

ARAMARK is Green!

“Did you know ARAMARK at Springfield College is green??” Here at Springfield College we have a deep respect for and commitment to preserve our environment. We are connecting and developing environmental stewardship programs and policies that weave throughout our business operations. These include sustainable food and agriculture, earth-friendly procurement, energy conservation and waste management.

ARAMARK stays green by partnering with outside sources. At Springfield College supporting our local farmers and the community is very important. We have implemented a preferential purchasing system that identifies local produce items and the area from which it originated. We place preference on food grown within our area, state and then region of the country, in that order. Conventional produce from around the world will still be available when an item is not in season locally so you can continue to enjoy all of nature’s bounty. Produce that is locally grown is harvested closest to its peak for a fresher, more flavorful nutrient-filled result. Buying local conserves energy and allows us to contribute to local farms and the economy.

Sustainability doesn’t always have to come in the form of produce. ARAMARK at Springfield College contributes to sustainability with dairy products as well. Beginning Fall semester 2007 Cheney hall will be providing High Lawn Farm milk to our students and staff. High Lawn Farm is located in Lee, Massachusetts where they strive to keep everything that they do simple and natural. Animal byproducts of any kind are not used in their feeds. And they do not use any rBST or artificial growth hormones to increase milk production. The High Lawn Farm milk received wonderful feed back from a taste testing at Cheney hall last semester. Students and staff vocalized their interest in the tasty growth-hormone-free milk and will be pleasantly surprised in September.

ARAMARK can also stay so green by internal policies and procedures. Though paper products don’t grow at our local farms we are still able to keep our purchases of these products environmentally friendly. ARAMARK purchases SCA Tissue recycled towels for all of our dispensers. By purchasing SCA’s paper towel rolls ARAMARK at

Springfield College has saved more than 15,040 gallons of water and more than 8,800 Kilowatts of energy in one year alone. We have also conserved greater than 6.5 cubic yards of landfill space. “Talk about a small change going a long way!”

Green operations in the dining hall include eliminating the use of trays and straws. By removing the trays we are able to save over 668 gallons of water per day spent washing them. That works out to over 149, 632 gallons of water per school year!

Not only can we save almost 150,000 gallons of water per year but we can significantly reduce the amount of chemicals we use to wash them as well. Cheney hall can save over 13 gallons of chemicals per day or over 2,820 gallons of chemicals per school year.

“What about straws?” A dining hall of equal size to ours creates over 450 pounds of trash from plastic drinking straws in one year. Cheney doesn’t use straws! This alone helps us save hundreds of pounds of waste each year.

ARAMARK has also joined forces with the facilities department to increase the amount of recycled products. We have stepped up our recycling program to include a multitude of additional items. Springfield College alone recycled over 281,179 pounds worth of materials (Over 140 tons) last year. We at ARAMARK are doing our part to make sure we increase recycled materials and decrease landfill waste.

“Now it’s your turn.” Here are 3 simple actions you are able to take to help ARAMARK continue in its conquest of being environmentally friendly.

- Start with less. Instead of filling up your plate with everything in the dining hall start with a couple smaller servings. If you’re still hungry you can always go back for seconds, or thirds!
- Cut back. Why use 2 napkins when you can do the same job with one? Try to cut your use of paper/plastic products in half or eliminate it all together. Do you really need a straw or a lid for your iced coffee?
- Recycle. Be conscious of where you are disposing trash. Can the product be recycled? Probably! Almost every product can be recycled. Contact the facilities department for a list of recyclables and where to dispose of them.