

Pingree Sustainability Report

2018

It is a paradox that people who would never think of skipping an oil change, who carefully set aside funds for retirement, and who do thoughtful and careful planning now to insure their children's future well-being, financial security, and educational opportunities often omit planning for the very real and immediate challenges of climate change - challenges that the next generation will be facing in full force.

It is easy to regard climate change as something abstract and happening elsewhere but that is not the reality. Pingree has both an opportunity and a responsibility to be a leader in creating change. We should strive to build a culture where individuals understand and believe in their personal responsibility to combat climate change. That personal commitment will translate into action in all that follows - whether here at school, at home, or in the workplace of today and tomorrow.

We know Pingree School is a careful planner. We study and plan for demographic trends. We recognize the importance of building an endowment. We set aside funds earmarked for both scheduled and emergency facilities work. We look ahead to do our level best to provide a relevant educational experience for our students, an education that will make them effective citizens of the 21st century. Let's also plan a more sustainable future for our school!

We also know Pingree has a commendable record of working for social justice. This is evident in a myriad of ways - from courses such as the History of Racism, to the availability of access funding, to the presence of social justice clubs. Environmental stewardship and social justice are closely entwined. Effects of climate change (such as flooding and fire) impact rich and poor alike - but the impact is much more devastating on members of the population without the financial means to rebuild or relocate. Additionally, families affected by environmentally exacerbated illnesses (such as asthma and some cancers) are less able to afford adequate treatment. As the Pingree community continues to lead the way toward an equitable future for all members of society, we must not lose sight of how caring for the Earth is inherent in caring for its people.

When making decisions about how to move forward, Pingree must keep in mind not only what the dollar and cent costs are of our actions, but also the hidden costs - the externalities of our actions. For example, while it may be a lower cost to the school to use virgin paper for printing, the reality is that making such a choice has a host of environmental consequences that are not accurately captured in the price of the paper. The price of the paper may not take into consideration externalities such as water use and pollution, carbon emission, and unnecessary destruction of forests - all of which have significant environmental, human, and financial costs.

In an effort to begin prioritizing a sustainable future for Pingree School, a self-evaluation was conducted in the Spring of 2018 to assess Pingree's 'environmental state of the school'. With the help of an outside consultant, Seaside Sustainability, and a small group of interested students, key personnel were interviewed, extensive research was done to determine facts and figures, and the results were compiled into a Pingree Sustainability Self Evaluation. The information gathered was then used to bring into focus both challenges and opportunities as they relate to being a greener school: energy consumption, food and nutrition, water conservation and management, buildings and grounds, waste reduction and diversion, transportation, curriculum and student learning, administration and governance, communications, natural surroundings, advancement, and student leadership.

Included in the self-evaluation report that follows are recommendations for making changes - some easily attainable, some more aspirational. It is our hope that the action items and recommendations included here, with additional input from a broad range of stakeholders, will be incorporated into a Pingree Sustainability Strategic Plan.

We would like to thank everyone involved with this process and look forward to making Pingree a champion of school sustainability.



Alan McCoy and Skylar McAlpin
August 6, 2018

Pingree Sustainability Self Evaluation: Challenges, Observations, and Recommendations 2018



Energy use and conservation:

Where can we make improvements to be more energy efficient? Improvements should take into consideration both the the return on investment and the environmental impact.

