Orson the Owl is taking a well-deserved summer vacation. He will fly back in September to offer more useful tips on how “You! You! You!” can become more sustainable.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first move-out collection program at the end of the spring semester. From your donations, we successfully diverted a whole lot of still usable clothing, footwear, bedding, room furnishings, non-perishable food, toiletries, and housewares to local charities and reuse programs. See, our trash really did become someone else’s treasure!

We retained lots of clothing, housewares, furnishings, craft supplies, and – new this year, costumes! – for the Bargain Basement in Main. In Macmillan 111A, we re-loaded the Rumpus Room shelves with reusable office and school supplies.

Both of these free reuse areas are open 24/7 for browsing.

Installments are produced as a community service by the Wells Center for Sustainability and the Environment.

The education of an extraordinary life.

“Installment” is a double play on words: these mini-newsletters are placed inside bathroom cubicles (“in stalls”) and the content changes periodically – in “installments.”

Get it? Got it? Good!

Give our energy bill a break...

During the summer, it is more important than ever to make sure room lights are turned off when you leave. Odds are good that you are the last one out.

If you will be out of your office – or away from home – for an extended period of time this summer, please turn off and unplug any electricity-using equipment. Energy vampires don’t vacation.

Clear the decks...

Bring any plastic shopping bags, burned-out light bulbs, and dead batteries to the collection boxes in the Sustainability Center. We will make sure these items get properly recycled. Thanks!

Stay “In the Loop”

Join the Wells Sustainability Group list: email sustainability@wells.edu with the message: “subscribe WSG.”

Like us on Facebook: Wells Center for Sustainability and the Environment

Follow us on Twitter: @WellsSustCenter

Our website: www.wells.edu/sustainability

Questions about more sustainable practices? Email: sustainability@wells.edu

Summer To Dos

If you weren’t clear before, check to be sure you understand what all is recyclable here on campus (most things are!) and what items must go in the trash.

As you shop for school and residence hall room supplies, think about the following:

Choose recycled-content school supplies, like notepads, filler paper, even pens and pencils. The College Store offers a number of recycled items. Check the Rumpus Room for reusable items.

Look for the Energy Star label when you purchase allowable res hall room equipment like TVs, stereos, clocks, lamps and small refrigerators. Choose LED or CFL light bulbs for desk and floor lamps.

Buy a smart electrical power/surge strip that automatically turns off peripherals ganged to your computer (e.g. monitor, speakers) to save energy.

Check out reuse stores for needed items – you can often pick up everything you need for a small fraction of the cost of buying new! There are several options in Auburn; find more than 40 reuse stores around Ithaca by visiting: http://reusetompkins.com/. Be sure to check our own Bargain Basement.

Check with your roommate. Can you share items, especially infrequently-used appliances? Can you share items with others on your floor or in your building?