

Horace Mann School

Faculty & Student Sustainability Policy Objectives

Policy Statement–Energy & Water:

We are conscious of the need to conserve energy and water and the School promotes methods to encourage efficiency in these areas. We continuously monitor energy use and develop ways of reducing consumption.

School-wide Objective:

Encourage the use of refillable personal water containers to further lessen the consumption of bottled water.

Increase public awareness of usage savings when conservation methods are employed. For example, signage over light switches that details what energy is being saved by switching off the lights, making sure faucets aren't dripping, etc.

Invite student involvement with the creation of student monitors for such things as windows, lights, water, classroom thermostats, etc. Students could be involved in monitoring energy meters and measuring usage before and after energy reducing measures are put into use.

Policy Statement–Facilities Management:

The School addresses environmental concerns in all maintenance, construction, refurbishing, and landscaping decisions, including regular review of performance and conservation practices. We consider biodiversity and habitat preservation as we make decisions about our future.

School-wide Objectives:

Create an education program to accompany the implementation of new initiatives and current practices.

Policy Statement–Food and Drink:

We acknowledge that healthful eating helps to improve student, faculty, and staff health, concentration and learning. Where possible, all food and drink is produced locally and chosen with consideration for the agricultural practices used in its production.

School-wide Objectives:

Encourage connections with food banks and soup kitchens to reduce waste.

Continue to promote the choice of healthful foods.

Policy Statement-Local Well-Being:

Collaborating with parents, local businesses, schools, and community groups, we regularly engage in activities that promote sustainability.

School-wide Objectives:

Seek out opportunities to collaborate with groups in our community such as neighboring schools, local parks and playgrounds, community gardens and conservation projects.

Seek out ways to participate in community special events such as Community Day, Earth Day, or Service-Learning Day activities.

Sponsor initiatives such as Farmer's Markets, gardening and composting as an ongoing community service.

Policy Statement-The Global Dimension:

Horace Mann School nurtures global consciousness and accepts responsibility for promoting sustainability. As a school, we participate in many activities linking us to the wider world. We extend this ethos throughout the School in our determination to move towards a healthier, safer, more inclusive and equitable society.

School-wide Objectives:

Examine and be alert to how HM, NY, US consumption and waste cycles affect other life forms, other peoples and countries.

Monitor the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Environmental Sustainability initiatives to identify potential educational resources for Horace Mann. (e.g. 2011 is the International

Research the impact on source communities of bottled water and the impact of bottle waste on the ecosystem.

Introduce problem-solving challenges to students to address simple ways to improve conditions in other places of the world. For example, developing signage and lessons that teach the importance of hand washing for the prevention of disease.