- Do an **energy audit** as soon as possible. There are companies that will provide this service at no cost or obligation with the hope of securing a contract to perform the work. For example, [Energy Efficient Investments](#) works primarily with schools and government buildings. An introductory meeting has already been scheduled any work performed by EEI comes with a guaranteed ROI.
- Gather information about our **energy use history** to establish baselines (some of this has been done) so that we can compare our current use against historical data and set targets for improvement..
- Upgrade lighting to **LED** where it is cost effective. Pingree's Facilities Director has begun conversations about retrofitting the school's lighting where needed. Our research in this area suggested that while this has been discussed and considered , to some extent, no plan is currently in place. This is an area where we can take immediate steps, with a careful eye on our ROI.
- Make sure **doors and windows** are draft-free and as energy efficient as possible. Work to improve awareness and proper etiquette/ training to ensure that people are taking responsibility for the doors and windows in their classroom and office spaces. Again, this is a low cost, simple step that can reduce our CO₂ footprint.
- Consider changing **temperature settings** for (heat, AC, hot water). Are there programs that we could acquire that can more efficiently control our settings?
- Use **motion sensors** for lighting throughout the campus. Several areas of the school have these in place but there are many, particularly in the original house, that do not.
- Examine **hibernation options** for computers, printers, etc. Our Tech Department is mindful in this area. Are we doing all we can?
- Become a '**No Idling**' campus. This is a step we can implement in short order and that has a record of success at other schools.

- **Make public our energy use** to raise awareness and promote more efficient use. Establish a location where we can see on a regular basis (weekly, monthly) our energy use and our solar energy production. At this location, community members would be able to see our energy production, consumption, and savings. There are many of these on the market and this initiative would also present an opportunity for student participation in the monitoring process.
- Pingree has abundant natural light. **Promote the use of natural light** in classrooms while encouraging our community to be better about **turning off the lights** in spaces that are not being used. Education and awareness on the part of everyone can help us take advantage of this and reduce our electric consumption.



Water use and use reduction:

The Pingree campus uses over two million gallons of Town water per year. The amount of water we use puts us in the Town's highest cost per gallon category (\$14 per thousand gallons). There are some simple steps that can be taken to reduce water consumption and cost. 90

- **Make sure all sinks and toilets are highly efficient.** We still have facilities on campus that need to be updated to low flush, low flow, automatic shut off, or motion activated. An energy audit will give us an ROI on retrofitting our existing facilities.
- Explore **double flush retrofits** for toilets. Even where we have low gpf toilets we may be able to save water and money by retrofitting to dual flush toilets.
- Explore **waterless urinal retrofits** in key locations. The water saved is significant and at \$14 per thousand gallons we are paying a high price for our water. The ROI varies depending on which brand is used and how much use the urinal receives, but after calculating the cost of the retrofit and the periodic maintenance required there are clearly both cost and sustainability benefits to this project.
- Add **water fill stations.** Single use water bottles and single use cups are a well documented environment issue. We can make sure we have more well maintained water fill stations throughout the building and at the same time work toward eliminating single use cups and containers.
- Look into digging a **well for rink water use.** This has been explored to some degree but should be revisited, given the amount of water the rink uses at a town rate of \$14 per thousand gallons.
- **Test water for lead and VOC's.** Pingree's Director of Facilities indicated that we have not done this. The Town tests and monitors its well water but Pingree should also test at the point of use.



Waste reduction:

Disposing of waste is a complex and growing problem. Pingree trash ends up in one of two places: a landfill or a cogeneration plant, neither of which is a good option. Trash represents resources that cannot be recaptured for reuse. Landfills -even modern ones- pose serious health and safety risks, both now and in the future. Cogeneration plants emit toxic pollutants and the ash left from the incineration of Pingree trash currently ends up in an unlined ash dump in the Saugus River marsh. Our goal, first and foremost, should be to eliminate as much material from the waste stream as possible. Reduce, reuse, recycle - in that order - is the mantra.

