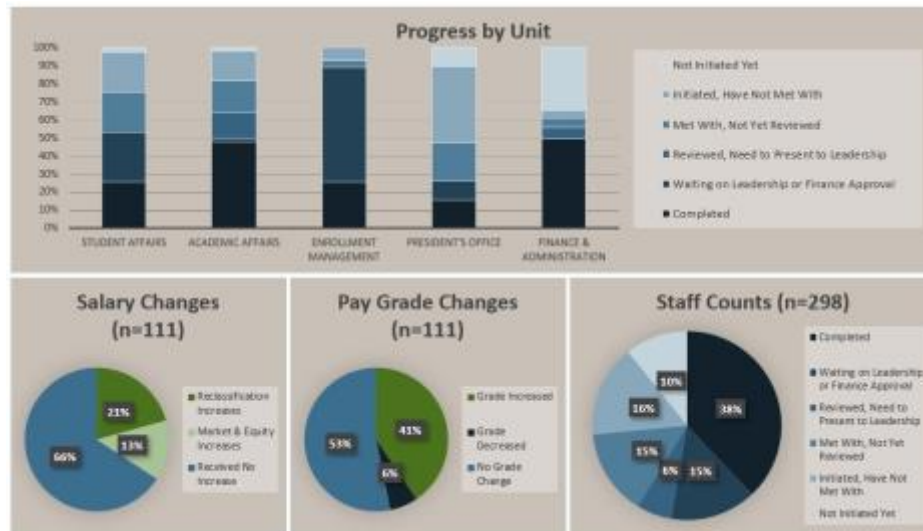
### **From Cary Gaunt, Director of Campus Sustainability**

**The following summary provides a snapshot of progress to date *and* next steps in attaining Keene State College's Sustainability Goals. Our overarching goal, approved by the College in 2015, is to achieve the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) STARS Gold Rating by 2020.**

GOAL	CURRENT STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p><b>Overarching Keene State College Sustainability Goal, 2015: Achieve the AASHE STARS Gold Rating by 2020.</b></p>	<p>KSC currently rates Silver with 56.42 points. Gold requires minimum of 65 points. KSC is <b>8.58 points shy of the Gold Goal.</b></p> <p>Office of Sustainability has developed an ambitious 18-month action plan Road Map to Gold (7/1/19-12/31/20).</p>	<p>Complete targeted AASHE STARS Gold Road Maps for critical Departments and campus leadership.</p> <p>Complete Academic and Engagement Sustainability Goals to complement Greenhouse Gas and Energy Goals approved by Cabinet in April 2018.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability College-Wide Learning Outcome, 2018: Keene State College students will explore their place in interconnected natural and human systems; evaluate the personal, social, and environmental impacts of their choices; and apply their knowledge and skills for building a just, resilient, and thriving world.</b></p>	<p>New Sustainability Minor launched in 2018. Sustainability College-Wide Learning Outcome Subcommittee is developing learning objectives, competencies, and assessment tools.</p>	<p>Efforts are underway to attain KSC Senate Approval for a Major in Sustainability Sciences. The hope is to launch the new major in Fall 2020.</p> <p>Complete and pilot test Sustainability Literacy Assessment and Baseline Survey for KSC students.</p>
<p><b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction: Reduce greenhouse gases 50% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050</b></p>	<p>100% of the KSC Heat Plant is currently using LR-100—a renewable, low GHG emitting 100% refined used vegetable oil heating fuel—fully converting the heat plant from the #6 heating oil to LR-100 this year.</p> <p>Released an RFP for a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract to attain an Energy Service Company (ESCO) to support this goal. Awarded contract May 2019.</p>	<p>Sign Letter of Intent and Contract with the selected ESCO, Siemens Industry Inc., an internationally recognized top performer in sustainability and energy management. Begin working with the Siemens to complete a campus-wide Investment Grade Audit to and identify top priority projects and savings opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Energy and Water Conservation:</b></p> <p><b>Reduce per capita electricity and heat load 20% by 2020</b></p> <p><b>Water Conservation: Reduce per capita water use 20% by 2020</b></p> <p><b>Renewable Energy: Power KSC Buildings with the Sun and Other Renewables</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% renewable electricity for LLC by 2030 to meet its Architecture 2030 goal</li> <li>• 100% solar power for TDS by 2030</li> <li>• 50% of campus powered by renewables by 2030; 100% by 2050</li> <li>• 100% renewable heat plant by 2020</li> </ul>	<p>KSC has a commitment to using low-flow water and energy savings products.</p> <p>Depending on the time of year, the sun powers approximately 15-25% of the building.</p> <p>President Treadwell challenged the College during her Inaugural Speech to match the City of Keene's ambitious renewable electricity goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2030.</p> <p>This goal was achieved early, at the beginning of this academic year through KSC's commitment to purchasing LR-100.</p>	<p>Formalize a KSC Policy on water saving and energy saving product.</p> <p>Initiate a campus-wide energy and water conservation awareness campaign.</p> <p>KSC will be releasing a "Solarize KSC" RFP during this academic year.</p> <p>This transformation will be part of the overall Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract, to begin as soon as the LOI and contract are signed with Siemens Industry Inc.</p> <p>The KSC Heat Plant LR-100 renewable heat addresses approximately 80% of the campus's heating needs. Some buildings, like Pondsides 1, have standalone heating systems. When the Siemens Letter of Intent and contract are signed, the College will begin developing strategies to provide 100% renewable heat campus-wide.</p>
<p><b>Waste Reduction: 50% waste diversion rate by 2020 and qualify as a zero-waste campus by 2030</b></p>	<p>KSC composts food waste (pre- and postplate, meaning kitchen waste and food/paper products left over at the end of the meal) in the Dining Common (began last academic year) and expanded this successful program to the Student Center fall 2019.</p> <p>With student input, the Office of Sustainability created new recycling signage for the entire campus.</p>	<p>The Office of Sustainability will be slowly expanding composting to Res Halls, beginning with pizza box composting, spring 2020.</p> <p>Student employees of the Sustainability Office—Eco-Reps and ROCKS—will lead a waste reduction campaign called Recyclemania, beginning in February 2020. This is a national competition.</p>

## HR update on classification review

This dashboard will be included and updated in each FYI as we track the progress of our classification review project.



## Cabinet update: recent topics

### Recent conversations:

- Board of Trustees Meeting planning
- Walk-through of current Emergency Operation and Action Plan
- Art Acceptance Committee recommendations

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### *Position approvals:*

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### Faculty lines in the following departments:

- Architecture
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Education (Elementary Education)
- Music
- Safety and Occupational Health Applied Sciences
- Sustainable Product Design and Innovation

## Upcoming events

**Radically Rural Thursday, September 20-21, 2019** <https://radicallyrural.org>

**2019 Reunion Weekend Friday, September 20 - 22, 2019**

<https://www.keene.edu/alumni/events/reunion/>

**All Campus Meeting Monday, October 7, 2019 Mable Brown Room 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**