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Alumni Spotlight:

Michael Garland '85, Civil Engineering major
Director of Environmental Services at Monroe County (NY)

In this interview series we bring you inside the world of Villanova alumni and explore how their work relates to creating a sustainable future. In this issue we hear from Michael Garland, the Director of Environmental Services for Monroe County in New York State.

What did you study while attending Villanova?

I graduated Villanova University in 1985 with a Civil Engineering degree.

In your own words, how would you define sustainability?

The art of protecting, preserving and recovering resources.

Why is sustainability important to you?

I feel a personal and professional obligation to protect and enhance the land, air and water environment for my children, the residents of Monroe County (NY), and future generations in our community.



How have you supported or been involved in sustainability efforts throughout your career or personal life?

As Monroe County's Director of Environmental Services since 2008, I've been responsible for a number of unique and successful sustainability projects and initiatives including:

- Developing the County's Green Building Policy, resulting in the construction of seven LEED-certified buildings including a LEED Platinum Crime Lab.
- Managing the County's "Waste to Watts" program that produces 6.4 MW of renewable electricity from landfill gas, sufficient to power 6,000 homes.
- Creating the County's ecopark as a one-stop-drop service for residents to properly dispose of recoverable items, like household hazardous waste, electronics, appliances, pharmaceuticals, bulky plastics, clothing, scrap metal, waste tires, etc.
- Achieving the No. 2 Green Fleet Award by Government Fleet Magazine.
- Developing and implementing a Solid Waste Management Plan, with a goal of diverting 60 percent of municipal solid waste from local landfills by 2024.
- Recovering approximately 45 billion gallons of water per year through the county's world class wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment system.



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What are your favorite weekend/evening leisure activities or hobbies?

In upstate New York, we love our four seasons! In the fall I watch my son's football games. In the winter I ski with my twins. In the spring I ride mountain bikes with my daughter. In the summer we enjoy fishing, swimming, and hiking in the Adirondacks. Year round I play electric guitar in my garage band!

What is your favorite memory as a Villanova student?

The incredible euphoria experienced the night we won the 1985 NCAA Basketball Championship! Go Cats!

What do you feel is the most exciting development in the sustainability field over the last year?

The exponential growth of hybrid and all-electric powered vehicles as evidenced by Volvo's commitment in July to phase out conventional engines and produce only hybrid vehicles and vehicles powered solely by batteries starting in 2019.

If you would like to connect with Michael you may do so via email at mgarland@monroecounty.gov



Sustainable Gift Giving Tips

1. Opt for experiences instead of physical gifts

Things aren't the only way to show your family how much they mean to you, a great experience with you or someone else can be far more valuable than a new hat.

2. Donate to a charity

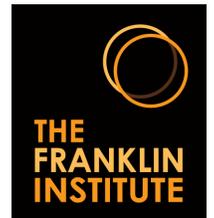


Having a hard time coming up with ideas of what to give someone, sometimes the best gift is helping others in need. There are a number of respected third party raters of charities based on their distribution of funds and commitment to their mission.

3. Memberships are great, especially for families



Give the gift that keeps on giving all year long. Memberships to zoos and museums can be great for families with kids. Other memberships, like for a gym, online newspaper, CSA, arboretums/ gardens or other local experiences can be a fun gift for anyone on your Christmas list.



4. Use plugins to support causes you care about when shopping online

There are a plugins that automatically donate money to a charity of your choice when you shop online with no cost to you.



5. Shop Local



Even if you missed Small Business Saturday, there is still plenty of time left to shop local. Take a stroll down your favorite downtown shopping district and support a local business or two. Money spent at a local business adds more to the local economy than shopping at a large national chain.

Source: Sustainable Connections



Sustainable Gift Giving Tips

6. Shop fair trade

Shops and products that have fair trade certification have been made by putting people and planet first. Fair trade products can be found online and in stores.



7. Look for upcycled or recycled gifts



Online stores like ThredUp, and physical stores such as Greene Street are a great option for high quality used clothing.

Companies like Patagonia support the reuse of their items through their *Worn Wear* program.



8. DIY Gifts

DIY can be a great way to cut down on cost and add a personal touch to your gift giving. There are so many ideas online, from soap and candles to candy and pickling.