- **Eliminate single use serving products** in the food service. Our Dining Services is keen to make improvements. Our Kitchen manager is on board to eliminate single use service wherever possible and to replace them with either reusable items or compostable alternatives. The compostable items are more expensive but the cost can clearly be offset by not having to purchase so many single use items. Pingree used over 30,000 paper water cups last year and spent over \$5000 purchasing them.
- **Have all unavoidable single use items be compostable** rather than trash or recyclable. Compostable items are readily available for purchase through Sodexo's supply chain and we have determined that they will break down in two months or less in an 'industrial' composting facility. Our compost goes to Brick Ends Farm which qualifies as such a facility.
- Perform a **campus waste audit**. Are we contaminating our recycling? Our composting? Doing a waste audit and publicly sharing the results (by conducting part of the audit at morning meeting, for example) will help educate everyone about properly handling what we do not reuse.
- **Understand where our trash goes**. There have been many global changes in recycling and unfortunately, since the market is fluid that what we think is happening may no longer be the case. Our hauler, Hiltz Co., takes our trash and recycling to Cassella, a national waste and recycling handler. Repeated attempts to speak with someone at Cassella to determine the true disposition of our trash have not been fruitful. Pingree needs to understand where our trash and recycling ends up and to make any adjustments we can to be environmentally responsible.
- **Reduce the needed frequency of trash pickup**. Pingree pays thousands of dollars per year for trash, recycling, and compost pickup. It is to our benefit to reduce our trash thereby reducing the the number of pickups needed to handle our trash.



Recycling:

As indicated in the previous section, the recycling is in flux and we need to stay abreast of what happens to our recyclables. As counter-intuitive as it may seem, we should be doing *less* recycling. Re-using should be our paramount goal. Responsible recycling has an important and unavoidable role in sustainability.

- **Make recycling easier and smarter:** more collection bins, larger collection bins, better signage, and more education about what goes where. Discussions with Compass are already underway to add and improve our recycling containers. The school needs to have recycling containers available in all key areas: classrooms, offices, common spaces, athletic fields, parking lots, etc. The process is already underway to deciding what additional collection bins are needed to add to the school's master plan recycling map. This effort needs to be coupled with education for everyone who uses the Pingree campus including clear signage as to what can be recycled, what is trash, and what is compost.
- **Use companies such as [Terracycle](#) for hard to recycle items.** There is a cost associated with using such services but it will move us toward waste reduction in a responsible way.
- Confirm that our waste, composting, and recycling collection **vendors are following best practices** with their handling of our recyclables. The changing market for these items has caused significant disruption and what we think is happening with our collected items may not in fact be the case. We do not want our trash to be a health risk for other communities around the globe.
- **Eliminate single use drink bottles from vending machines.** This has become a habit in the US that needs to be changed. The organization "Ban the Bottle" reports that last year the average American used 167 disposable water bottles, but only recycled 38.



Paper use and printing:

Paper use is an integral part of school life and there are many times that replacing paper with electronic assignments is not best practice. While paper is a critical and necessary part of educating students, there are many opportunities to substantially reduce our paper use and to eliminate waste. The powerful visual is that last year Pingree used a stack of copy paper that was half again as high as the Statue of Liberty. One ream (500 sheets) requires 6% of a tree to produce. Couple this with the fact that the manufacture of one sheet of paper requires five gallons of water, and it becomes fairly easy to understand the impact of not being careful with our paper use.

- **Institute Paper Cut program** school wide to reduce paper use (underway). Other schools and school districts have had success cutting back on paper use by employing Paper Cut with a quick ROI, St John's Prep among them.
- **Purchase only 100% post consumer recycled paper** for copiers and printers. We are currently purchasing 30% recycled paper at \$47 a case. We have a source for 100% post consumer recycled paper for \$51 a case. It seems reasonable to think that through better tracking, increasing awareness, and more thoughtful use of printed materials we could use the post consumer paper and at the same time reduce paper use so that there is no add on cost against the budget.
- **Use lighter weight paper for copying.** Most printing jobs do not need to be on 20 pound paper. By switching to lighter weight paper for most of Pingree's copying and printing jobs, Pingree can reduce the amount resources required for paper production.
- **Make double-sided printing** the default setting on all student, staff, and faculty devices.
- **Repurpose single-sided printing paper** rather than having it go into the recycling stream.
- **Move away from printed materials** where electronic materials will serve just as well. Research indicates that in certain applications the tipping point has been reached and that electronic materials are more effective and more likely to be read than printed materials. We should continue to examine our decisions to print and reduce where we see fit.
- Stop sending **duplicate materials** to households. Faculty members have been known to receive as many as four identical Pingree mailings their home addresses. This is something that we can better manage in our mailing databases.
- Move to **hand dryers** and away from paper towel dispensers. The [ROI of using hand dryers](#) is very quick and the positive environmental impact is significant.
- **Use lower density inks, organic based inks, and post consumer recycled paper on school publications that are in print.** The Communications Office is already considering alternatives to traditional print methods.
- **Unsubscribe to printed catalogs** that are never used. While we are not the source of these unread, unsolicited catalogs we can do our part by unsubscribing.



