

A Green History of the Orange and Blue

A look at what the relationship between Hope College and Earth care has been

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Abstract:

The history of life on Earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings. To a large extent, the physical form and the habits of the earth's vegetation and its animal life have been molded by the environment. Considering the whole span of earthly time, the opposite effect, in which life actually modifies its surroundings, has been relatively slight. Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species, man, acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.

Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring"

Ecosystem management is not just about science nor is it simply an extension of traditional resource management; it offers a fundamental reframing of how humans may work with nature.

Grumbine (1994)

'We are not borrowing from the future; we are simply stealing from the heritage of future generations.'

Hope College has not received outstanding marks on its Earth Care Ethics since testing for sustainability became a thing. But how did we get to where we are today? Why aren't Christian Liberal Arts schools leading the sustainable effort worldwide? Where does the voice of God sit in His own creation? By building the story of the relationship between ecosystems and Hope College, we hope to answer this question. This narrative is told through a large integration of interviews with the shakers and movers of Earth Care at Hope College; the course catalog which will show the evolution of classes and efforts done by departments to educate generations of students about stewardship management; and archival research in the Anchor, Alumni Newspapers, and yearbooks to build a greater image and story of the past. While it is easy to look only at the events that transpired at Hope College, a liberal arts education demands that we also keep the whole global image timeline in mind as off-campus events can influence a small community such as ours. The puzzle that comes together when all the things above unite, create an image of Hope College with its understanding of Earth Care as not being at the forefront of its planning, education, and mission, but the view that is there is a humbled small movement rich in depth whose growth continues to reach new heights. To quote an article while researching, "it is not that Hope is going green as much as it is growing greener". Though without a doubt it has the leadership potential to make a large impact on not only West Michigan but the world when it comes to how humanity should be stewards of the Earth through the sciences, arts, social sciences, and humanities.

Pre-History: The Age of Independence

- Science Breaks away from the church.
- At the same time, the Church was being Fragmented.
- The founder of Holland and Co-founder of Hope College was such an individual. He led a group to America in order to find freedom from the Dutch Church.
- This occurred alongside the break from traditional education as the middle class also knew able to join in getting an education.
- One of the first recorded ecological movements occurred also during this time with the romanticism/Transcendental movement.

Starring this historical journey begins with a look at global historical events that lead to the founding of Hope College. The history of Hope dates back to the crusaders who would bring about the light of a darkened Europe from the fall of the classical world. This accelerated time of history would bring about huge societal upheavals, including the Renaissance, Reformation, Revolutions (both science and

political), and ending with the enlightenment. This time period, even saw the rise of the first modern naturalist movement, known as the Transcendental/Romanticism movement.

Important to the environmental history of Hope College is the scientific revolution which began with Copernicus and later exploded under Robert Hooke and Isaac Newton. This set a scientific journey that will be important to the curiosity of how the natural world works and its importance to the relationship between humans and ecology. It also helped create that first environmental movement, whose later movements would impact campus.

A second important prehistory Hope societal change was the reformation. As religious upheaval spread across Europe, Reverend Aslbertus Van Raalte had different ideas than the Dutch Reformed church. He then took himself and his follows to the vastly believed to be the open USA. A freethinker of his time leads Van Raalte to not only find the Dutch colony of Holland on the swampy shores of lake Macatawa but also a liberal upper-level institution with Reverend Phillip Phleps Jr. This education center built on the Anchor of God was founded as Hope College in 1866. Already in the first Anchor a student run newspaper, students noted the janitors, "working diligently to improve the campus grounds". The fact that students took notice of their outside environment is most likely from the romantic/transcendental movement that had occurred earlier in the century.

