At Bates, heat and hot water for most of our central campus buildings come from the main steam plant. Though we have dual fuel capacity, at present we burn natural gas in the plant (accounting for 80% of our campus fuel). The Villages and all wood-framed houses have individual boilers, which use #2 oil (roughly 20% of campus fuel).

Our electricity comes from the grid. We offset most of our campus consumption (central meters account for ~96% of campus consumption) through a premium for renewable energy. Wood-framed houses have individual contracts.

Within the past decade, energy costs have risen 60%. While Bates is extremely proactive, and has been successful in negotiating rates to cap volatile increases, market prices continue to rise.

We are therefore working to reduce our consumption through conservation, efficiency, and sustainable building design.

This is a campus-wide effort. Every time we turn the lights off on our way out of a room, power down our personal computers, unplug phone chargers, use energy efficient products, etc. it will add up to energy savings.