Food service:

Our food service staff is a willing partner in becoming a greener school. Our Food Staff Director has been receptive to a broad range of ideas and initiatives such as local sourcing, composting, and reducing the number of single use items:

- **Increase local sourcing of food.** Sodexo has a limited list of approved vendors which makes purchasing locally a challenge. We need to work with them to include on that list more local farms as well as food grown on campus.
- **Eat lower on the food chain.** Propose a ‘Meatless Monday’ program to encourage more community members to choose a meat-free meal option once a week. The lower we eat on the food chain the less energy is required to produce the food.
- **Reducing food waste and improving composting.** Avoiding food waste should be prioritized. According to an [article in the Atlantic](#) 50% of food in the US is wasted. Reducing the amount of food that is wasted at each meal and improving community awareness and education around composting could serve as an easy student-led initiative. For example, students could monitor the conveyor belt once a month. .
- **Make sure all remote events are adhering to our policies** pertaining to reusing, recycling, and composting. We have been known to take our eye off the ball when we do an event outside the Commons. Case in point, when breakfast was served in the Pond Room at a faculty meeting we were given compostable plates without having a receptacle to place the compostables into. Careful event and meeting planning where food is served should include a discussion about avoiding single serving packaging, employing reusable flatware glasses and dishes, and providing a way to compost any food scraps that remain.



Curriculum:

A Pingree education touches on environmental stewardship at many points. There are currently classes dedicated specifically to the study of the environment and our role as stewards of the planet. There are also a number of courses across all disciplines that have lessons focused on environmental concerns, environmental justice, and direct action. Our students will be going off to colleges that have embraced sustainability in their curricula and in campus life. A relevant 21st century education suggests the we can and should do even more:

“As discussions over climate change have progressed, 77% of all U.S. institutions now offer an undergraduate degree program in sustainability, according to the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment ([ACUPCC](#)), a network of more than 650 schools that enables college and university presidents to sign a “commitment” agreeing to address climate change on campus.” (USA Today Nov. 28, 2012)

- Add a [Green Scholars](#) track to the science curriculum where students can get academic credit for doing the work of making Pingree a more sustainable school. The successful model that was looked at is one, for the purpose of continuity, that would be available to all grades for all four years and offered in all three trimesters.
- Have each department **examine curriculum** and include more sustainability themes into their respective fields of study...cross-curriculum even better!
- Include each year **at least one assembly program on sustainability** (over and above the Dorsey Lecture).
- Consider an environmental or sustainability theme for a future summer **community read book**.
- Make sure all **Local Lab days** have green options.
- **Rethink and enhance current and future outdoor spaces:** Make the greenhouse and the surrounding area a ‘green lab’ that can be used as part of our curriculum - Solar panels, rainwater collection, a wind turbine, vermiculture, aquaculture, composting, beehives, food production - the possibilities are myriad and the resources are near at hand. In addition to promoting the use of the existing outdoor classroom spaces, more thought should go into creating new spaces that can benefit curriculum. As Pingree continues to develop of its campus, it will be important to consider what other venues and spaces might serve as outdoor-learning labs.
- Sustainability lends itself well to a multitude of experiential opportunities. As Pingree evolves to take on more experiential studies, **make sure that green is a key component to our ‘beyond the walls of the classroom’ education.**



Administration, Oversight, and Steering:

Being intentional about sustainability at the policy and planning level is vitally important. We need look no further than the successes Pingree has achieved in areas such as access funding, diversity, a Fellowship Program, and reimagining our schedule to see shining examples of strong, focused leadership.