The Darwinian Revolution

- Lamarck and Darwin both discover the role the environment plays in species evolution, even if they never understood how it worked (Genes and DNA).
- This scientific info though quickly accepted by the scientific community, still took a while to reach the American colonies, especially a newly founded Holland. But once it hit we can see the impact.
- This article occurs before the 20th century. It quotes the relationship between man and his environment. Though it doesn't use modern language, it notes climate change and humanity's impact on species habitats. It defines this relationship with the old phrase "A man is known by the company he keeps".
- As Earth-keepers, we need to keep good company and should want to because that is what God calls us too.

Almost ten years, before the College was founded, Darwin and Lamarck published their ideas on natural selection. Since finding new things seems to keep a community busy, along with the lack of speedy communication, the ideas seemed to reach the college a decade or so later. But once it reached campus it seems to have made an impact. An Anchor article published in 1894 includes a wonderful thought provoking idea with the phrase "A man is known by the company he keeps". This proverb is used all the time to warn all of us to choose who we associate with wisely. But the wisdom this author offers up to all of us is how we should view our relationship with the environment. All organisms he notes are affected by their environment and humanity is no different. He notes atmospheric impurity and habitat changes that organisms face. Though the terms for environmental problems are different from the time this article was written, the impact humans continue to make on the environment remain the same. The author Malusdomus class of 1895 ends with "Environment often shapes the destiny of many; it should, therefore, be favorable, noble, elevating, so that its influence may be, as far as possible, for the good of humanity". As an institution of higher Christian learning, I cannot think of a better way to describe a morally ethical reason to establish ecological stewardship as part of our mission.

The Green Awakening

- Mainstream is all about industrial capital and classical economic theory as a way of life (Theories=living).
- World events see the failure of the traditional way of doing things. These world events also caused a pause in humane natural science. Events: Great Depression, WW I&II.
- 'Silent Spring' wakes up the concerned, pulling extremes with counter culture movement in the 60s.
- Hope College experiences this change slowly in the 60s with the founding of the Geology department and the start of early "ecology" classes. Created in 1966 by VanderWerf.
- The close of this awakening was when astronaut William Anders in 1968 took the photo *Earthrise*.

World War I brought an unseen atrocity onto the world which beforehand had so many noble advancements. The heightened time of humanity before was not without losses but WWI brought something that no one was expecting on the scale that it occurred. As a response, the world, looked to industrial capitalism to solve problems as it had before the Great War. This brought the roaring 20s and viewing the outside was a bright white egg shell. But inside, the yellow core was rooting since a society as we see today cannot be built on just one kind of capitalism. Industrial Capitalism, as it had centuries before allowed for quick recovery of markets but not sustainable ones. The world thus was once again shocked following the events of black Tuesday, only this time no one had any morally wise answers left. So people looked to power to curb their fears and this brought total war into their everyday lives along with the deadly potential of nuclear weapons. This time of spiraling down after centuries of great advancement ended with humanity having the power (or a few leaders having the power) to destroy all of the Earth multiple times over and the bipolar world of the Cold War.

This time of darkness though was never without light and saw a great push into the science frontier, the greatest generation America has ever seen, and the emerging of independence and democracy worldwide brought together by the United Nations. A Green awakening was also one of these lights. It began slightly before the release of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" but quickly accelerated after the harmful effects of DDT were published. This movement found its way into the countercultural movement which has stained the name of environmentalism and sustainability ever since.

Hope College was not left unaffected by this wake either. The geology department began in 1966. Dr. Eldon Greij remembers teaching the first Human Ecology course at Hope with principles of Ecology to follow and emerge by 1970. Dr. Greij notes "at the time that Hope was interested in teaching more classes that dealt with environmental integration. The importance of ecology as a field of science was known, but the problem was that at the time of many early classes there was only one ecology textbook. And you can't teach multiple classes with one book. Everything would be repeated." Earth-care had now begun at Hope, ahead of many schools Dr. Greij noted, even if it was a small start.

Humble Beginnings

- First Earth Day, changes and new policies are made (specifically the Clean Water and Air Acts). 1970
- World conferences; notably the Stockholm conference which gave us the commonly used but poorly defined definition of sustainability.

