End the year on a green note

Though Earth Day has come and gone, you can end the school year on a green note. Preparing for move out? Instructions are available online at www.pugetsound.edu/moveout.xml, including special information about year-end recycling efforts. Got an old carpet you’re getting rid of? You can recycle it! Just stack it neatly in the breezeway of your residence hall for Facilities Services to pick up.

What about all the stuff you’ve decided you don’t want anymore? You can donate items to the Goodwill truck available from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. in the Wheelock parking lot starting May 1. Any clothes that didn’t make it into your bags to go home can be donated to Operation S.A.V.E. for use by local high school students. Bags for Operation S.A.V.E. are available in your residence hall or from your RCC or GHC.

Graduating this year? Consider taking the green graduation pledge. Interested seniors can pledge to consider the social and environmental consequences of any job offer they consider and will strive to improve these characteristics of their future employers. You can sign online at www.pugetsound.edu/greengradpledge.xml or in person on gown pick-up day. Seniors who pledge will receive a green ribbon to wear on their commencement gown to show their commitment.

Need more ways to go green this May? Consider carpooling home—if all your stuff will fit in! Spend part of your summer volunteering for a sustainability effort. Traveling? Brush up on ecotourism concepts and try to make a difference while you’re making memories!

Transportation Task Force keeps going green

The Transportation Task Force continues to encourage the campus community to make green transportation choices. They’ve recently secured the use of keyed lockers in the Wheelock Student Center basement for use by anyone who wants to leave their car at home, but needs a place to stash their gear.

The spring weather making biking to campus seem more appealing? Participate in Bike to Work Week May 11-15, part of the local Bike Month celebration. You could win a $200 REI gift card! Got an old bike to get rid of or need a newer one? Come to the Bike Swap on May 9, Noon to 5 p.m., in the parking lot off Union Avenue near Harned, Thompson, and Wyatt halls. And remember, the campus bike shop is open MWF 3-5 p.m.!

The TTF has also been instrumental in getting bus passes sold on campus at the Info Center, so be sure to check there when you need to buy yours at the beginning of each month!

In addition, the task force has been promoting the local green commuting incentive program Wheel Options to the faculty and staff on campus, as well as preparing for the biennial survey on the commuting habits of campus employees.

Contact transportation@pugetsound.edu for more information.

5 summer tips

1. Walk or ride your bike while the weather’s nice! Too far? Carpool or take the bus or train!
2. Consider a volunteer vacation! Experience a national park by helping to maintain trails.
3. Shopping over the summer? Remember to take along a reusable shopping bag to reduce waste. And consider buying local, fair trade, and items made with recycled materials.
4. Head to the local farmers market to get ready for those fun cookouts. Buying local foods makes a big difference.
5. Looking for a good summer read? Consider a book on a green topic, like Barbara Kingsolver’s Animal, Vegetable, Miracle or Green, Greener, Greenest by Lori Bongiorno.

Look for more green living tips at www.pugetsound.edu/livegreentips.xml.

DID YOU KNOW... The average home is responsible for twice the greenhouse gas emissions as the average car... If every American swapped ONE bulb for a CFL, it would remove 2 million cars worth of greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere... The average American emits 9.44 tons of carbon dioxide per year... Each of us spends about 70 hours each year dealing with junk mail that destroys 100 million trees annually...