

KEEPING IT GREEN

December 2016

Facilities Operations and Services



College President's Unite



President Bitterbaum has signed on to collective call to action by Higher Education advocating for a clean energy future for the success of our students. This open letter will be sent to the incoming Presidential Administration on or about December 16th. The letter is a broad statement by the Higher Education sector about the academic and ethical responsibilities to our current and future students to take aggressive climate action; to reduce our carbon pollution, to support interdisciplinary climate education, and to continue research that expands our understanding of rapidly changing earth systems.

See full letter and additional information on Second Nature's website [here](#).

Semester Break

Please be advised that beginning on Saturday, December 17th, 2016, when campus population is low, ALL facilities will have a lower than normal space temperature so that we may conserve precious non-renewable resources. If you plan on working in office areas during this time, you should plan accordingly and dress in layers. On January 2nd, 2017, Administrative and Winter Session Specific Facilities will be brought back to normal temperatures. On Thursday, January 19, 2017, ALL remaining facilities will be brought back up to normal temperatures. If space temperatures in your area drop below 65 degrees during occupied periods, please notify Facilities Operations and Services' Customer Service at ext. 2100. The Customer Service Representative will develop a work order to notify the HVAC department.

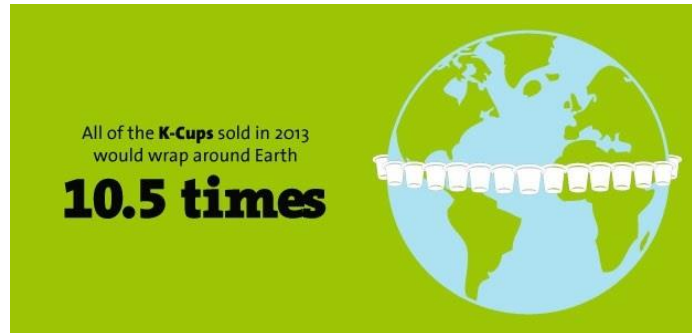
Please know that the HVAC department closely monitors events scheduled through [MyRedDragon Room Reservation System](#) and buildings that are known to have higher populations than normal during this time period. We will be monitoring the scheduled campus activities closely during this time and reviewing our resource use accordingly.

As you prepare to leave campus for an extended period of time, please remember to turn off all lights, computers, personal space heaters, coffee pots and all other office equipment such as printers or copiers to conserve energy before departing. Another consideration before you leave is making sure doors close soundly behind you. Vestibules and wind-breaks are meant to do just that, keep harsh winter winds out and the warmth in, please do your part to help conserve energy.

On-Campus Living provides end of the semester collection locations for un-wanted items. This is a huge benefit to divert items from landfills and provide to others that may be in need. Please find the bins located in each residence hall for your specific collection location. If you have questions about this program, please see your Residence Hall staff.

Our coffee addiction

As we wrap up the semester and put in our last few days of preparation for exams, papers, and group projects, have you considered the waste generated by your caffeinated fueled studying spree? English Major, Kelly Lambkin has considered the waste and she is making some changes.



K-Cups: Small in Size but Enormous in Environmental Impact

Coffee. It's something that most college students need in order to succeed throughout their four years at SUNY Cortland. It's what gets us up in the morning for those dreaded 8 AMs and what keeps us working into the late hours of the night in the library. Recently, coffee making has been simplified by the invention of the Keurig. What seemed like such an easy and effective way to make single serving coffee has actually ended up becoming quite an environmental disaster. K-cups are constructed of a hard outer plastic shell and a small coffee filter on the inside. These little cups have proven to be detrimental because the first model of the cups were non-recyclable. David Gelles of The New York Times wrote an article that stated that more than 9 billion K-cups were sold in 2015. Because of their non-recyclable nature, all of these K-cups ended up in landfills. While the makers of the K-cup are attempting to produce a model that is recyclable, it is clear that we as consumers need to find a way to make our coffee consuming habit more sustainable.

Continue reading Kelly's article [here](#).

"Keeping it Green" is SUNY Cortland's voice for all things sustainable, offering short news brief of what is happening in our Community and the world. The Sustainability Office and Facilities Operations and Services issues "Keeping it Green" each month during the academic year. We are always interested in your stories and other ideas for spotlighting all the great things you are doing related to sustainability! Please share your ideas for stories and events with [Beth Klein](#) and [Matthew Brubaker](#). Thank you.