

Bousson Forest

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Last year while working with a team of students, we conducted research under the supervision of Dr. Rich Bowden. The purpose of this study titled, *Meeting Allegheny College's Sustainability Goals Through Monitoring and Reducing Carbon Emissions Related to Transportation and Travel*, is for Allegheny College to monitor and track carbon emissions related to the travel of staff, faculty, and students at Allegheny. In this study, various activities were monitored to determine how travel affected carbon emissions through the use of administered surveys. My team was specifically responsible for collecting data on student travel at Allegheny. The results of this study were presented to the Sustainability Coordinator of Allegheny College. The results were then considered to determine methods to help reduce the college's emissions. My peers and I also assisted on a senior thesis, by collecting data on damage



to soil caused by logging practices in forests.

After completing these research studies, I was hired by Dr. Bowden to work as an environmental science research assistant. For this position, I am responsible for completing various tasks, such as assisting in the field with long-term experiments related to climate change and acid rain, collecting data samples and working in the laboratory to process plant tissue samples. Soil plots are used whereas

some designated plots are sprayed with nitrogen (to mimic climate change). Flamethrowers are used to remove moss covering soil. Collected leaf litter is dried and weighed in the laboratory. This ongoing research is conducted in Allegheny's Bousson Environmental Research Reserve, consisting of 283 acres of woodlands, native wildlife, and wetlands, which is reserved specifically for research and limited recreational use. I will continue to hold this position until I graduate from Allegheny College.

An explanation of Bousson's land-use history, present land use, glacial history, vegetation, hydrology, soil characterization, and soil chemistry, can be found [here](#).