- Hope Surveys show the rise and fall of the importance of the environment in the minds of students. The 60s must have seen the biggest boom but the next generation is already seeing major declines. Goes along with Dr. Greij's account (sorry late 70s and early 80s students! Blame you conservative parents? The oil crisis? You all elected Reagan!).
- Class boom of ecology and environmental classes (see more detail in case study)
- Environmental cluster begins and disappears
- Environmental Health studies also will begin.
- Hope purchases its Field Station in 1972 in the Laketown Township

The beginning of the 70s opened greatly for the care of the Earth thanks to great image the astronauts on the moon took of all our homes. This image would again be repeated during the Apollo 17 space mission in '72 with the photo *The Blue Marble*. It put humanity in its perspective. Environmentalism was no longer a liberal cause; it became everyone's responsibility to care for the Earth. These two images helped to pass environmental laws in the US such as the Clean Water Act (1972) and revisions to the Clean Air Act (1973). While internationally, the world met in Stockholm to convey on environmental issues and revealed the first sustainability report along with the traditional definition of sustainability.

Locally at Hope College, new ecological and environmental courses were appearing such as Principles of Ecology and Environmental Psychology. In 1974, Hope College also purchased the 74 acres of land in Laketown Township to use as a field station. It is meant to never be developed or sold. New tracks were being offered as well such as Environmental Public Health and cluster tracks that included an environmental track along with American, urban, and minority studies. These tracks appeared in the 1972-1973 school year and disappeared by the 1976-1977 school year. This shows how rapidly the world was changing and how Hope was using both its tradition of listening to God's calling along with being swept into the ever changing world culture.

Proof of this is backed up by surveys given by the American Council on Education (ACE). The surveys begin in with the incoming class of 1975 (So it was given in '71, they are children of the 1950s and teenagers of the 1960s). The numbers also compare the Hope freshman percent results against other Protestant colleges and freshman from all across America who were part of this study. All the percent's given are how much the freshman class agreed with the statement strongly or somewhat strongly, unless otherwise stated. The incoming class on viewing the statement "The government is not strongly controlling pollution" agreed strongly or somewhat was at 97%. By the time the class of '77 arrives this is at 90.1%. To compare, Protestant colleges were at 87.9% and the national average was 88.5%. The class of '78 saw a major drop with a statement to 84.1%. When presented with the statement "The Government is not protecting the consumer" was at 58% with the class of '75, at the time of the class of '78 arrives it rose to 69.9%. Presented with the statement "Have a philosophy of life" Hope students agreed with the statement was at 76% with the class of '75. Hope was below average where it remained by the class of '77 at 66%. Protestant colleges were at 76.1% while all freshman across the country agreed with this statement was at 72.5%. Of all of these it is most concerning that the students did not think having a viewpoint on life was very important.

Finally, the last case to look at is "be involved in environmental cleanup", which only appeared with the class of '77. Hope was once again below average at 29.8%, Protestant colleges at 38.1% and the national average being 38.7%. All in all, this show how classes and curriculum at Hope were not on board with what the student body wanted. By the time Hope integrated earth-care (which really didn't occur till the 80s) into its courses, the want was already gone. Was this a result of culture or something

else? Regardless as a Christian Institution Hope should have continued to allow opportunity and mission for students to become good stewards of the Earth.

Case Study #1: The Liberal Arts Education Transformative Process

- General timeline outline
- Word count of the number of times environment is used
- Special look at the importance of outdoor education by Dr. Greij, Dr. Murray, and Dr. Winnett-Murray.

The exponential use of the word 'environment' is both really cool and absolutely terrifying at the same time! Used only once in the 60-61 catalog and now today the word environment is used 245 times. Growth of the word became more prevalent in the 80s with the addition to several new classes and then again in the 2000s with the addition of Environmental Science in the Geology department. In 2004 the Environmental Studies minor was offered to students for the first time. Since then the number of sustainable friendly classes offered was once only a handful and is now a couple dozen.

