

University of Maryland  
Institute of Applied Agriculture  
**Chesapeake Project 2011- Sustainability Across the Curriculum**  
**Revised Assignments for INAG 100: Introduction to Plant Science**

Participating in the Chesapeake Project gave me the insight to incorporate sustainability into several lectures and labs sessions in INAG 100. These changes should make the course material much more topical and relevant to students. I hope to weave an undercurrent of sustainability into the entire course and highlight ways in which plant production and agriculture can have significant roles in sustainable living. Being an introductory class I have an ideal opportunity to expose every student entering our program to sustainability in the “green industry” and the potential to influence their thinking and behavior while at UMD.

Some of the changes I plan to initiate:

- Assign several readings from Choices for Sustainable Living into the course to supplement the textbook. Hopefully these short readings will have the same effect on students as they did for me.
- Dedicate one lab period to Carbon Footprint Calculation using one of several calculators available online and ask students not only ways they can reduce their own footprint but devise ways in which plants could become part of the solution. The older, traditional lab I had used for photosynthesis and respiration was not very interesting. Instead of waiting for oxygen bubbles from algae under growth lights we will focus more on greenhouse gases and the environment.
- Modify the lecture and lab on plant communities to emphasis the importance of native plants and include a visit to or speaker from Chesapeake Natives, Inc.
- Expand the Horticultural Topics lab to discuss proven organic and sustainable gardening techniques such as composting, cover crops, living mulches, etc. hopefully with some hands-on work at the new Public Health Garden.