9. Waste reducing gifts

Gifts like reusable mugs, lunch containers, bags, etc. can be a fun gift that delights the receiver and helps reduce waste. Sites like Reuse It and Mighty Nest have a lot of great waste reduction ideas and products.



10. Energy saving gifts

The gift that keeps on giving. Though smart thermostats and power strips may not seem like exciting gifts they can sometimes be just what your loved one needs.



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handshake

Monthly Sustainability Jobs Highlights

U.S. Dept. of Interior: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Communications Intern

Interns conduct research assignments and participate in group projects to build their resumes in their fields of interest. Assignments include environmental science, community development, communications, data analysis, and more.

Paid Internship

Absolute Consulting Group Inc.

Energy Marketing Representative

Provide customer service feedback on products and promotions, develop strong relationships with customers and client, and process customer orders and changes.

Paid Position

Atkins Global

Entry Level Scientist I (Ecology/Environmental)

Atkins is currently seeking an Entry Level Scientist I (Ecology/Environmental) to join our rapidly expanding Environmental Sciences group. Apply your ecological and environmental knowledge toward the assessment of project sites, along with preparation of environmental documents and regulatory applications.

Paid Position

U.S. Department of Energy

Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program

The Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship (MLEF) Program provides college students with an opportunity to gain and develop research skills with the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy.

Stipend

Environmental Defense Fund

EDF Climate Corps Fellow

EDF Climate Corps is the premier graduate fellowship program to jump-start your career in clean energy or sustainability.

Paid Fellowship



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EVENTS

Wednesday, December 6

Food Waste Collections Across Campus

Dining facilities are not the only source of food waste on a college campus. Join this webinar for two examples of cutting edge efforts to expand food waste collection to academic buildings, residence halls and other locations across campus.

Webinar, Register Online

1:00-2:30pm

Wednesday, December 6

Sustainability Beyond Campus: Engaging Students in Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Policymaking

In this webinar, two campus sustainability professionals who also held elected public office (in Minnesota and in New York) offer their perspectives on how students can become engaged with public officials and local organizations to develop policies and projects to make communities more resilient and sustainable.

Webinar, Register Online

3:00-4:00pm

Saturday, December 9

Local Solutions for Extreme Weather Events

With so many communities suffering from storms, extreme heat days and wildfires, it's time to consider how to best support our neighbors in a time of need. A community dialogue on shared leadership for representatives of faith groups, local emergency management offices, representatives of local voluntary organizations active in disasters (VOAD) and other professionals and volunteers who seek to learn how best to respond to local disasters.

Register Online

9:00am- 4:00pm

Wednesday, December 13

Building a Resilient and Reliable Infrastructure

Sarah Dawson, Director, Franklin & Marshall College Center for Sustainable Environment and Lt. Col. Paul Sheets, US Army, Resiliency Expert

Register Online

8:30-11:30AM | PA Turnpike Administration Building

EVENTS

Wednesday, December 13

Building a Strong Local Foods Program for Your Campus

This webinar will offer stories and tips from students, chefs, dining directors, administrators, and non-profit staff who are advancing sustainable food systems on their campuses and in their regions. The practitioners will speak to their successes and lessons learned, and leave you with ideas that you can take back to your own campus.

Webinar, Register Online

3:00-4:30pm

Saturday, February 10, 2018

GreenAllies Conference

Join us for our fourth annual student networking conference! Hear from amazing student environmentalists and sustainability professionals, share ideas, and meet environmental clubs from around the region.

Register Online

10:00AM-3:00PM | Swarthmore College



Friday, February 23, 2018

Sowing Change: Promoting Food Access Through Campus and Community Gardens

Details to come.

Susquehanna University



IN THE NEWS

Villanova Athletics' Andy Talley Center Certified LEED Silver



One of Villanova University's newest buildings, the Andrew J. Talley Athletic Center, has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. LEED is the most widely used green building rating system in the world to create healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. With the addition of the Talley Center, Villanova now has six LEED certified buildings., including: The Charles Widger School of Law (Gold), Driscoll Hall (Gold), Fedigan Hall (Gold), Sheehan Hall (Silver) and Sullivan Hall (Silver).