A truly eye-opening part of the liberal arts education was gained through talking with Dr. Greij, Dr. Murray, and Dr. Winnett-Murray. Dr. Greij started us off with how students in the 70s were super interested in learning outside the classroom on their own time. He noted it was normally theirs and his favorite part of learning, especially along the West Michigan Lakeshore. A large part of this he believes is from the role the space program and Peace Corps played on students during this time. By the 80s he and other professors noted a change with the students, they ceased showing up for outdoor class learning. To him, it seemed that they were only interested in getting 'the job, starting a family, and making money'. They appeared to be truly feeding into Reagan's presidential culture at the time. He was glad to have left this situation and was extremely happy the changes Kathy and Greg brought to biology.

They required students to go outside for class instead of it being volunteer work. Once it was a fun thing to do on the weekends with your professor and now it was an integral part of intro biology. Kathy and Greg both said they believed this to be especially important to pre-health students who may not see the light of day again in their professional careers. They stressed the beauty that is in West Michigan and how little students know about it. So they make sure that all of their Intro to Biology students make it outside during the semester. I noted that many of my classmates said this was their least favorite part of bio-lab. We also went on to discuss how important it is today to get students outside since so many students that come to Hope grow up in cities and will later settle down in cities.

Outside the Biology department, the Chemistry and Geology department were also tackling environmental problems. Environmental chemistry was being tackled by Dr. Don Williams who would later focus his expertise on lake chemical clean-up which would then lead to projects such as Project Clarity. While the Geology department early on brought the environment into the classroom through an early course. Environmental Geology began as a course in the 73-74 school year taught by Dr. Cotter Tharin. This class was mostly for non-science majors and was extremely popular until its disappearance with the GEMS courses that were created in the 90s. Geology which is a wide interdisciplinary science was posed to later bring in the environmental minor into its department.

Now that the Earth care expanded into the sciences it was time for ecological stewardship to extend into the humanities and that is exactly what happened. The creation of Environmental Studies would bring together courses in Religion, Economics/management, Politics, English, Philosophy, History, and the Sciences. But sadly many of these course are not required for majors in their department and when professors leave the department their classes cease to exist. The next step in the Liberal Arts Education is to develop a more ecologically sound curriculum for future generations of students.

Cycles of Expansion and Stagnation

- Oil Crisis of 1972 put economics on everyone's mind once again.
- Reagan era 81-89
- Plastic wear replaces silverware at Kletz '81
- Cycles continue after the stagnation of late 70's into almost all of the 80's; stagnation again in the late 90's early 2000's; final one seems to appear after the Financial Crisis of 2008.

Early on in the 70s the oil crisis occurred. This was both a positive and negative impact for the now dying environmental movement. It caused people to actually have to pause and think about the role energy plays in their lives. It was no longer a nice commodity to have but actually something that created a need for an understanding of global world events. For some reason though it sparked the realist worldview that would stifle ecosystem care for almost a whole decade. This would cause the election of realist world leaders, many of whom failed to address the growing numbers of ecological problems. There is not any one world leader to blame for little to no earth care for almost a decade but as leaders their views impacted many other leaders. As mentioned above some positive changes at Hope did occur during the 80s especially in the biology department but it was still time of little positive ecological care action.

A negative thing that occurred at this point in Hope history was the switch between silver and china wear to foam and plastic utensils. The news report on this was that there were no economic reasons for this switch other than that it was easier to throw things away than pay someone to clean dishes. The author then makes a good statement that "as an institution of higher education it seems we should also be a people of higher awareness". What a shameful switch that occurred during this time for Hope College. But this story does have a more positive ending. Since this time Hope has switch to a bio-recyclable or biodegradable take away supplies.

