

Green mentalitysmorenoz noviembre 15th, 2011

A year ago I studied abroad in Kalamazoo (MI). During that year I was able to open my mind to new cultures and different approaches to deal with the same thing I had in my own country. Sometimes these approaches were better and sometimes less better. The ecologic or green mentality that the students had in the college was something that I found to be superior compared to schools in Spain, where there is still an urgent need to become environmentally active.

For a start, students at Kalamazoo College create groups that demonstrate a common interest. These groups have the possibility to learn and live together in what is called a Living Learning House and therefore, be committed to share their learning and education with the rest of the campus. For instance, while I was living in the college, the Sustainability House started a campaign defending the local farms in Michigan. After the campaign was approved, it was decided to create the so-called Meatless Mondays, in which no meat was offered in the cafeteria. With the Meatless Mondays the college would foster a sustainable agricultural practice and on the other hand, better quality food which was locally grown would be served in the cafeteria.

Furthermore, recycling is another key aspect regarding Kalamazoo College's environmental purpose. Its community has won several prizes in recycling competitions between colleges and universities. Each dorm had a blue bin in which students would put their recyclables. When these bins were full, the students would take the blue bin to the big containers situated outside each dorm and place each item in the corresponding container: paper, cardboard, glass, commingle... Some students committed to the recycling community would sometimes do this work for the rest of the people.

It is widely argued that all countries should take action when trying to save the environment, but as we have seen some countries like the U.S put more effort than others. In my country, Spain, we still have to develop an ecological mentality in order to take care of our planet.

Sources:

<http://www.kzoo.edu/green/>