



GREENER

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There are six main ways that Smith College in Northampton, MA works to promote sustainability and reduce their consumption of fossil fuels:

1. **Buildings:** Smith has the fifth building in the world to be certified as a Living Building. It is a net-zero facility with composting toilets, solar panels, and the reuse of gray water. Additionally, five of their buildings are LEED certified.
2. **Dining/Food:** Smith has dedicated itself to getting food from all natural local sources. This has reduced the carbon footprint by not having food delivered from a distance
3. **Energy Use:** They have solar panels which power 2% of their total energy use, use LED lightbulbs, and have a metering system that allows students to constantly be aware of how much energy they are using.
4. **Landscape:** The campus arboretum has more than 1000 different trees.
5. **Transportation:** Faculty is paid more than \$400 per person per year if they commit to not driving to the college.
6. **Waste:** Smith has been composting since 2005.

So what can I work to change in our school? We already compost, and our buildings are very energy-efficient. We have a pollinator garden, fresh fruits and vegetables growing on our own campus, and our school food is delivered from a refugee company that serves all natural, home grown food in a eco friendly way. However, we could definitely use some help with our energy use. Our light bulbs are inefficient, and though the teachers turn off the lights whenever possible, the amount of energy is still unsustainable. While our energy comes from renewable hydroelectricity, the dams have create ecological issues including a lack of water in the summer months. However, there is an unfamiliar solution to this. I've fallen in love with this idea. What is it? Solar (freakin) Roadways. Never heard of it? I'm not too surprised, but it's never too late to learn. Check out the video [here](#). While they are not being sold yet, they have plans to start within the next year. I plan to work with the school to implement these into our parking lots so that we can gain sustainable resources and help cool down the environment. For now though, I'll stick with turning off the lights.