This contraction of Earth-Care in the 80s was not the only one that occurred in the history of Hope. A second one seems to have occurred in the late 90's and early 2000's. The reason for this one is unclear but it is most likely once again from student turn over who were not a part of the large changes that occurred in the early 90's. A second shrink occurred after the Great Recession of 2008, which is quite disappointing since it seemed like West Michigan and Holland had a lot going on in terms of ecological importance right before this. In this case the economy once again trumped ecology even though many of the problems are linked, you need both to build a community.

Cleaning House

- Rio Earth Summit and Kyoto Protocol occur
- EIG group begins
- Recycling on campus begins
- The start of major infrastructure changes on campus that are positive to towards earth care.
- Course curriculum overall

The 90s brought a new message for the world with the Rio Earth Summit and Kyoto Protocol. The statement was one that showed leaders were committing to climate policy and action. It mirrored the changes Hope was making as well even if the large important ones were behind the scenes. Many changes occurred with infrastructure, printing, grounds keeping, and dining during this decade. These were not signed off projects either. They happened because leaders simple saw the benefits the changes would bring. It was about closing loops and saving money, while in turn this lead to a more Earth-friendly Hope College, showing smart practice can be ecologically friending.

Slightly before the 90s began a big change occurred on campus. The Environmental Issues Group (EIG) began from the voice of 4-5 students who traveled with Dr. Hemenway in the summer of '89 to the Vienna Summer School. There they heard about all the EU was doing to deal with environmental issues along with seeing the green movement still in action. Once back on campus they began the EIG. In their first year they gained membership of 40-50 students whose main focus was improving the recycling of campus. This group along with Dr. Hemenway could be credited with starting all recycling efforts on campus. They brought the first bins to campus and even went door to door collecting paper from dorms. Soon the group would bring in bins to collect paper but it seemed the school was doing little to help maintain or encourage recycling. The EIG still went door to door for at least the next year collecting all recyclable materials.

The EIG also has been greatly involved with beach clean-ups, which occur near the HCNP in Laketown township. Every year they collect data on the trash they pick up and as Dr. Hemenway showed me, even make art. The EIG also was very good at getting fraternities and sororities to come and help out at these events. This created a greater community than just the 40-50 students. Outreach was key to their success. The EIG has also brought several speakers to campus include a state republican senator who wanted to do more for the environment. But when she came to campus no single Young Republican group member can to her disappointment. Earth Jam, planting a tree every year, and Earth week have been the EIG's other big startups and events that continue to today.

The following year would be the first of four critical issues symposiums since the 90s on topics that relate to ecological awareness. Curriculum changes later occurred which added many courses that contained hints of sustainability. But success was not to last for the group as membership waxed and waned over the coming years. To survive the group joined with several other groups to create the Hope Justice group. Here it seems to have fully been drowned out by other 'larger issues'. Though in its place other groups such as Green Hope and Eco-agents have appeared on campus.

Case Study #2: The Power of Groups

- Story of EGI and Green Team
- Recycling efforts
- Earth Week, eco-Olympics and other events on campus
- Educational purposed research-The Integration of science.

Groups have played a large role on campus as it very difficult for one faculty to tackle all of the ecological problems that plague campus let alone came up with a plan that moves the college in a sustainable direction and encourage an Earth Friendly course curriculum. The power of groups gives voice to society and can make real change, but in order for the transformation to be resilient it must gain the backing of the community. Thus purposeful education is needed to make communities safe, smart, and strategic. As an educational institution with a strong moral mission, Hope College is in a great position to use the power of groups to make real change happen.

A few groups on campus that play into the history of Hope's earth ethics are the Environmental Group Issues and the Green Team. The EGI's history was already mentioned above. A lesson to take away from this group is that student turnover causes groups to be unsustainable which is especially a problem for a group that preaches sustainability. The Green team has so far shown to be more sustainable since it contains long term employees. The history of the Green Team arises out the 'green'

wave that was sweeping the first decade of the 21st century. NGO groups were doing research into what college campuses were doing that was sustainable and when they looked online to discover what Hope was doing that was sustainable they found little to nothing. As the story told so far this was clearly not true, but the D- that was given got the attention of President Bultman. Hope is not a school that gets below average on anything.

