



UNCW Sustainability Committee

Annual Report 2008-2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The idea of sustainability does not solely have to do with environmentalism and recycling. This is merely one aspect of sustainability, in addition to a sustainable economy and society. Incorporating all aspects of sustainability into our institutional commitment is now an expectation from alumni, students, faculty/staff, and the public - ***Enhance the quality of UNCW's environment and provide a sustainable campus that is attractive, functional and, above all, safe.***

During the previous year, the sustainability committee has made significant strides in many areas of UNCW's teaching research and operational areas. The positive impacts of these changes can be far reaching for UNCW and help achieve the following:

1. Improve teaching and learning
2. Prepare students for citizenship and career
3. Attract students, faculty and funding
4. Save money and other resources for the institution and society
5. Improve the institution's reputation
6. Engender cooperation and satisfaction across the institution
7. Help improve town & gown relationships
8. Fulfill moral and social responsibility
9. Improve strategic positioning

The areas below describe some of the greater accomplishments of the committee through the past year, as well as recommendations for taking sustainability efforts to the next level of institutional commitment.

ACADEMICS & CULTURE:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

The National Teach-In was a voluntary program to showcase global warming in colleges across the country. UNCW participated and had over 80 classes involved on National Teach-In day. Power Shift was a national meeting in Washington, D.C. to highlight global warming in all aspects—scientific, legal, political, social, etc. The UNCW delegation to Power Shift was the largest group (approximately 75 participants) from any school in North Carolina. The EVS Sustainability class taught by Roger Shew was very well received, filled to capacity, and had a waiting list of more students than were in the class!! The class will be offered again in 2009-10.

This past year, Sustainability Courses (Fall 2008 Honors Course Sustainable Issues; Spring 2009 Natural Resources and Sustainability) were implemented. Twenty students (sophomores to juniors) enrolled in Honors 210 and 21 students (Senior and Graduate Students) in GLY485/EVS485 and GLY592/EVS592. Over 50 students were turned away from these classes due to the popularity and need on campus. In addition to these classes, EVS 195 laboratory course used the forest for two labs (soils; forests/methods) and Ev-Henwood for one lab (topography, ecosystems, soils, natural history). Ev-Henwood initiated a program (along with Jeff Hill's class) to develop better signage and website information for the public and for educational purposes.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

- Designate some course development money to Sustainability related classes. Offer faculty stipends for development of sustainability related classes. This would be similar to the current faculty development funding for new classes in CAS. This would be a competitive process with faculty submitting proposal and selection by

(Sustainability) committee. Funding for this could come from the Sustainability Committee fund; CAS could designate a number of slots from their funds, some form of student fees?

- Fund a speaker series on Sustainability/Green/Environmental Issues. As an extension of the film series and other events, designate funding specifically for speakers dealing with sustainability/green/environmental issues and heavily advertise this series to the public and campus community. Funding could come from the Sustainability Committee fund or from the Cultural Arts Fees that all students are charged.
- Promote Sustainability efforts at UNCW. Promote all the activities of the Sustainability Committee both on and off campus. We are doing a lot of things but are still bottlenecked by lack of publicity. Maybe this should be a new subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee until we get a permanent position for Sustainability.
- End of year student showcase on Sustainability/Green/ Environmental projects—internships/DIS/Honors. A showcase of student work at the end of the school year similar to that of Honors and others on campus to show off Sustainability related projects that students have completed. This could be a poster session in the library or student union.

CAMPUS DINING:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

Going trayless in Wagoner Hall has saved 8,782 gallons of water each day (2,509 patrons x 3.5 gallons of water per tray) and helped reduce food waste. The Bio Pack to-go containers used in Wagoner and Hawk's Nest are 96% renewable natural resource paper. All vegetable oil used for cooking in the Hawk's Nest is recycled as bio-diesel fuel. All cardboard used in every dining location is recycled. Also, new this year is the use of Green Ware cups. These cups made of a corn by-product and are used in both Wagoner Hall and Catering. All meal plan brochures (13,000) are printed on 100% recycled FSC certified paper. Fair trade coffee is sold at Fair Trade Market, Java City at Randall Library and seasonally at Einstein Bros Bagels. Dining also assisted in promotion/implementation of Recyclemania in Spring 2009. ARAMARK has a large commitment to sustainability and to reducing operational environmental impacts. The website listed below outlines ARAMARK's platform and initiatives concerning sustainability:

<http://www.campusdish.com/en-US/CSSE/UNCWilmington/Sustainability/Sustainability.htm>

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

- Eco Clamshell-reusable to-go containers to be used in both Wagoner and new dining hall location
- Oil recycling as biodiesel in all dining locations for Fall 2009
- Purchase and install Energy Star Equipment for dining locations
- Biodegradable packaging and service ware used at new dining hall location
- Increase purchase of local products / foods
- Renovate Wagoner Hall with a focus toward energy and water conservation as well as other sustainable practices.
- Continue to conserve energy through current energy saving practices (equipment, lights, etc)
- Lights on Wagoner exterior were replaced with LED light fixtures.

