

# Carleton gets C+ on its sustainability report card

BY KYLE KRAMER  
STAFF WRITER

According to a study by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, Carleton College merits a surprising C+ rating for sustainability. In comparison to Carleton's mediocre grade, other institutions such as Williams and Dartmouth received an A-

These grades are all part of the College Sustainability Report Card, which is a review of campus and endowment policies at leading institutions.

The Institute's study included seven categories for evaluation, including a college's efforts in Administration, Climate Change and Energy, Food and Recycling, Green Building, Endowment Transparency, Shareholder Engagement, and Investment Priorities. Where did Carleton go wrong?

On closer examination, Carleton's rating was mainly lowered due to poor ratings in the three categories which focused more on investing than sustainability. Carleton received F's in Endowment Transparency and Shareholder Engagement and a C in Investment Priorities.

In accordance with the study's criteria, the College received low ratings in these categories because it did not publicly share its endowment's investments and shareholder voting record, because it invested for maximum profit, and because it has not made any public statements about active ownership or a proxy voting policy.

"It's disturbing because we've worked on those issues," said President Robert Oden. He

CARLETON COLLEGE		C+
		\$572 million
ADMINISTRATION	A	In the spring of 2006, Carleton College committed itself to a goal of carbon neutrality, with no specific deadline. The College's Sustainability Program works with the Environmental Advisory Committee to advance campus sustainability issues, which have involved green building, the carbon neutrality policy, and the installation of a 1.65-megawatt wind turbine near campus.
CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY	A	The College has a partnership with the University of Minnesota, Morris, for having the second-largest university wind power installation, with a 1.65-megawatt wind turbine near campus. Other energy conservation efforts have included closer monitoring of the heating and cooling systems, and lighting retrofits.
FOOD & RECYCLING	A	The College has a partnership with Food Alliance Midwest and has contracts with seven vendors from the Alliance, which supply the school with local foods. One-hundred percent organic flour is also used in all baking. The Students Organizing for the Protection of the Environment played an integral role in developing the food waste composting program, which has expanded to off-campus housing, as well.
GREEN BUILDING	B	While the College is not enrolled in the LEED program, it has developed its own sustainable design guidelines that incorporate a point system mimicking the LEED guidelines and evaluate buildings based on 50 different categories. The College has incorporated several sustainable processes into the construction and design of its buildings, and students recently installed a green roof with 78 varieties of local plant life.
ENDOWMENT TRANSPARENCY	F	The College has no known policy of disclosure of endowment holdings or its shareholder voting record.
INVESTMENT PRIORITIES	C	The College prioritizes investing to maximize profit and has not made any public statements about investigating or investing in renewable energy funds or community development loan funds.
SHAREHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	F	The College has not made any public statements about active ownership or a proxy voting policy.

COURTESY OF SUSTAINABLE ENDOWMENTS INSTITUTE

Above is the report card given to Carleton by the Sustainable Endowments Institute.

pointed to the foundation of the Carleton Responsible Investment Committee (CRIC), which helps make shareholder decisions on the college's stock holdings, such as voting on corporate diversity and environmental initiatives. Furthermore, a Carleton-directed project called the Northfield Initiative serves as a community development loan fund. Both of these groups fulfill requirements for which the Sustainable Endowment Institute docked Carleton points.

However, both groups are admittedly in an early stage. "Those F's are close to right, but we have those things in place," said Treasurer Fred Rogers. He pointed out that the Northfield Initiative exists but has not, in fact, made a loan yet. Similarly,

CRIC has not had a full cycle of meetings, so the effects of their work have yet to be fully felt.

In the other four evaluative categories, Carleton's grade averaged out to an A-, putting it on a list of 26 schools recognized as "Campus Sustainability Leaders." This achievement was derived from A ratings in Administration, Climate Change and Energy, and Food and Recycling and a B rating in Green Building.

"I think that by next year we'll get better grades," said Rogers, but he emphasized that the college is already doing the right work, independent of the Sustainable Endowment report. "I don't have any concerns - we deserve all A's," he said.

One of the biggest issues in Carleton's low score was the college's lack of publicity about its good work. Rogers said that Carleton should make its policies more public to help its image. "Let's make sure [the Sustainable Endowment Institute] and everyone else knows what we're doing," he said.

He added that Carleton can work to raise its green building score, especially in the construction of a new residence hall. Although Rogers admitted that the report certainly highlighted the issue of sustainability, he was adamant that Carleton is maintaining a sustainable campus, and that students should have no worries.

Indeed, not only is Carleton staying sustainable, but, as a highlighted copy of the report on Fred Roger's desk suggested, Carleton is taking independent scrutiny seriously and working towards a more complete sustainable vision.

For more information on the Sustainable Endowments Institute and this study, visit [www.endowmentinstitute.org](http://www.endowmentinstitute.org)

# Tu B'Shevat celebrates environment

BY LAURA SHATZER  
NEWS EDITOR

The Tu B'Shevat Seder is kind of like Thanksgiving.

Tables in Carleton's Alumni Guest House were laden with oranges and grapes, dates and figs, and pistachios and chocolate covered raisins last Friday night, as Jewish members of the Carleton community and inquisitive guests gathered to commemorate the Jewish holiday - also known as Jewish Arbor Day. But in addition to giving thanks for all that Earth offers humans on Tu B'Shevat, Jews also remember their responsibility to care for the environment.

