



Sustainability in Community Colleges:

Growing a Culture of Sustainability

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Organic "Organization"

Recycling

Energy
Mgt

sustainability
group

Biodiesel
Project

Operations

OISS

Natural
Landscape

Transportation

Storm
Water

Curriculum



Emergent Solutions

are not planned

can begin anywhere

are unique

cannot be transferred

are leaderful

are irreversible

Meg Wheatley



Culture of Sustainability

Plant a seed - intentionally

Find champions

Encourage and nurture

Make visible

Connect

Integrate





Weaving a culture of sustainability into the fabric of a community college

- **View as a way of being not a project**
- **Start small – start anywhere- start everywhere**
- **Convene working group(s) to incorporate sustainability into curriculum and operations**
- **Build momentum by supporting cost-saving initiatives like recycling and energy conservation**
- **Divert savings from recycling and energy conservation to re-invest in these initiatives and other sustainability projects.**



Weaving a culture of sustainability into the fabric of the college

- Establish sustainability performance benchmarks (recycling rate, energy use/square foot, carbon emissions)**
- Consider hiring a sustainability coordinator or resource conservation manager or make part of someone's job**
- Establish sustainability related curriculum and programs**
- Hold all-campus gatherings about sustainability (in-service)**
- Celebrate and promote good things that are happening**



Weaving a culture of sustainability into the fabric of the college

- **Network with other colleges about sustainability efforts**
- **Develop long-term visions, goals, policies**
- **Assess, adjust, promote and continue supporting through diverted energy and recycling savings.**
- **Visible Action-**
 - Talloires Declaration Signatory**
 - Presidents' Commitment on Climate Control**



Values, Policies and Plans

- **Sustainability Core Value**
- **Recycling Policy**
- **Energy Conservation Policy**
- **Sustainable Design and Construction Policy**
- **Transportation Plan**

Our Value

- **Integrate practices that support and improve the health of systems that sustain life.**
- **Provide an interdisciplinary learning environment that builds understanding of sustainable ecological, social, and economic systems, concern for environmental justice, and the competence to act on such knowledge.**
- **Equip and encourage all students and staff to participate actively in building a socially diverse, just, and sustainable society, while cultivating connections to local, regional, and global communities.**



Lane Community College and the triple bottom line

Environment, Society, Economy





Triple Bottom Line: Environment

Operations

- Recycling Rate – 61% in FY 2006
- Energy Conservation – 16% decrease in FY 2006
- Water Conservation
- Biodiesel
- Installing photo-voltaic
- Natural Landscaping
- Organic garden
- Limit use of disposable products
- Hybrid vehicles
- Non-toxic cleaning and landscaping products
- Composting
- Porous pavement
- LEED Building



Triple Bottom Line: Environment

“Every graduating student will develop a “mode of thinking and making decisions that considers the natural, cultural, and built environments as an integrated whole.” .” (Franklin, Durkin, Schuh, Pevaroff, 2003)





Teaching and Learning

- **Two year degrees:**
 - **Energy Management**
 - **Renewable Energy Technology**
- **Continuing Education**
 - **Northwest Institute for Energy Education**
- **Intro to Sustainability Class**
- **Curriculum Infusion**

Curriculum

- **Environmental issues are incorporated into the curriculum. Examples:**
- **Science**
- **Economics**
- **Political Science**
- **Environment and Religion**
- **Writing courses with ecological themes**
- **Continuing education classes - sustainable landscaping to voluntary simplicity**



Learning Communities

- **Ecotrails: Stewardship and the Sacred Landscape - links Global Ecology with Writing 122.**
- **Reconnecting with Nature: Science, Spirituality and Political Activism links Biology 103G:Global Ecology; Political Science 297:Environmental Politics; Religion 243**



Professional Development

- [Making Sustainability Part of Every Class](#)
- [Using Bioneers to Enhance Curriculum](#)
- [An Interdisciplinary Look at Infusing Sustainability into the Curriculum](#)
- [Hybrid Courses at Lane - The Best of Both Worlds](#)
- [Environmental Justice: Continuing the Conversation and Bringing It Home](#)
- [Sustainability Through Professional Development - Creating an Individual Education Plan](#)
- [Reconnecting with Each Other and with the Earth: Exercises to Share with Students](#)
- [Sustainability in Facilities Management and Planning](#)
- [From Open-Source Textbooks to Fungi Fun: A Roundtable Discussion of the Community College Moment and the 2006 Special Section on Sustainability](#)
- [Introduction to Sustainability](#)
- [Integrating the Sustainability Core Value into Your Workday](#)



Students

- **OSPIRG**
- **Green chemistry club**
- **Organic garden**
- **Wetlands study**
- **Organic food**
- **Forest**



Triple Bottom Line: Society

“It is becoming more widely recognized that social inequalities are among the causes of environmental degradation.” (Foley, 2004)

- **Reading Together - *Power, Privilege and Difference***
- **Degree Requirement – *Ethnic/Gender/Cultural Diversity***
- **Diversity Plan- Social Justice framework**
- **Eco-literacy requirement??**
- **Job training and life skills training for adults with developmental disabilities**
- **Native American Long House**
- **Education and training for family wage jobs**
- **Eco-Tourism**



Triple Bottom Line: Economy

Sustainability program:

- **Saves money**
- **Helps with faculty and staff recruitment**
- **Increases FTE**
- **Helps graduating students to be more in-tune with the world of the future**



American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment

- **Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.**
- **Initiate two or more tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.**
- **Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.**



Imagine a Lane Community College where:

ongoing operations result in a minimal negative impact on our natural environment

we are actively engaged in creating ways to positively impact our environment

continuous learning takes place about our impact on the environment, as a college and as individuals

sustainability is a way of thinking about everything that we do

every staff member takes personal responsibility for creating and using sustainable practices and principles in our daily work.

we integrate sustainability into our relationships and the social fabric of the college





Work in Progress

- **Sustainability Institute**
 - Two year degrees
 - Curriculum infusion
 - Continuing education for professionals
 - Sustainability start up
 - Workshops and conferences
 - Small Business Development

