



# Rensselaer

## Green GREEKS

Being sustainable or “going green” is no longer just a trendy movement. It is now a mainstream practice at home and in business to improve our health, our finances, and our environment. Institutions of higher learning have traditionally been a hotbed for sharing new ideas and their students a catalyst for changes in policies and social principles. The sustainability movement is no different as students, faculty, and administration have taken up the cause and made it their own. Members of the 31 fraternities and 5 sororities at Rensselaer (comprised of roughly 1255 students) are leading the sustainability effort on campus with their Green Greeks vision and plan.

### 1) Research and Education -

- Provide a toolkit of best practices and available resources so that information and solutions are readily available and accessible.
- Conduct sustainability assessments of current conditions in each living quarters to gain an in-depth understanding of building systems, equipment, operations, and products; quantify energy, water, carbon, and waste stream baselines; and get recommendations of improvements and benefit analysis.
- Hold facilitated workshops with sustainability professionals to develop customized green workplans.

### 2) Sustainable Practices -

- Work as a collective to optimize efforts and reduce costs for purchasing green, non-toxic cleaning products.
- Work as a collective to optimize efforts and reduce costs for shrinking the landfill waste stream by increasing reuse of materials, recycling, and composting.
- Work as a collective to engage local farmers and CSAs to purchase fresh, healthy produce and products.

### 3) Campus Integration -

- Work with the ongoing initiatives at Rensselaer such as the Student Sustainability Task Force and the Fraternity 5 Star Rating Program to enhance and improve campus wide efforts.
- Identify new opportunities to share experiences and information, get involved in class projects and coursework, and increase the sustainability of the Rensselaer community.

*“The Greek community will strive for excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, involvement, diversity, building community, and brotherhood/sisterhood.”*

**Green Greeks Executive Committee:** **Ben Hunt** - Chair - Pi Kappa Alpha - huntb@rpi.edu; **Frank Regan** - Chair - Phi Kappa Theta - reganf@rpi.edu; **Tom Holland** - Vice Chair - Lambda Chi Alpha - hollat@rpi.edu; **Anthony Tamalonis** - Vice Chair - Delta Tau Delta - handulldtd@gmail.com; **Brett Farbstein, LEED AP** - Professional Consultant - Livable Planet Solutions - Alumnus, Delta Tau Delta - brett@livableplanetsolutions.com



Rensselaer

Green

GREEKS

# Request for support from AIGC

As prepared for Spring AIGC Meeting April 25, 2009, 9am, Heffner Alumni House

*“Provide models for budgeting chapter house operation, securing affordable liability/property insurance protection, and advising members on trends in costs, taxes, and **environmental/competitive** forces.”*

- From Article II of the **CONSTITUTION OF THE RENSSELAER ALUMNI INTERGREEK COUNCIL**

As a model for chapter house budgeting and house operation, as well as a project providing environmental/competitive benefit, we believe Green Greeks to fit within the vision of the AIGC. The financial success of the Green Greeks program exists solely based on solicitations of funds outside of the RPI Administrative or Greek Life budget. Therefore, we have come to the AIGC seeking support financially or otherwise.

## **Estimated Total Project Budget (estimated minimum costs):**

- Custom Recycling Bins .....\$4,800 (4 per house x 30 houses @ \$40)
- Sustainability toolkits (Farbstein).....\$4,500 (36 copies @ \$125)
- 1 Sustainability Audit/Assessment (Farbstein) .....\$4,000
- 1 Fall Workshop (Farbstein) .....\$800
- Other Literature Printing .....\$200
- Contingency & Extraneous Budget .....\$700

**Total Minimum Costs: \$15,000**

## Green Greeks are requesting to work with the AIGC to:

- A) Foster a relationship wherein the AIGC will serve as a visionary/mentoring body for the Green Greeks project. The AIGC will help to implement and communicate the project to individual chapters and the Greek community as a whole.
- B) Set-up a donation account through Institute Advancement. We are looking for a way for donations to be specifically earmarked to the project.
- C) Acquire donations from Greek Alumni/Housing Corps groups. With a donation of around \$15 per Greek student, we could fully support our project.

For more information contact:

Ben Hunt at [huntb@rpi.edu](mailto:huntb@rpi.edu) or Brett Farbstein at [brett@livableplanetsolutions.com](mailto:brett@livableplanetsolutions.com)