

Introduction

In this course you are going to work as a group to develop a policy recommendation on how to deal with an issue that is current and for which a coherent policy has not yet been formulated. To do this you will have to collect data, interview people, and get advice on subjects that include economics, politics, natural science, and ethics. You will together decide what you need to do and how you will go about it. I will be available for consultation and advice at any time but I will not tell you what to do.

The policy that you will develop and recommend will be a recycling plan for Middlebury College. Currently, there is some recycling going on here due to the efforts of the student organization Environmental Quality. However, their efforts do not encompass the entire campus nor does it deal with the entire spectra of mass flow through the College. You will work as a group to quantify the mass flow through the College, analyze its potential for reuse or sale, recommend a policy for decreasing the non-recyclable outflow, and justifying the policy in a fashion that will convince the College's administrators and Trustees to adopt your recommendations.

In the development of your ideas you should research the history of laws and policies concerning solid waste in Addison County and Vermont in particular, as well as the rest of the nation in general.

I am available at any time for anything; you can contact me in my office (Science Center 332), over the phone at school (ext. 5439), or at home (897-8251).

Course Requirements

1. Participate in the organization of the research effort.
2. Participate in the research.
3. Participate in the preparation of a written policy document.
4. Participate in public presentations of the policy recommendation. At this time I plan for you to make two presentations. The first will be a progress report to a visiting committee of environmentalists from University of Vermont, Dartmouth College, and Williams College (10 November, 1:15

pm). The second will be a final report to a group of College administrators/Trustees (date to be arranged). During the first presentation you must be able to justify your procedures and effort to date and provide an idea of how your research is developing. In the second presentation you must convince the College to adopt your plan.

Grade

Your grade will be based on three things weighted equally. 1) The final written report and the oral presentations will be evaluated and assigned to the class as a whole. 2) Each person will at the end of the semester write a written evaluation of the quality of their work in the course and will assign to themselves a grade. 3) Each person will at the end of the semester write a written evaluation of the quality of the work done by the other people in the course with whom they worked and will assign to them a grade.