

EcoRep



Manual

Version 2.0



I. Program Overview

In affiliation with the Bard Office of Sustainability (BoS), the Bard EcoReps program is a network of students who strive to promote sustainable practices at Bard College. The EcoRep mission is to improve sustainability in residence halls and throughout campus and to address ecological implications of our actions.

Typical activities include checking on recycling stations, talking to students, conducting surveys, and hosting events.

II. EcoRep Members:

A. Have a purpose - It's easier to implement change when you first approach someone with something small and specific to do – “foot in the door” (later you can ask for bigger things). Ask people if they would like to receive more information on EcoReps, or tell them you are checking to make sure everyone knows the recycling rules. Let them know about the FreeUse store, and that you will help collect ink jet cartridges and old cell phones (which raise money for EcoReps), batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs (hazardous waste) and plastic grocery bags (our local grocery store - Hannaford - will recycle these).

B. Are Role Models –The best place to start when changing a group is to start with yourself. An EcoRep should strive to be the best example of what an ecologically responsible student is. If others start to see you do something, it will eventually catch on. A great example is simply just recycling, or composting your food waste at Kline and in your residence hall. Make sure you know the [recycling rules](#) and let your residence hall know you are there as a resource to them.

C. Spread the Word – Talk to your peers, start a door-to-door paper survey, make an informative sign, engage the community in any way you can! Your job as an EcoRep is to be “on the front line.” While everyone should be being eco-friendly, we all know they aren't. So sometimes it just takes a second to let people know how.



III. EcoReps Will Be Expected To:

A. Check Residence Halls For Proper Facilities

Every residence hall must be equipped with the following bins:

- *'Black' Landfill Bin*: A clearly labeled Landfill bin for non-reusable, non-recyclable items.
- *'Red' Paper & Containers Bin*: Because Bard uses Single Stream Recycling, all recyclable items may be placed in the red bin labeled 'Paper & Containers'.
- *'Green' Composting Bin*: Composting saves food waste from being sent to the landfill and, instead, allows for it to be reused on the Bard campus. Composting in dorms is made easy with these small, green bins for all food waste that is not meat or dairy (no liquids).
- *'Blue' FreeUse Bin*: Donate all your unwanted clothing, office materials, books, and miscellaneous items to FreeUse for other students to use and enjoy.
- *'Orange' EcoRep Box*: This bin is for unwanted electronic items (such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and old cellular phones), as well as batteries, ink cartridges, and plastic bags. This is the only bin that the EcoRep is responsible for bringing to the BoS when needed.

If your residence hall is missing any of these receptacles, please inform an EcoRep Coordinator (preferably your regional coordinator), or send a [service request](#) to Buildings & Grounds to request one for your hall.

B. Attend Meetings

EcoRep meetings are held biweekly, and are a key aspect of the EcoRep program. At these meetings, all concerns/issues brought up by EcoReps will be addressed. The meetings are a great place to voice any ideas, successes and breakthroughs, worries, etc. Your input as the EcoReps of the campus is vital to the success of the program and to the goal of increasing Bard's overall sustainability.

Also, EcoRep meetings are where upcoming events will be proposed, announced, and/or planned. While emails about events *are* sent, it is best to be present at meetings to learn about them and to volunteer to help. Additionally, we may provide you with informative signs to hang in your residence hall at this time.



C. Volunteer

As EcoReps strive to promote sustainability on campus, events shall be held in accordance with this goal. While you have the freedom and support to hold an event if you so desire, the coordinators also ask that you volunteer your time at a minimum of one event per semester (more is encouraged and appreciated). Volunteering at events is one of the best ways to reach out to the community on the issue of sustainability.

D. Exemplify the Traits of an EcoRep

Stay informed, have a purpose, spread the word, and be a role model!
(see part II)

III. Explore Your Options

EcoReps is a great program to start your sustainable activism; here are some more opportunities for you:

1. The Environmental Collective
2. The Bike Co-op
3. The Outdoors Club
4. Bard EATS
5. PediCab Drivers
6. FreeUse
7. There is also a position on the Bard Sustainability Council through Student Government that needs sustainability-minded students like you.

For more information, visit the [BoS webpage](#).

Happy EcoRepping!

