

# science & environment

## Working towards a greener future

by Wayne Groszko

While walking in the Life Sciences Centre, I see recyclable newspapers, recyclable white paper, three recyclable aluminum cans, and a compostable banana peel, all in a

garbage can. I check that nobody is around, then take the aluminum cans out of the garbage and put them in the recycling bin five feet away. Yes, I do that. Why? Because the amount of needlessly wasted garbage drives me nuts. Because every time an aluminum can gets thrown out, one more aluminum can will be ripped

out of the Earth by a bauxite mining company. Because it doesn't have to be that way.

I step into a deserted lecture theatre. It's 8 pm and all 5000 feet of lights are on. On my way out, I rescue two cans from the garbage bucket and turn off the lights.

I walk to the Killam Library, where

I read papers, then photocopy only the one I really need to take home. In the photocopy room I glance in the garbage can. The empty wrapper tells me the photocopier paper is not recycled. It is painful to press the button and put white sheets of dead trees through the machine. Beside the wrapper in the garbage are five sheets of white paper. As I rescue the paper from the garbage, I peer into the round green recycling bin. The blank sides of spoiled copies stare up at me. I take ten sheets of "Paedomorpha in edriasteroid echinoderms" from the recycling bin. I will use the blank sides of these papers tomorrow for taking notes in class.

We can do better. We can improve reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, energy conservation, and every aspect of our interaction with the environment. That's why I propose the "Green Dalhousie Network". What is it? A network of people, connected by an electronic and telephone network. At the centre would be an electronic database of accurate, accessible, dynamic in-

formation. People could find out about existing environmental projects, contribute information, and translate their ideas into positive changes.

Active students in environmental groups can make this a reality. I know of three Dalhousie student environmental groups, and I apologize for leaving any out. Eco-Action can be contacted through the NSPIRG office (494-6662 or email [nspirg@ac.dal.ca](mailto:nspirg@ac.dal.ca)). The Campus Environmental Action Group (CEAG) has not been very active in the past year, and I don't know how to contact them. (If you're out there, please call....). The Environmental Committee of the Dalhousie Science Society can be contacted at 494-6710.

I invite all interested people to a meeting today (Thursday, September 15) at 4:00 pm in Room 218 of the SUB. If you can't attend this meeting, please contact one of the above groups and get involved. In order that we don't duplicate effort, I also invite all the groups to communicate and work together for a greener Dal.



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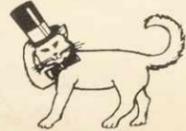
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