- Establish a **Faculty and Staff Green Advisory Committee** to support work underway and to make recommendations for improvements. Change succeeds best when there are many stakeholders rather than relying on a small number of voices.
- Add **sustainability language to the school's Mission Statement**. More and more schools have revised their Mission Statements and Statements of Character and Purpose to be more specific about sustainability. Examples: [Waring](#), [Derryfield](#), [St Mark's](#), and [Hotchkiss](#).
- Create a **sustainability subcommittee for Trustees**. There are members of the Board who are passionate about this work and would be effective advocates for putting Pingree in the first ranks of school sustainability.
- Add **language to all job descriptions** that includes a commitment to sustainability. While this should be true for all hires there are key administrative positions where a knowledge of and passion for sustainability practices is absolutely essential.
- **Make sure that sustainability is a consideration at the committee level in all school decision-making and planning**. Just as we might consider the cost or the impact on schedule or the time concerns of a proposal, so should we include a thoughtful consideration of sustainability.
- Create an administrative level position for a **Sustainability Coordinator**. Pingree has made a significant commitment in that direction. However the current position may or may not be part of the school's long term planning. The recommendation is to formalize the role in order to ensure that a designated person has the time and space to continue the work that is already underway (and to tackle objectives outlined in this report). Here are some sample job descriptions for a Sustainability Coordinator: [Colby College](#), [North Coast Co-OP](#).
- **Include sustainability in our orientation programs**: All grades, new students and parents, new faculty, opening school meetings, new trustees, all auxiliary groups that use the school, P@P, summer camp, Abbot School, etc.
- Engage the students in a vibrant **Green Team** that meets weekly and undertakes relevant and meaningful work. Efforts have already begun to do this. Twenty plus students have signed up to be part of the 2018-19 Green Team and the leadership is in place (Ella Roelofs, Emma Weiss, and Sam Timms). A leadership planning meeting took place in July and student leaders are already at working on incorporating sustainability into the freshman orientation.

- **Partner with area schools** to share ideas and resources. Not long ago there was a North Shore coalition of schools that met to share resources and ideas about sustainability. Pingree can take a leadership role on getting that organization up and running again.
- **Create a Sustainable Purchasing Code and Vendor Sustainability Code** to better inform our purchases and our choice of suppliers. Here are some examples from other institutions: [St. Mark's Sustainable Purchasing](#) , [Florida Gulf Coast](#) , [Washington University Sustainability Code of Conduct for Vendors](#)
- **Join local, state, regional, and national institution networks.** Pingree currently belongs to a few green organizations (Green Schools, Project Learning Tree) and has already been recognized for our work in sustainability. AISNE has been contacted to offer a sustainability workshop. The time seems right for AISNE to take up the suggestion; Pingree should continue to push for this..
- Make sustainability education opportunities a **professional development** priority.
- **Set specific targets** for reduced energy consumption, CO2 reduction, waste reduction, water consumption reduction. The Facilities Director and the Director of Operations, in conjunction with the Buildings and Grounds Committee, are the logical people to take the lead on this and be responsible for setting SMART goals.
- **Put sustainability high on the list of program priorities for the Class Deans.**



Facilities Maintenance:

Our indoor spaces and our grounds should be models of a green and healthy environment. Compass Services has been proactive in providing cleaning services that are safe and sustainable and discussions with them about next steps (some with a demonstrated quick ROI) are already underway. A full review of our cleaning practices and products, our air quality, and our use of pesticides and herbicides should be undertaken with an eye toward creating sustainable policies in these areas. Some specifics:

- **Reduce pesticide and herbicide use and/or move toward environmentally friendly options:** Our playing fields and grounds are exceptional and caring for them is a priority. Let's have conversations with the people we engage to care for them about what can be done to be as green as possible.
- **Green cleaning products** throughout the campus: There are many effective, non-toxic, biodegradable products that can be employed for our cleaning needs.
- **Green landscape design and maintenance:**Place an emphasis on native plantings, use landscape design to provide shade, save and filter water, control erosion, etc.
- **Indoor air quality program:** Conversations with Buildings and and Grounds indicate we have not undertaken an air quality study. Such a study would then inform an ongoing air quality program and policy.



