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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

