

College to appoint recycling coordinator

By Beckl Plona

The administration has approved the Environmental Council's plan to appoint a coordinator to head the recycling program on campus, according to Environmental Studies Professor and council member John Elder.

Elder said the decision to hire an individual to be in charge of the college's recycling needs is a direct result of the study paid for by Middlebury college and written by Heidi Van Winkle '94 on the state of Middlebury recycling today.

The Environmental Council, which has replaced the Energy Council, decided last year to hire Van Winkle to make a report on the condition of recycling and composting at the college.

This fall, the council received her analysis and, in response, formed several subcommittees to discuss and act upon her recommendations.

One of the subcommittees, the Committee on Recycling and Composting, recommended approximately two weeks ago that a full-time recycling coordinator for the college community be hired to take control of the college's sprawling and often counterproductive recycling program.

"The colleges and universities with outstanding recycling and composting programs, such as UVM, Dartmouth, and the University of Maine at Portsmouth, all had a full-time recycling coordinator," Elder said.

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Recycling

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At these schools the recycling coordinator provides a sense of continuity to a program in which student workers come and go through the years. In addition, a recycling coordinator will be responsible for evaluating the best and most economically feasible markets for Middlebury's recyclable materials, supervise the student recyclable collectors, help with publicity and recycling awareness, and work closely with students to make them more aware of the importance of recycling their waste. The recycling coordinator will be a "great addition" to the college community, according to Elder.

The Environmental Council submitted a recommendation for the appointment of a full-time recycling coordinator to Vice President for Administration and Treasurer David Ginevan on October 18.

Elder described him as "very supportive" of the idea, and added that Ginevan had authorized the original study by Van Winkle that had led to this decision. Ginevan took the proposal to the Budget Committee last week, and informed Elder Tuesday morning that the appointment of a full-time recycling coordinator had been approved.

"It's amazing that they [the Budget Committee] have authorized a new position in the middle of the year like

this," said Elder. "Everybody in our group is really excited."

"This appointment will be an incredible catalyst," Elder continued. "It will be useful for the students to know who to go to with their recycling concerns...this person will be asked to sit on the Environmental Council and will work closely with us. They will get to see the whole picture."

In response to questions about who might fill the position, Elder was not yet sure. "We don't know yet if we'll be hiring from within or without," he answered, adding that Jon Woodbury, di-

rector of the physical plant, would be assisting in the search.

"This individual will have to be someone with a lot of initiative, someone self-confident, who enjoys working with the students and is willing to get involved in educational activities...we think that this position will very quickly pay for itself," Elder said.

He added, "our group feels very supported [by the administration]. I think that a person in this position could make a big difference to the college fast."

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