Bultman created a task force that was to compile all sustainable efforts that were currently going on and send them into this group for a more proper rating. Seeing that NGO groups and perspective students would not stop in asking for information on sustainability on campus the Green Team was created to replace the task force as a more permanent solution. Since its creation it has grown in numbers, continued efforts on campus, and now conducts its own research. Other initiatives on campus that the group has help create/lead with student groups have been Going Trayless, Eco-Olympics, Eco-house, Earth Week, and critical issue symposiums.

The power of groups really shines through when one looks at the whole image of Earth Care. At the core is the dripline is interdisciplinary. Thus planning sustainability, conducting environmental research, and creating reliant policy can never belong to any one discipline. It must be integrated into all of them. Earth Care must be a voice in every major and minor. This is currently evident with the summer research that is happening on campus right now. The Green team created 5 positions that brought students from multiple backgrounds to conduct research that has never been done on campus before. The Chemistry, Geology, and Biology departments are all conducting research that in some way has a very strong environmental focus. But little talk or awareness between groups has occurred on campus even though each student researcher has something strong to bring to the table of Earth stewardship. Scientist many times forget to cross disciplines but in this case they don't have to! The environment is already in their field. All they need now is to communicate between one another. Imagine the results that could occur because of it. Imagine if this spilled even more over into the arts and humanities disciplines. The potential could expand like crazy and word would quickly reach more people especially through the arts. We all have benefited from the strong environmental research that Hope has conducted all that remains is to educate those who know nothing about its potential.

Orange and Blue Leading Green?

- 9/11, Great Recession, Obama Elected
- Environmental Studies/Science become minors
- Hope College goes Trayless in 2009
- Green Team and Bultman Years
- Lake Clean-up events
- ODC
- Hope-Holland Sustainable Institute
- Environmental Dashboard and Research

The end of the 90s brought the Environmental Science minor to the table in the 96-97 school year. In 2000 Dr. Bouma-Prediger attended a workshop that taught faculty on how to build an Environmental Studies program and that is exactly what he did. For the first time in 2004 Hope College had both environmental science and studies offered as a minor. This also showed that there were clearly enough Earth friendly courses being taught on campus even though this number since 2004 has tripled.

The next part of Hope's history occurs in 2008. This year was a big year not only West Michigan but the world. The recession by now was in full swing and Barack Obama was set to become the 44th president of the United States. At the Hope level, the Environmental Studies minor received changes

that made it easier for more students to take and complete the courses required. Hope in the fall also received a D- minus report card and this appeared on the front page of the Anchor. To combat this Hope went into overhaul and created a task force that would assess the College's efforts to be sustainable, along with the creation of a website that put out all the good Hope was already doing. This group would become the Green Team which has done good work since its creation.

Some of this work includes, compiling how green Hope College really was at the time of the D- minus report. Once the data was sent back in we as a school received a B-. How accurate this is still is up in the air but is way more accurate to what Hope was doing at the time of the D-. The Green every year has provided internships for students who have created activities for the campus such as energy competitions between cottages, a 'caught being green' campaign, and Earth week events. Interns have also educated students through stickers and most notably the RAs on campus. Interns were also responsible for finding out Carbon Footprint. The Green team has even help start a Green Cottage where students try to live environmentally sensitive for a whole semester. All and all, as an advising body the Green Team has large potential to create real transformation on campus if it can figure out how to change student's world view about the environment.

The low-ball grade and the need to save money during the recession seems to have also brought about the start of Trayless Tuesdays in Phelps Dining hall. It was quickly discovered that there were tremendous benefits from this. There will be a lot more to come on this cool project later. But as a result the next two critical issues symposium focused on water (2009) and food (2010). Both of these helped change the student body culture along with create an awareness that many students were missing. Evidence from this is that many projects and groups began to pick back up or become involved in things such as the green cottage.

