

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

By Celene Lovato

A hub of creation, innovation, and sustainability-aimed communication, the Sustainability Demonstration House is always buzzing with energy. Running on the passion of student employees and volunteers, and the dedication of interns and staff, the office is constantly seeing new faces introduced to the sustainability world.

One of the newer faces at the office is that of David Rodgers, Energy & Water Assistant. David was kind enough to take the time to answer some questions so we could get to know him better.

What is your field of study and how does it relate to sustainability?

My degree is in Geography and Environmental Studies so it directly relates to sustainability. The environmental side of the degree includes observing how climate change has impacted the planet and its ecosystems. Meanwhile the cultural geography allows us to observe and think about communities that are developing throughout the world (hopefully in a sustainable way).

What made you interested in working at the Office of Sustainability?

I wanted my labor to go to something I am passionate about. I've been working in IT for almost 10 years now and I wanted to transition into something that is more directly related to having a positive impact. I'm also working on becoming a teacher and I felt having a job where I work with students would start to provide me some good experience.

What are some projects you're currently working on?

I'm analyzing the production of our solar [panel] systems here on campus as well as several solar [panel] gardens we have in the community. This way we can see what the best option is for future investment of our resources in renewable energy.

I will also be a part of the Green Labs initiative which will start up again here soon. Through this program I will be checking out the labs here on campus and primarily finding ways to reduce the electricity consumption. Labs account for a high amount of consumption on any campus.

Tell us something interesting about yourself.

I am Buddhist and I see sustainability as a way to become aware of our surroundings and the impact we have on the world around us. Buddhism helps me personally achieve a

more sustainable lifestyle by slowing down and seeing if the non-sustainable choices I make in life are really necessary.

If you're interested in working with the Office of Sustainability, we are always looking for committed volunteers and interns. Stop by the Sustainability Demonstration House or check out our website to learn more about what you can do for sustainability on campus and in the community.