GREEN BUILDING AND ENERGY:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

Accomplishments this year have centered in two general areas; new construction/renovations and operational strides toward a more sustainable campus.

Renovations & Construction: The new teaching laboratory and student recreation center expansion, and Wagoner Hall renovation and expansion are seeking LEED certification; Seahawk Crossing is scheduled to be LEED certified in ?; and Chancellor's Walk upgrades include LED lighting and storm water improvements. The Nursing Building is planned with LED exterior lighting. The teaching laboratory building that is planned will be LEED certified and utilize recycled storm water to reduce water consumption. UNCW now has performance contracts in place. These contracts are with an energy savings company (ESCO). Currently this contract is researching retrofits that will utilize renewable energy to achieve energy and water conservation for buildings on the west side of campus, including Kenan Auditorium, DeLoach, Randall Library, King Hall, Kenan Hall, Westside Hall, Alderman Hall,

Hoggard Hall, and James Hall. This will include replacement lighting, looking at solar panels, and air handling equipment. An energy controls update is in process for Dobo Hall that is expected to produce a significant energy savings. Installation of storm water retention tanks at the Crossing and parking deck will be used for water re-use in the future.

Campus Life is seeking EB-LEED certification for the Fisher Student Center and Fisher University Union (LEED certification for existing buildings). Other projects included programmable thermostats and installation of low flow faucet heads in most buildings on campus and low flow shower heads in a limited number of campus buildings. Most cleaning chemicals are environmentally friendly and greater than 95% of housekeeping paper products are recycled.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

- Utilize assessment tools and standards, such as LEED and STARS, to further institutionalize sustainability
- Continue progress on sub-metering to allow further analysis of utility usage and conservation
- Development of design standards and an energy conservation plan that will define how future construction and renovation will be more sustainable
- Partner with local government and other groups that can assist in innovative ways to utilize alternative energy sources, particularly storm/gray water recycling
- Integrate principles of sustainability into departmental practices including purchasing and waste management practices

GROUNDS AND TRANSPORTATION:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

New this spring was the construction of a rain garden next to Cultural Arts Building. Students from the Sustainability classes helped with this project. Also developed was a plan for an educational exhibit on UNCW grounds for the longleaf pine forest and naval stores (tar, pitch and turpentine). On the transportation side, staff met with Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization, joined WMPO BikePed Committee, and invited WMPO, Cape Fear Breeze, and WAVE Transit to Sustainability Week to participate in the Carbonless Commute program. They were also invited to attend the Employee Benefits Fair to provide alternative commuting information. UNCW students and campus community members were recruited to complete the WMPO online survey related to the Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan. ITSD staff also coordinated with WAVE and UNCW Registrar's office for FOIA release of campus GPS address locations.

Auxiliary Services improved Seahawk Shuttle Routes which resulted in a ridership increase of 18% over the prior year total of 306,545 rides. Faculty, staff and students participated in the Cape Fear Breeze Commuter Challenge, which logged 468 trips by bicycling, walking, carpooling, taking the bus and other alternatives to commuting alone.. The parking deck includes 30 spaces with plug in's for hybrid/electric vehicles, as well as covered bicycle and motorcycle spaces. The opening of ECOteal has increased awareness of transportation alternatives including biking, walking, and skateboarding.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

- Implement and/or continue more of the plans from the Campus Stewardship Report completed in 2008 (consider burn plan, new signage/information in Bluethenthal, campus stormwater, improved signage etc.)
- Construct the longleaf pine and naval stores exhibits at UNCW
- Encourage bicycling on campus by doing the following: improve bike infrastructure; install additional bike racks; install air compressors to fill tires on vehicles to save on gas; and explore a bike loan/share program in possible partnership with the City of Wilmington or as a UNCW-based program.
- Improved signage at crosswalks, street prints, and traffic calming measures
- Geo-code faculty/staff addresses to initiate discussions with WAVE Transit regarding van pools, improved bus routes or other alternatives to assist commuting
- Replace light-duty campus service vehicles with hybrid and electric vehicles
- Revamp faculty/staff carpool program to increase participation; encourage UNCW community to explore alternative methods of transportation including ZipCar

- Continue and advance relationship with WMPO to provide the UNCW community with information about relevant transportation projects and initiatives
- Work with relevant partners to encourage pedestrian/bicycle transportation to and from the campus using methods such as additional signage and enhanced crosswalks on College Road, cross-city trail through campus that does not impact the woodlands. Use western buffer on campus as a sustainability showcase including alternative transportation and rain gardens., etc.