This century so far has seen large gains in Hope caring for ecosystems. Many clean-up events with the lakes and dunes have gained popularity. A large piece of land was set aside to become the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC). The ODC is run by a Hope alumni Travis Scott and does many projects with Hope students along with educating a new generation who will hopefully search for schools that match their love for the environment. Hope can be one of those schools if it promotes and takes action to be seen to the world this way. 2014 saw the creation of the Hope-Holland Sustainable Institute which is working with Hope and many of the local Holland projects that create smart energy and a reliant community. The first gold LEED certified building on campus will be completed in 2017.

Case Study #3: Dining Services

- Change from Silver and China ->Plastic and Foam -> biodegradable and recyclable products (though still not sure where to put these products).
- Story of Trayless.

As mentioned above the story of how Hope College switched to using plastic and foam is a tragic one. Redemption has since occurred and the lesson has been learned. But there is still much to be done to improve the environmental impact of campus. One of these initiatives that reduced the environmental impact while saving money along the way is the story of how Hope College went trayless.

The idea for trayless came about from Bob VanHeukelom and Dr. Steve Bouma-Prediger. Bob had the idea for a while but was unsure of how to start it. Steve, while at a conference noticed that his lunch he ate did not allow them to take a tray. This got him thinking as to why Hope did not do away with trays. After meeting with Bob, the task force team, and the EIG group they came up the idea of Trayless Tuesday for the start of the new year. Each Tuesday they would encourage students to go trayless and

then they would compare how much water, energy, chemical use, and food waste was saved with the control being Thursday.

The results were astonishing. In a single semester alone they cut water by 60,000 gallons, reduced chemical detergents and risen agents by 1,500 pounds, reduced food waste in landfills by 38 tons, and conserved 532 hours of energy. The numbers proved without a doubt that Hope College should go trayless. The Start of the 2009-2010 academic year was the first year that Hope College went trayless and it has remained that way ever since.

There was some resistance from the student body but the savings were worth the few voice complaints especially since now, no current student at Hope knows the difference between tray or no tray. For them, there is only no tray and a well-designed dining hall around the concept of no tray. The saving since the switch must have also been very large.

Concluding thoughts:

This humble story of Hope College's Earth Care history has been a joy to research and tell. As we have seen ecological importance is not included at all in the College's mission but has been an integral part of campus throughout its history. Always in the dark it is time for this green view of our history to come out more so that we may continue to grow in this area and someday be a leading example of a Christian Liberal Arts that promotes good Earth stewardship for the Holland community, West Michigan, the state, nation, and the world.

As with any story this is just one view and a very incomplete one too. It captures almost all of the main elements of Hope College's green history but there are pieces missing such as environmental care earlier on in the college, events that happened from the opening of the 20th century to the 60s, and some key voices that I was unable to reach. Some modern pieces of the history may have been lost too if I failed to find them as I know I did not make it through every Anchor or if my keyword search did not bring up an event that included elements of Earth-care. Despite these shortcomings, the most positive thing of this project is that everything that I took screenshots of, took notes on, interview that was taken and written up, and the result of the projects will all be made public. This is so anyone can go and expand upon it for there are many voices in this narrative but only one story; the story of Earth care at Hope College.

Regardless, it is clearly evident that Hope's potential to be a Christian leader in Earth stewardship is very strong. Whenever Hope's history is looked at, leadership potential is always there. There is no need to put solar panels on every building, that's economically unsustainable currently for Hope College. But we can smartly create a community that thinks before acting, communicates and educates generations, and leads West Michigan to be a green area on the map. As a unique ecological center, I cannot think of a greater ambition for a resilient conservative community. A chance to say look what you can do with smart and strategic planning when you come together. Hope College are you ready to answer this call?