



## ON CAMPUS

### FEATURED STORIES

- Upgraded Bowls at Eagle's Nest
- France Installs First Solar Road
- Obama Designates Two Monuments, Protecting U.S. Land
- Trump Names Scott Pruitt New EPA Head
- Environmentalist Spotlight: Kate Weingartner

### OUR TEAM

This newsletter is a monthly publication by EcoPledge of Boston College.

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Eagle graphic courtesy of Zoe Fanning, MCAS '20

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## BC Dining Offers Upgraded Grain Bowls at Eagle's Nest

**New Food Alert ...** BC Dining introduced "Bowls" to Eagle's Nest during the second week of November. The station is an upgrade from the previous harmony bowl station that was not as well-received by students as BC Dining hoped.

**Crazy Customized ...** The new bowls station allows students to customize their bowls. Students first pick a protein base of quinoa, brown rice, or sauteed kale. Then students can pick three vegetables including roasted butternut squash, corn, barbecue black beans, and carrots. Finally, students can top their bowls with an animal protein: either fire-roasted chicken breast or a scoop of warm macaroni and cheese. The bowls themselves are made from paper products.

**A Protein What? ...** The bowl was created to further BC Dining's "protein flip" effort. A protein flip involves supplementing some animal protein with another source of protein, like a grain or a legume. Instead of the meat as the center of a dish, a protein flip makes a grain or vegetable the center. The bowl allows the vegetables and grains to shine, while the meat or macaroni and cheese serves as a small topping.



*Christopher Russo, CSOM '19*

BC Dining introduced new grain bowls this fall.

**An Environmental Take ...** Besides their health benefits, the bowls also have an environmental impact. "It's so important to have these delicious options available on campus that are also better for the planet," said EcoPledge president Bronte Kass, MCAS '18. "Plant-based meals contribute less to deforestation, produce significantly less CO2 emissions and pollution, and can use approximately 30 times less fossil fuel energy than meat and cheese dishes require." Kass hopes that the bowls will remain popular among students on campus and that BC Dining will continue to find new ways to increase their sustainability efforts, in terms of both meal offerings and disposal of waste in the dining halls.

## EVENTS THIS MONTH

- Feb 5** The national RecycleMania competition begins. Be mindful of which items should be recycled and which ones should be put in the trash.
- Feb 7** EcoPledge will have a showing of the documentary *Reuse* in Higgins 300 at 7 p.m.
- Feb 9** Authors David Montgomery and Anne Biklé will give a talk about their book "The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health" in the McElroy Commons Faculty Dining Room at 3:15 p.m.
- Feb 14** Check out EcoPledge's "Earth is Our Valentine" stickers on coffee sleeves at Hillside Cafe.
- Feb 16** David Montgomery will discuss his book "Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah's Flood" in Higgins 300 at 5 p.m.

## OFF CAMPUS

ENVIRONMENTALIST  
SPOTLIGHT

## France Paves the Way for Solar Road Technology

*The Details in Brief ...* French construction company Colas installed the first stretch of its solar road technology, which it calls 'Wattway,' in December. The one kilometer road was installed in a village of Normandy and cost \$5.5 million to construct.

*The Future is—Now? ...* Not so fast. Colas's half mile solar road is really just a test drive. The company wanted to install Wattway on a busy road to see what effect the passing cars and trucks would have on the technology.

*What's the Angle? ...* The Wattway panels lie flat as the sun passes overhead, but photovoltaic (PV) panels work best when they

can be angled to meet the sun throughout the day. This is one of the Wattway's major drawbacks.

*Price Tag Problems ...* This isn't the first time solar roads have been in the limelight. In 2014, a project called Solar Roadways raised over \$2 million on Indiegogo, an international crowdfunding website. Colas's road, however, cost more than double what Solar Roadways was funded—and that's without the flashing lights and heated panels that the Indiegogo project promised. Solar roads might seem like an easy way to integrate solar power into our grid, but as with many new energy sectors, the problem is the price tag.

## Obama Establishes Two Monuments, Protects U.S. Land

*What's the Big Idea? ...* President Obama proclaimed Bears Ears, Utah and Gold Butte, Nevada to be national monuments by authority of the Antiquities Act on Dec. 28. Together, the new monuments preserve over 1.5 million acres of land.

*Native Influence ...* Both preservation movements were led by coalitions of Native American tribes. These groups, such as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, drew on grassroots support to make their petitions. They were inspired to preserve the sites for their cultural and historical value and to protect several works of indigenous cave art, some of which date back over 4,000 years.

*Corporate Cooperation ...* The clothing retailer Patagonia has been vocal in its support of these new monuments. CEO Rose Marcario thanked Mr. Obama for this affirmative response to the petition and commended the many tribes that came forward to advocate for the monuments.

*Political Repercussions ...* In his two terms, Mr. Obama used the Antiquities Act more than any other president. The new designations also came on the eve of President Donald Trump's new administration, and though no president has ever revoked the status of a national monument, Trump vowed to undo any "midnight regulations" enacted by the Obama administration.



The view at Bears Ears National Monument.