OUTREACH & STUDENT INITIATIVES:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

Currently, there are diverse ways for UNCW students to learn about sustainable living and get involved with making UNCW a more sustainable institution. This past year the Outreach & Student Initiatives working group held monthly meetings to engage interested students in idea building for educating their peers and initiated and implemented the following: the Sustainability Fair during Sustainability Day, October 22, 2008 and the Sustainability Fair during Earth Day, April 22, 2009 (which was part of Sustainability Week 2009).

UNCW Presents offered a Sustainability Programming Series which included educational and cultural films and supporting programs which raised the local consciousness and urged students, faculty, staff, and community members to get involved in making changes on the UNCW campus and within the Wilmington community. Over 580 people attended seven film screenings (Nobelity, Crossing Arizona, The Corporation, The Price of Sugar, Manufactured Landscapes, A Killer Bargain, and Planet in Peril), related discussions, and the Human Rights Awareness Tour (HRAT) and Festival. Co-sponsors of these films and events included the department of Environmental Studies and EVS faculty, Amnesty International, Randall Library, UNCW Sustainability Committee, SGA, HRL Green Team, and Cameron School of Business faculty. PDA assessments were conducted at the conclusion of each screening and the results indicate the series gave students a greater understanding of sustainability issues and their significance in the world today. Over 85% of those surveyed felt they had a greater appreciation for the natural environment and a better understanding of the effects of their behavior on themselves, on others, and on the community after viewing the film and participating in discussions and 73% of participants also stated they are more aware of resources or student organizations that are available on campus and in the community.

Faculty presented talks on energy, climate change, water issues, and lead field trips for the Odyssey Program, participated in College Day, and faculty assisted with panel discussions after the Sustainability Film Series. As outreach, faculty gave presentations to the Soil and Water Conservation Board, Cape Fear Green Building Alliance, Rotary Club, Southeastern Engineers Group, and eight schools on issues in sustainability.

HRL Sustainability Initiatives Committee marketed the completion of their second year in existence and continued in its mission of promoting sustainability and educating the on-campus student population. Some of the committee's most notable programming accomplishments this year included:

- Happy Hour Goes Green: a program sponsored by CROSSROADS where the committee provided free games and food at Sharky's Game Room, educational materials, and prizes for participation
- Outdoor Movie: Who Killed the Electric Car, where educational materials were provided and discussed, along with free refreshments
- Sustainability Day 2008: committee members participated in the fair sponsored by the UNCW Sustainability Committee held on campus commons to share information and provide educational resources to the university community on this national day of celebration
- Sustainability Week 2009: the HRL committee spearheaded the collaborative effort for an educational week promoting the tenants of economic, institutional, social, and environmental sustainability through films, lectures, and programming events. This program grew from last year's event by more intentional collaborative relationships – UNCW Sustainability Committee, Health Promotions, CARE, CROSSROADS, UNCW Presents, CAIC, UNCW Eco, and more

The HRL Sustainability Committee saw a great deal of growth in efforts this year. Fall 2008 marked the initial implementation of the Housing and Residence Life Green Team. After careful planning and research, students have

taken on the responsibility of operating the recycling program in the residential facilities. These student workers are managing the daily operations of a growing recycling program as well as assisting in educational programming regarding environmental sustainability. The Green Team has worked to make recycling as easy as possible for residential students through the use of creative and clear signage, keeping containers emptied regularly, and promoting the overall positive effect that recycling can have on our campus community and beyond.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

- Continue to promote Sustainability Day and Earth Day with a Sustainability Fair
- Have student leaders form a group to educate their peers about what it means to live a sustainable life – these students would be trained by professionals and would present to the UNI sections (Peer Educators)
- Get student organizations to sign the Green Pledge and commitment to sustainability poster to display in CAIC and at campus events
- Hold monthly meetings with students interested in promoting/educating their peers on sustainability
- Get students that attend orientation to take the sustainability pledge
- Work collaboratively again with Campus partners to increase recycling tonnage for Recyclemania for the 2010 school year
- Continue sustainability film series for 09-10, in conjunction with UNCW ECO, with a more curricular focus
- Create a Sustainability Peer Education program
- Initiate a fun video contest focusing on sustainability at UNCW; videos would be posted to You Tube

WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

The departments involved with recycling at UNCW include UNCW Recycling, Printing Services, Campus Dining, Campus Life and Housing & Residence Life. Each individual department, however, is responsible for its own efforts towards waste reduction and recycling. This past year, Printing services switched to Forest Stewardship Council paper for all campus photocopying and implemented default double-sided printing in the student iPrint program. UNCW participated in the RecycleMania international recycling competition for the first time ever. The ten week completion resulted in an 8.94 lbs per person recycling rate, placing UNCW a respectable “middle of the pack” in most sub-categories. Budget restrictions nearly resulted in the discontinuation of cardboard recycling, however changes in funding sources, as well as vendor assistance, allowed this program to continue.

TOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AT UNCW:

1. New copier program that will scan and default double sided
2. Compete again in RecycleMania and have a recycling rate at least 10% higher
3. Recycling containers in Seahawk Crossing and other non-traditional resident hall locations
4. Increase recycling efforts at Convocation and Commencement
5. Involve Athletics in recycling efforts at athletic events
6. Increase individual department recycling efforts
7. More education / publicity for recycling efforts

DIVERSITY & PUBLIC SERVICE AT UNCW:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / BEST PRACTICES:

The Division of Student Affairs Diversity Committee had another busy year providing training for staff and students, and implementing a diversity book club. Many of these programs were sponsored by other departments on campus, including Centro Hispano, Upperman African American Cultural Center, UNCW Presents, CARE, and more. During the Fall 2008 semester, over 45 programs, lectures, training sessions, and special events were implemented including: B-GLAD training, Diversity Book Club Discussion, Soup and Stories, Multicultural Student Organization reception, Social Justice Film Series, Festival of Lights, to name a few. During the Spring 2009 semester, over 70 events were implemented including: Multicultural Showcase, Presidential Inauguration, Student B-GLAD training, Around the World (HRL), Love In Any Language, The Century Project, Does HIV Look Like Me, Tunnel of Awareness, Breaking Down Hate, Women’s History Month, Living Internationally In America, Human

Rights Awareness Tour, Panel on Disabilities, Diversity Brown Bag Lunch, and Game of Oppression. Diversity is one of UNCW's core values, and it is definitely shown in these training, special programs, and collaborations across campus. Discontinued licensing agreement with a company that produced UNCW insignia products, because of alleged violations of fair labor practices.

As always, Center for Leadership, Education and Service took the lead on community service projects for UNCW students and staff. 2008-2009 was the beginning of a new program, The Chancellor's Challenge: Act, Experience, Change. Eighty-two students participated and earned Community Service points. Student who earned 500+ points were recognized at the Cornerstone Student Awards Banquet in April 2009.

GOALS FOR UNCW:

For 2009-2010:

1. Develop a UNCW sustainability policy to build the culture of sustainability, establish departmental responsibilities and set standards for new and renovated buildings
2. Utilize assessment / bench marking tools to compare UNCW to peer institutions (AASHE STARS) to establish where we are and where we need to be in the future – help set institutional sustainability goals Restructure of committee and working groups
 - a. Split grounds and transportation working group to allow the grounds committee to be more involved in off-campus properties such as Ev-Henwood
 - b. Reduce committee from 21 members to 17; add UNCW ECO student member
 - c. Add member from Athletics
 - d. Strengthen relationship between Sustainability Committee and the UNCW ECO club
3. Conduct a student survey on sustainability (pre and post) to measure learning outcomes as outlined by ACPA Sustainability Task Force (<http://www.myacpa.org/task-force/sustainability>); collaborate with Student Life Assessment and Student Voice
4. Conduct sustainability presentations in UNI 101 classes utilizing peer educators
5. Seek opportunities to utilize alternative energy resources and recycled water opportunities; integrate this with coastal academic research
6. Utilize sustainability fund for mini grant program
7. Promote sustainability efforts through signs, kiosks and other educational efforts, such as a peer education program
8. Implement an energy / water conservation awareness program (Turn Off The Lights campaign)
9. Continue to expand student involvement within residence halls and athletics

For 2009 - 2014:

1. Implement renewable energy and water recycling, including solar panels on new and existing buildings
2. Create Sustainability Department to include a director and assistant director for education / programming
3. Increase performance contracting on campus
4. Increase annual giving to sustainability fund
5. Integrate sustainability into academic requirements
6. Partner with regional and governmental agencies to provide sustainability opportunities
7. Foster faculty sustainability research projects and financial support
8. Complete AASHE STARS benchmarking with other institutions
9. Continue progress toward recommendations of Forest Stewardship Committee