This past fall Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) shifted its longstanding model by creating a new upper school system for children in grades six through eight. In order to help the district navigate the transition, Harvard is working with CPS to target programming to serve every middle school student.
SUSTAINABILITY AT HARVARD: MEASURING OUR IMPACT TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Harvard is a leader in responding to both local and global challenges, including climate change and environmental sustainability, which are widely recognized as two of the most pressing problems facing our world. A new Sustainability Impact Report released by Harvard’s Office for Sustainability, available at www.green.harvard.edu/report, provides a University-wide snapshot of the progress that has been made by students, staff, and faculty to reduce the environmental footprint of Harvard’s campus. Sustainability initiatives across campus seek to align individuals and policies at every level of the University with a clear and aggressive sustainability vision and goals. One of Harvard’s flagship sustainability commitments is its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2016. The report also shows that the University’s commitment to sustainability goes well beyond climate concerns.

The report also shows that the University’s flagship sustainability commitments are:

• 23 percent of Harvard’s electricity is generated from renewable or alternative energy sources.
• Harvard University has more LEED green building project certifications than any other higher education institution in the world.
• From 1999 to 2012, the drive alone rate for commuters in Cambridge and Allston dropped from 25 percent to 13 percent. 79 percent of commuters bike, walk, or take transit.
• Last year, Harvard’s surplus recycling program donated over 2.5 million dollars worth of products to over 200 charities.
• In 2012, Harvard and its affiliates secured $1.66 billion in research grants from the National Institute of Health to fuel basic scientific research.
• In 2012, Cambridge biotech companies with a connection to Harvard received more than $381 million from venture capital investors to allow for company expansion and continued operation.

The report also was designed as a learning tool to provide the public with solutions, case studies, and lessons learned. Visit the Office for Sustainability’s website, www.green.harvard.edu/, to learn more and to sign up for the email list to receive the Green Tip of the Month.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL (CONTINUED) Continued from page 1

Highlights of the Harvard programming include:
• Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) 8th grade Science and Engineering Showcase
• Harvard Graduate School of Education’s EcoMUV, a program offering all 6th graders a deeper understanding of ecosystems, using Multi-User Virtual Environments (MUVs)
• Harvard Public Affairs & Communication’s TEACH Program, an early college awareness program for 7th graders

For the past two years, SEAS has hosted every CPS 8th grader on campus to showcase the students’ science and engineering projects. This year, CPS and SEAS expanded the program to include a Harvard mentoring component with SEAS graduates students visiting CPS 8th grade classrooms to work closely with students as they conceptualize, plan, and develop their showcase projects.

The EcoMUV program taps Multi-User Virtual Environments (MUVs), which are 3-D virtual worlds that have a look and feel similar to video games. They are accessed via computers and can recreate ecological settings within which students explore and collect information, and allow students to learn science by exploring and solving problems in realistic environments. This is part of research to see the impact of technology on learning.

Project TEACH aims to raise students’ educational aspirations and to encourage 7th graders to think about attending college. The visit to Harvard’s campus includes a college awareness session with Harvard students, a tour of campus, lunch in Annenberg Dining Hall, and attending a lecture or visiting the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

These are three of the many Harvard programs, learning experiences, and mentoring opportunities that touch every grade level and public school in Cambridge. Each year, more than 6,000 program participants from Cambridge schools take part in mentoring and enrichment programs, visit the University’s museums, and learn from Harvard educators.

For more information, go to www.community.harvard.edu.

DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT HARVARD

Harvard has produced online courses and other forms of digital learning for several decades with the goal of making educational content available to both a local and a global audience. Experience courses, public lectures, and other unique examples of Harvard’s learning content on the web. You can browse a collection from the Harvard Art Museums, listen in on topics in education with the Harvard EdCast, and learn from Harvard Medical School faculty about topics ranging from medication to aging, through the Longwood Seminars mini-med school classes. Last May, Harvard joined forces with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to form edX, a not-for-profit enterprise dedicated to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The aim is to use the power of the Web to take the “learning to the learners”, and to research how students learn and how technology can transform learning — both on campus and worldwide. Visit www.harvardx.harvard.edu to learn more about the HarvardX course offerings.