



## **Wesleyan ranked for environmental stewardship**

By: Phillip Ramati

Published: April 21, 2010

Wesleyan College was named Tuesday as one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review.

The Princeton Review ranked its top 286 green colleges. Wesleyan was one of six colleges in Georgia to make the list, joining Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia Tech, LaGrange College and the University of Georgia.

Wesleyan spokeswoman Susan Welsh said the college has worked hard to make the campus greener ever since college President Ruth Knox signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007.

Since then, Welsh said, the campus has undergone major and minor initiatives designed to make the college more environmentally friendly. That includes everything from starting a recycling program to using more energy-efficient products.

"It's inspired little things (on campus), and those little things have a way of adding up," Welsh said. "It varies from changing over our copy paper to changing our cleaning products and using EnergyStar appliances."

One of the biggest initiatives, Welsh said, is the \$5 million renovation of Taylor Hall, the school's former science center. When the Munroe Science Center opened on campus in 2007, college officials decided to renovate Taylor Hall to allow a variety of subjects to be taught there.

"It can be challenging for a school like us," she said.

Wesleyan officials hope the building's renovations earn at least a bronze-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification by using more energy-efficient lights and other electrical products and changing the building's windows.

LEED certification is conducted by the U.S. Green Building Council, which awards gold-, silver- and bronze-level certifications to green projects.

Wesleyan officials have been working with an engineering firm, LincHays, to make other operations on campus more environmentally sensitive. Welsh noted the firm donated a new energy-efficient dishwasher for the kitchen in the dining hall to replace an old dishwasher that was costing the school extra money because of its power consumption.

Welsh said the school has an extra impediment to make things greener that many other colleges don't have.

“The campus has historical significance,” she said. “It’s on the (National Register of Historic Places). That’s an extra challenge for us to make it green.”

The school also completed a recent study that catalogs the trees on campus, she said.