

FUNDAMENTAL #36: PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

IT IS BOTH OUR PLAYGROUND AND OUR LIVELIHOOD

This year, we strengthened our commitment to one of our 37 Cultural Fundamentals—environmental stewardship—through our solar panel project that serves our campus. This is just one of the many ways we demonstrate our dedication to protecting the environment.

Van Dam Custom Boats, in collaboration with Boyne Boat Yard, applied for a federal grant to fund a large solar energy installation for our campus. With our new 87kW solar energy system, we are reducing our carbon footprint by approximately 75 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year—equivalent to recycling 26.3 tons of waste instead of sending it to a landfill! This transition to renewable energy is part of our broader goal to minimize our environmental impact, reflecting our long-standing belief that businesses have a responsibility to operate sustainably. By using solar power, we're not only lowering our energy costs but also contributing to a cleaner, healthier planet for future generations.

Additionally, our Profit Sharing for the Planet program ensures that a portion of our earnings goes directly to environmental organizations working to protect natural habitats and promote sustainability. We understand that our campus businesses rely on a healthy, thriving environment to boat in and enjoy, and we value the work of these environmental organizations in advocating for clean water and vibrant shorelines.

Throughout our 47-year history, we've been committed to reducing waste. Our wooden boats are crafted from sustainable, renewable materials, so we've never needed single-use molds that are discarded after production. And did you know that Steve Van Dam estimates he's planted around 15,000 trees in his lifetime (so far)? That's enough to make a lot of boats!