Photo courtesy of New American Journal

Kate Weingartner  
Explains her "LIFO"  
as Accounting Whiz  
and Environmentalist

Photo courtesy of Kate Weingartner

Kate Weingartner, CSOM '18, can often be spotted tucked away in a cranny of Bapst Library with her head down, focused on acing her next accounting test. Kate is an accounting major in the Carroll School of Management who spends countless hours each week practicing balancing debits and credits and creating cash flow statements. Her study habits have paid off in spades, as she has already been recruited to work at PWC after graduation. When she is not cramming for an accounting test, Kate is planning meetings and events for EcoPledge as the president of the club.

Kate's interest in the environment began when she took an advanced placement environmental studies course in her senior year of high school. Although she admits she took the class because she thought it would be an "easy A," it caused her to think critically about her surroundings and inspired her interest in environmentalism.

As a resident of Edina, Minnesota, Kate has been surrounded by nature all of her life. It was only when she took the environmental studies course that she realized how her surroundings were in danger due to human activity. She described it as a "lightbulb moment."

"It made sense why there were fewer moose and wolf sightings, fewer fish to catch, and fewer snow days," she said. "It's scary to think that I have been surrounded by adverse environmental impacts my entire life and was so oblivious to all of them."

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## Trump Names New EPA Head, Scott Pruitt

**Who's in Charge?** ... President Donald Trump named Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in early December. Pruitt was the attorney general for Oklahoma. As head of the EPA, Pruitt has become the voice for United States environmental policy and regulation for the next four years.

**Pruitt's Past** ... Pruitt has sued the EPA numerous times concerning a litany of policies, including President Obama's Clean Power Plan, methane emission restrictions, and power plant pollution control. Pruitt has been vocal about his belief that the power of environmental regulation should shift from the federal government to the states. He has called himself "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda."

**Pruitt's Plans** ... When President Trump announced Pruitt's nomination, Trump said that his pick would "restore the EPA's essential mission of keeping our air and our water clean and safe," adding that he

thinks the EPA's spending has become out of control and has destroyed jobs in recent years. Pruitt has first set his aim on regulations that hurt American businesses.

**A Concerned Reaction** ... "I think Pruitt leading the EPA is a recipe for disaster for the environment," Matt Lynch, MCAS '20, said. "If regulations are removed, then further damages will be caused. I think that the EPA is one of the most vital agencies in the bureaucracy, especially when we look ahead to the future."



Gage Skidmore

Trump chose Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Visit us online at [bc.edu/offices/sustainability](https://bc.edu/offices/sustainability)

### Become Green Office Certified!

The Green Office Certificate Program is designed to recognize individuals or office groups who engage in sustainable practices on campus. To become green certified, fill out the Green Office Certification using the Google form on our website. You will be graded on your achievements in six categories, including energy, recycling, printing and office supplies, and transportation. Offices or individuals who achieve certification will receive a certificate and an LED office desk lamp.

### RecycleMania Begins February 5th

The 17th annual RecycleMania competition, which is managed by the nonprofit organization-Keep America Beautiful, will begin on Feb. 5. For eight weeks, BC will report its data to the organization. BC will be evaluated based on weight of recyclables, food organics, and trash collected across campus. Students should be mindful about which items should be recycled rather than thrown away in the trash.

### Game Day Ambassador Program: A Recycling Effort at Football Games

The "Greening Eagles," also known as the Game Day Ambassadors, are a group of students, faculty, and staff who lead recycling efforts at BC's football games. The Ambassadors walk around tailgating areas offering blue recycling bags if fans do not already have them. The effort is led by BC Athletics, BC Dining Services, and the Office of Sustainability.

This football season, over 23 tons of recyclables were collected. The overall recycling rate was 37 percent, just shy of the sustainability office's 40 percent goal. The tailgating recycling results were a 62 percent, which is the highest the Office of Sustainability has seen since it launched the Game Day Ambassador Program.

## Spotlight continued...

Kate seeks to educate students about the environment so they can have the lightbulb moment she had as a senior in high school.

At PWC, Kate hopes to audit companies that are environmentally conscious and eventually rise up in the ranks of those companies. She also enjoyed her environmental law class and thinks that becoming an environmental lawyer is another potential career path for her.

Kate led a small group of EcoPledge members on a retreat in early November to Burlington, Vermont. While in Burlington, the students were able to visit the headquarters of Seventh Generation, a company that designs and sells cleaning, paper, and personal care products with an emphasis on protecting the environment. The students learned how the company uses bio-based chemicals to create cleaning products that do not harm the environment. The students also toured Ben & Jerry's and heard from Chris Miller, the company's head of activism.

Although Kate went abroad to France this semester, Kate has prepared EcoPledge to continue to tackle the issues that matter most at BC. Kate hopes that EcoPledge will continue to work closely with BC Dining to remove all plastic utensils and replace them with compostable utensils. Kate also hopes that students will become more conscious about the products they use and how they dispose of their waste.

"I firmly believe the habits we establish in college are the habits we will have for life," she said.

## CONSCIOUS CONSUMER TIP

This year, EcoPledge is teaching members of the BC community how to be conscious consumers. Here is a tip to help you become a more educated consumer:

**Cut down on take-away orders!**

Conventionally, take-away food is put into containers that are not easily recyclable, like Styrofoam. Instead of ordering takeaway, eat at the restaurant!