Our Natural Surroundings:

Pingree is blessed with a beautiful and unique campus. Our responsibility to be good stewards of this land remains primary. The opportunities to connect our stakeholders to the Pingree campus and the natural world beyond the classroom are many. The imperative to making a greener world is brought home when seen through a very local lens. Pingree undertook a forestry stewardship study in partnership with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation this past spring. Some of the key recommendations from the survey were to:

- **Create and maintain trails** that can be used for education, recreation, mindfulness, and exercise.
- Take steps, such as the removal of invasive species, selective thinning, and the clearing of the underbrush, to **improve the health of our forests, upland meadows, and wetlands.**
- **Improve and add habitats** for birds and other wildlife.
- **Plant native trees** in the areas identified in the study to offset the loss of 1.8 acres of mature woodland as a result of the turf field project.



Transportation:

We are a school that serves many communities and our school schedule is complex, making streamlined transportation a singular challenge. Pingree has five bus routes and the Parent's Association actively facilitates carpooling. Getting to and from Pingree is probably the single biggest contributor of CO₂ associated with a Pingree education. How can we mitigate this?

- **Consider additional bus routes.** Twenty people commuting on a bus is much more environmentally friendly than carpooling. Let's examine our routes and see if it is feasible to add additional ones.
- **Actively promote carpooling.** This would be a worthwhile initiative for the Parents Association and for Pingree beyond what is currently being done. There are apps to facilitate carpooling. One such app is [GoKid](#) that has tools for individuals and for schools.
- Look at our schedule to see if we can **align our day** in a way that enhances the ability to carpool and use bus transportation. Can we make changes in our afternoon program schedule that make it easier for families to take advantage of buses or carpooling?

- **Purchase school gasoline using a [Green Gas Card](#).** Purchasing Pingree gasoline using the Green Gas Card automatically assess a fee (ten cents per gallon) that goes directly to projects that offset CO₂ emissions. It is a socially responsible way to address the externalities associated with transportation. We can also promote this to the larger school community through the Parent's Association and the Alumni Relations Office.
- **As we turn over our vehicles, look to the greenest options for replacement.** Can we replace some of our campus work vehicles with electric? As we roll into new leases for our activity vehicles and our vans, we should explore electric or hybrid or any options that enhance our fuel efficiency.
- **Encourage our transportation vendors to pursue equipment that is both green and fuel efficient for all the same reasons.** Are there companies that are already taking steps to be greener that we might partner with?



Communication:

Pingree can justifiably take credit for implementing a range of sustainability initiatives. Opportunities abound, both internally and externally, to trumpet the ongoing work and as well as share what the school will be doing in the future. How do we best celebrate Pingree's green accomplishments? How does Pingree best communicate the information needed to make informed choices? Most folks wish to do the right thing when it comes to sustainability but are unsure of what that right thing is. Communications on many levels must play a critical role in furthering sustainability at Pingree.

- **Add a sustainability page to the school's website.** This can be both a statement of our commitment as well as a place to go to get practical information and links. Examples: [Millbrook](#), [Hotchkiss](#), [Princeton Day](#)
- **Make sustainability a theme** for Convocation remarks, a Graduation speaker, or any other such event.
- **Use signage** all over the school to educate everyone about: what recycles, what is trash, how much energy is consumed by doing certain acts, etc. Conversations with the Student Life Committee indicated that we are not doing enough to inform and educate our students about sustainability.
- **Have a weekly sustainability feature in the E Newsletter.**
- **Include daily sustainability tips in the morning announcements.**
- **Reach out to alums** who have interesting green stories and have them come to campus to present. They are many and varied.
- **Host a sustainability fair** on campus and invite the public. This could feature local businesses, organizations, and/or alums whose work encompasses sustainability
- **Celebrate Pingree community members who are 'being green'.** Public commendation is a proven motivator.
- **Be intentional in our communications about how environmental stewardship is deeply connected to issues that Pingree already cares deeply about** - social justice, health and wellness, creative problem solving, access, etc.



