

Sustainability at UNCW



Tips and Summary of Accomplishments

UNCW Sustainability Steering Committee

www.uncw.edu/sustainability

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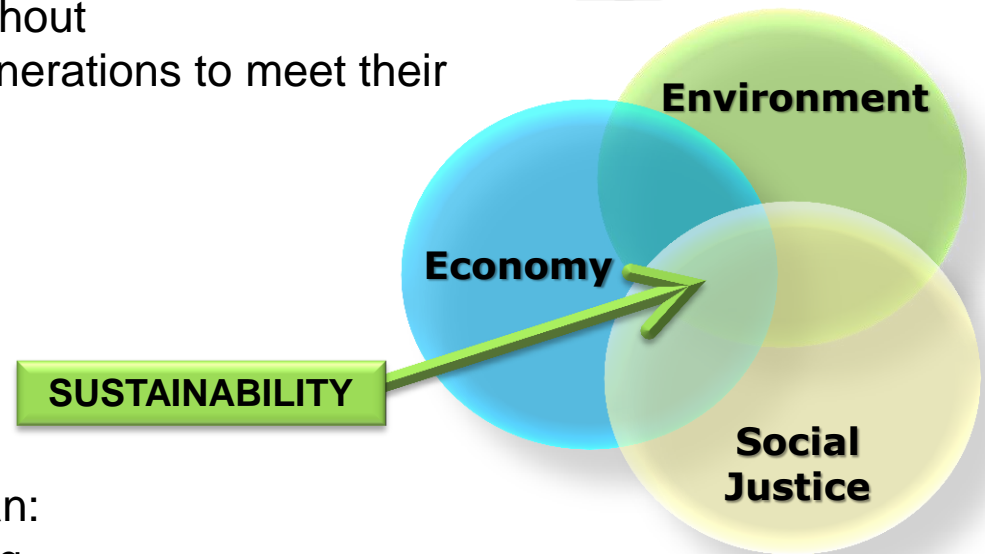
Overview

- What is Sustainability?
- UNCW Sustainability Steering Committee
- What can you do?
- UNCW sustainability accomplishments 2008-present
- Goals
- Resources
- Questions



What is Sustainability?

- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (United Nations)
- Imagine a stool where it must rest equally on three legs
 - Environment
 - Economic
 - Social Justice/Community
- Sustainability in Higher Education can:
 - Attract students, faculty and funding
 - Save \$\$ and other resources for the institution and society
 - Improve the institution's reputation
 - Engender cooperation and satisfaction across the institution
 - Improve Town – Gown relations
 - Improve strategic positioning



Health Triple Bottom Line

Social Justice

- Environmental Racism
- Fair Trade
- Living Wage
- Domestic Partnerships
- Corporate Responsibility
- Gender Equity
- Water Rights
- Human Rights
- Child Labor Issues
- Sweatshops
- Farming Practices

Environment

- Global Warming
- Extreme Weather
- Fossil power to solar power
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Living off nature's income
- Rethink
- From independence to interdependence
- Wind Power
- Vehicles
- Transportation

Economy

- Support local merchants
- Buy local and sustainable foods
- Invest in sustainable organizations
- Turn power off
- Green jobs
- Greed
- Stock market
- Transportation
- Stimulus Package
- Fear



Sustainability Steering Committee

Committee consists of the following workgroups:

Dining

Green Building & Energy

Transportation

University Engagement

Stewardship of Natural Areas

Student Initiatives

Academics

Marketing & Outreach

Waste Reduction & Recycling

Stan Harts, Co-Chair, Environmental Health & Safety, hartss@uncw.edu

Diane Reed, Co-Chair, Career Center, reedd@uncw.edu

Rita Gordon, Auxiliary Services, gordonr@uncw.edu

Steve Sharpe, Planning & Design, Facility Mechanical Engineer, sharpes@uncw.edu

Lindsey Cooper McDaniel, Housing & Residence Life, mcdaniell@uncw.edu

Jack Hall, College of Arts & Sciences, Environmental Studies, hallj@uncw.edu

Stanley Edwards, Business Affairs, edwards@uncw.edu

Roger Shew, Geography-Geology, shewr@uncw.edu

Rebecca Merrill, Campus Dining, Merrill-Rebecca@aramark.com



What you can do at work...

- **Bring your own mug to the café.**

IMPACT: Every year, Americans drink more than 100 billion cups of coffee; of those, 14.4 billion are served in disposable paper cups ... enough to wrap the entire earth 55 times end-to-end! Source: www.ecofriendlycup.com

- **Turn off lights, microwaves, or any other electric devices when you leave the room or house.**

IMPACT: You can save over ½ million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions every year by turning off your lights for an hour per day. Source: www.sustainability.uts.edu.au/toptentips.html#tip10

- **Power down:** “For example, if all the world’s 1 billion PC’s were powered down for just one night – it would save enough energy to light up New York City’s Empire State Building – inside and out – for more than 30 years” Source: 1E Energy Awareness Campaign
- **Use both sides of the paper** - Over four million tons of office paper are discarded every year. That’s enough to build a 12 foot-high wall of paper equaling 2500 miles or 3800 km. Use both sides for printing, and then recycle.



What you can do at work...

