

ECOLOGICAL VILLAGE

Berea College

Berea College is home to Kentucky's first Ecological Village of its kind, which serves as a model for sustainable living on campus and in the Appalachian region. This innovative complex demonstrates energy-reducing and environmentally friendly building techniques and includes:

- 32 ecologically friendly townhouses for student families
- A Child Development Laboratory (CDL) for the children of students, faculty, and staff
- A Commons House with community room, kitchen and dining areas, and study space for residents
- The Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) House, a demonstration and teaching facility where four SENS students live and work.



Amy, Lance, CJ, and Madison Bowman

After marrying in 1998, Lance and Amy Bowman left another college to start working and have their first baby, Madison. They became frustrated with the long hours of work to make ends meet. When a Berea graduate told them about Berea's financial assistance and commitment to student families, they moved to Berea almost immediately.

Amy earned her art degree in May 2004, Lance is a junior history major, and they—along with 6-year-old Madison and 3-year-old CJ—happily live in Berea's Ecovillage. Because their neighbors are also student families, they all understand the pressures of juggling school schedules, paying bills, and raising children. "It's great to knock on your neighbor's door to ask a question about a class or compare notes about our children," Amy said. "We watch each other's children when one has a meeting or a paper to finish."

Although they had never recycled before, the family now recycles all plastics, paper, and cardboard in bins installed on the back porches of all Ecovillage apartments. "The most important thing I have learned is it doesn't require a lot of time, effort, or money to help make our world a better place," Amy said.

Lance and Amy were delighted with the teacher/child ratio, teachers' experience, and children's intellectual and social growth at the CDL, and they are thankful for their entire family's chance to earn an education that is far more than academic. "My family has a beautiful apartment so close to campus," Amy said, "and we are part of a community doing its best to make the world a better place. We'll take this experience with us when we leave. Berea's donors have made a change in our life that, in turn, will impact the world."

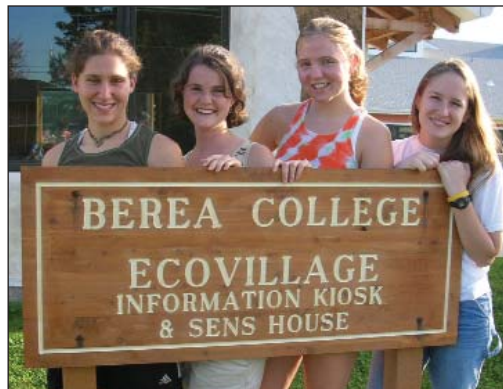
The four women who call the SENS House home are from different states and majors, but share concern for the environment and consider living in the SENS House a "phenomenal" opportunity. "There's no place like Berea," said Megan Naseman, a sophomore outdoor education major from Anna, Ohio, who believes living in the SENS House will prepare her for her future career. "Teaching is more powerful when the teachers actually live the values they teach," she said.

Leslie Ferguson, a senior English major and SENS minor from Waynesville, North Carolina, is concerned about society's lack of environmental awareness and came to the SENS House to practice sustainability. She would also like to find ways to make sustainability more affordable.

Eliminating environmental degradation is "something we should do as a society," Jessica Fagan said. "I'd like to see global sustainability, so I'm starting a little at a time here." A sophomore biology/chemistry double major from Blacksburg, Virginia, she monitors and is also developing an integrated pest management system for the Ecological Machine.

Kati Maginel, a sophomore independent SENS major from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is head director of the Ecovillage's seven student directors and is in charge of the Ecovillage gardens and perma-culture food forest.

In her second year of work at the Ecovillage, she has seen healthy social relationships grow among residents. "And that has to happen first," she said. "Sharing parenting brings people together with the children going to the CDL on site, and environmental awareness is growing as well."



SENS House Residents: Kati Maginel, Leslie Ferguson, Megan Naseman, Jessica Fagan

Did you know....

Students who live in the Ecovillage agree to:

- recycle
- compost
- use non-toxic cleaning products

Ecovillage reduces energy & water by 75 percent through:

- passive solar gain
- photovoltaic panels
- super insulation
- roof-top capture of rain water
- the Ecomachine

What is an Ecomachine?

An onsite wastewater treatment system with a greenhouse-like environment that converts 9,000 gallons of Ecovillage wastewater per day into swimmable-quality water

Funding Needs

Ecomachine: \$111,471
SENS House: \$124,671

Gifts at Work

Drying rack (eliminates most need for dryers): \$10

Gardening tools (shovel and watering hose): \$35

One ecological and sustainable living workshop (8-10/year): \$185

Washing machine (Front-loading EnergyStar): \$650

One Urban Gardening Workshop (4-6/year): \$700

One SENS student's labor wages (per semester): \$850

Mini-grants for research (on Ecovillage, Ecomachine, etc.): \$7,500

Commons House Technology (projector, VCR, DVD, screen, Wireless Internet): \$9,000

One-year full-tuition scholarship: \$21,000