Advancement:

Sustainable investing and a healthy return on investment are not mutually exclusive. A few years back a proposal was brought forward to divest Pingree from fossil fuel companies. The decision at that time, although thoughtfully considered, was that it was not a prudent strategy. Has the landscape changed? Are there institutions or organizations that have prioritized green investing options and who might be able to provide us with some guidance for greener investing?

- Develop **sustainability policies** for Pingree advancement.
- Reach out to **organizations who offer green investment strategies**. Examples: [Green America](#), [Sustainable and Responsible Investing](#)
- **Explore grants** specifically for sustainability in schools. Some sample resources: [EPA Healthy Schools](#), [American School and University](#)



Student Initiatives:

Pingree's most effective agents of change are its students. Clearly environmental issues resonate with the student body and students want to be part of making Pingree a greener school. Many Pingree students are involved in sustainable initiatives already underway: Green Team, Green Stewards, Sustainability Team, and Community Garden Club - to name a few - and have committed undertaking substantive projects from managing our recycling, to making announcements and running a Pingreen Instagram site, to planning annual Earth Week events. The list goes on. The goal is to increase student involvement in 2018 - 2019 and in the years to come. Here are just some of the areas where student leadership in sustainability can continue to improve:

- **Ecosia:** Continuing Martina Rethman's initiative to get people to switch to an environmentally focused search engine.
- **Green Team:** It will be essential for faculty advisors to encourage and promote consistent (weekly) meetings that run year-round (ideally starting in the summer) and to seek out steady, committed student leaders each year. 2018-2019 leaders Sam Timms, Ella Roelofs, and Emma Weiss are already at work.
- **Earth Day/Week:** The 2018 Earth Week was regarded as one of the most impactful. Students will again be doing the bulk of the planning for this year. Consideration has already been given to extend the "Earth Week" themes throughout the year by hosting green events periodically throughout the school year. This should be encouraged.
- **Pingree Community Garden:** The 2017-2018 Community Garden Club set the standard for student-led club commitment and successfully transformed Pingree's greenhouse into a prolific green space. This should serve as a model for future (green) clubs.
- **Student government and class leadership:** Having the elected class and school-wide reps voicing support for and acting upon sustainability initiatives is a key component of getting the student body on board.
- **Student House green competitions:** There is nothing like a little competition to get things going. The implementation of the student house system in the Fall of 2018 will provide an ideal platform for competitions to see which House can be most green!
- **Purposeful Giving Drive:** The Savers Drive has been a successful Pingree event since 2017. Each year students have collected many tons of items that may have ended up in landfills and the money raised through the [Savers FunDrive](#) has been used to fund Purposeful Giving grants.
- **Student monitoring of recycling and composting:** Modeled after the successful program at Manchester Essex Regional High School (MERHS), Pingree's Green Team has helped to establish and manage a single stream recycling program. Green Team members have also aided in compost education and awareness - which should be prioritized in future initiatives.
- **Information Campaign:** Putting up informational signs about sustainability at key locations is a proven way to spread the word. This was another successful student-run program at MERHS which Pingree students should prioritize in the future.
- **Instagram:** @Pingreesgettinggreener is a student-run account providing green tips and recognizing members of the school community who are taking steps to be greener. Although this was a good initiative in 2017-2018, students should work to improve the exposure and content of this platform.
- **Water bottles:** Green Team seniors will be going to freshman orientation (Fall 2018) to make the case for reusable water bottles. Promotion of water bottle should be continued throughout the year for all community members.