- **Recycle your coffee grounds** - Coffee grounds are excellent fertilizer for your garden or flowers.
- **Set your monitor or computer to “go to sleep” after 15 minutes**
- **Recycle everything possible** – Most waste on campus can be recycled with the exception of food wastes. Most people don't know this includes most paperboard, rechargeable batteries, glass, plastic, aluminum and paper.
- **Walk or utilize the campus shuttle to get around campus** – the shuttle is free with a Faculty/Staff ID
- **Ensure that your special events have sustainable food choices** –let campus dining know you are interested in being more sustainable. They will help you with local menu selections and packaging that is recyclable.
- **Place recycling containers in each office** – People are much more likely to recycle if you place containers in each office and in break and conference rooms
- **Install Turn out the Light Stickers** – Free turn off the light stickers are available from the UNCW sustainability committee to install in your office.



What you can do at home...

- **Reduce Water Bottle Consumption** – Americans consumed 50 billion single serve water bottles in one year and on average, only two out of ten bottles were recycled. Instead, choose from Tupperware's wide range of durable drinking containers and pitchers for on the go or at home.
- **Make one less car trip a week** - It will be easier on your wallet and the environment. Walk or ride your bike when possible.
- **Give your old cell phone new life** - Donation boxes are located in stores in most communities, and the cell phones are distributed to soldiers, women in shelters, and others in need. 125 million cell phones are thrown away every year, creating 65,000 tons of waste Consider shops and restaurants closer to home.
- **Plant a tree** - Add trees and shrubs to your landscaping. They help absorb noise and sunlight in addition to creating additional oxygen and improving air quality around your home.
- **Use the cold setting on your washing machine** - If you use warm water and a dryer, you could be producing a staggering 715 kilograms of greenhouse gas. That number is substantially reduced when using cold water.
- **Check tire pressure** - Tires at the wrong pressure, especially ones that are low, are a big fuel waster. This is a simple, cost-free way to reduce your gas expenses along with greenhouse emissions.
- **Recycle glass** - Contact your local recycling location to make a difference. A recycled glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.



What you can do at home...

- **Switch off the lights any time you leave a room for more the 15 minutes** - In a typical home, lighting accounts for 20% of the electricity bill, so if you can cut back here you will save money while preserving a resource.
- **Change your furnace air filters once a month in the winter** - The heater uses more energy when it is full of dust; this is an easy way to cut your bill and save energy.
- **Say no to paper or plastic bags** - Switch to reusable high quality cloth grocery bags and offset significant environmental harm and eliminate a portion of our waste stream. Fourteen plastic bags contain enough petroleum to drive a car one mile. Paper bags do not biodegrade in landfills due to lack of oxygen.
- **Hit reverse on your ceiling fan in the winter** - The fan will bring hot air down to mix with cooler air at floor level to equalize the temperature at floor and ceiling levels. The heating system will not need to run as often, and your savings could be significant.
- **Go paperless** - Get your statements and pay your bills online. If every house in one country did this, 18 million trees would be saved each year.
- **Adjust the thermostat** - Every degree lower in the winter or higher in the summer translates into a 10% decrease on your energy bill and places less strain on energy resources
- **Conserve water**- Conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce demand for water. Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables



Accomplishments at UNCW...

- STARS
- Seahawk Crossing
- Senior Class Gift – Sustainability Fund
- Performance contracting
- Chancellor’s Walk
- Programmable thermostats
- Faucets with low flow heads
- Storm water vaults for reuse
- Installation of irrigation water distribution line
- ECOteal store
- Forest Stewardship Council paper
- Recyclemania
- Green alternative housekeeping cleaners
- Pervious pavement
- Sustainable green house
- Rain garden
- Sustainability courses
- Sustainable film series
- Farmers markets
- Local inspired lunches – chef’s table
- Sustainability week
- [Sustainability Pledge](#)
- Campus Green Teams
- Tunnel of Awareness
- Chancellor’s Challenge – service
- Sustainability Mini Grant
- Turn off the lights campaign
- Gray water reuse
- ITSD Green Practices
- [Student video competition](#)



NOTE: These accomplishments are campus-wide and not just from the Sustainability Committee. They show the sustainability movement at UNCW.

Accomplishments at UNCW...

- **CAMPUS DINING:**

- Chef's Table every Thursday – local food
- Hydroponic Garden – many plants will be transplanted to community garden
- Coffee ground recycling – donated to local farmers, will be used for community garden
- BIO-PAK take-out containers
- Trayless dining
- Fair Trade coffee – social and environmental responsibility: community development, health, education and environmental stewardship
- Water conservation and waste stream management

- **RECYCLING:**

- Paid to recycle
- New bins for athletic facilities
- Recyclemania – UNCW finished 2nd in the CAA



Sustainability Goals for UNCW...

- Community Garden – in the works
- Sustainability Department – Coordinator/Director
- Carbon Footprint calculation
- Virtual sustainability tour
- Campus wide assessment
- Campus sustainability policy – in line with GA's policy
- Solar energy
- New energy efficient lighting in Trask



More Information - Resources

- The Green Book – *Kostigen and Rogers*
- Energy Star - <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- The Conscientious Home - <http://www.theconscientioushome.net/>
- AASHE – www.aashe.org
- Sustainability at UNCW – www.uncw.edu/sustainability
- Green Business News - <http://www.greenbiz.com/>
- EPA Sustainable Resources - <http://www.epa.gov/retailindustry/products/sustainability.html>



Sustainability at UNCW



QUESTIONS?