"I think the Seder is a great example of the traditional Jewish emphasis on social responsibility," said David Ban '08, President of the Jewish Students of Carleton. "By taking time to formally acknowledge the importance of our sources of sustenance, it's a way to honor the Jewish tradition while fulfilling our responsibility to be mindful of our planet and its resources."

Tu B'Shevat is the 15th day of

the month of Shevat on the Jewish calendar. Originating as "The New Year for Trees," this was the time each year when Jewish farmers in the Land of Israel would tithe their tree crops. The date lost its significance when many Jews stopped farming after their exile from Israel, but Tu B'Shevat later reemerged as a holiday to celebrate the fruits of Israel's trees by eating them.

Kabbalists, or Jewish mystics, added another layer of meaning with their metaphor for the rising of sap in trees as divine energy flowing in the cosmos.

"[The Kabbalists] came up with the idea of celebrating Tu B'Shevat with a Seder," said Associate Chaplain Rabbi Shosh Dworsky. "[It's] just like we celebrate Passover, with four cups of wine, symbolic foods, and storytelling, evoking the beauty and bounty of the Land of Israel and of the whole Earth. The need today to focus on the environment is urgent, and so the medieval Tu B'Shevat Seder is becoming ever more modernized and widely celebrated."

Freshman Melissa Abecasis said she had indulged in the special feast at home in Bolivia, but Carleton's event was the first time many of the students in attendance had celebrated Tu B'Shevat.

This was the second year Dworsky planned the Seder, a time meant for singing, enjoying food, sharing stories, and relaxing. Jews sometimes plant trees on Tu B'Shevat, but at Carleton the focus was on appreciating the fruit and nuts by discussing their possible symbolism and on students' recent sustainability successes and initiatives for the future. Dworsky invited ENTS Educational Associate Lizzy Shephard, who helped lead a discussion on projects such as Dorm/House/Campus Wars.

"I hoped taking time to contemplate the Earth and its bounty would invigorate all of us to work on this consumption and throw-away thing that as Americans we seem to think of as our right," Dworsky said. "It's not our right. The Earth is our responsibility."

## Single on Valentine's Day?



Come to the West Gym to watch these senior studs broadcast their final Carleton basketball games



Carleton vs. Macalester  
Wednesday, February 14

Men's Game - 5:45 p.m. and Women's Game - 7:45 p.m.  
or listen at [www.carleton.edu/athletics/broadcasts](http://www.carleton.edu/athletics/broadcasts)



BRIAN GOFF/CARLETONIAN

The Green Roof Project, like other undertakings at Carleton, show a desire to increase sustainability practices on campus.

The Princeton Review

## MCAT - Get the FAQs

### Question #1:

Can a prep course provide unlimited access to all 8 AAMC computer-based practice tests?

### Answer:

No. The fact is that only 3 AAMC tests have been turned into CBTs - 8, 9, and 10. Everyone has access to those at AAMC.org. All other tests are still in paper/pencil format.

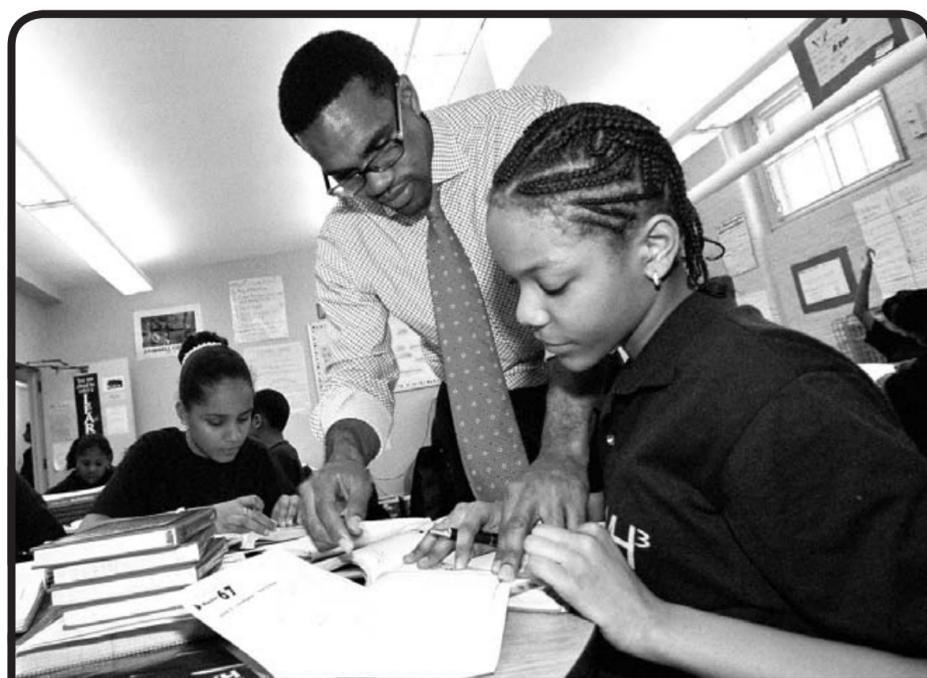
Prep once. Prep right. Prep with us.

800-2Review • [PrincetonReview.com](http://PrincetonReview.com)

\*Test names are the trademarks of their respective owners, who are not affiliated with The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review, Inc. is not affiliated with Princeton University.

MCAT course at St. Olaf starts February 17th. A \$299 deposit secures your spot!

MCAT LSAT GRE GMAT



FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:

SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18

APPLY  
ONLINE  
NOW

[www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org)

Full salary and health benefits. Seeking all academic majors. No education courses or experience required.

TEACHFORAMERICA