

UC/CSU/CCC Conference on Sustainability 2007

Erin Rempala, Karon Klipple, and Danielle Wishon (president of Mesa's Studenti Enviro club) attended the conference this year.

The conference has brought together people from capital planning, facilities, plant operations, research and instruction who are interested in learning about how sustainable practices can be implemented on their campuses. We're learning a tremendous amount from each other - about past successes and challenges. Broad topics include:

Curriculum and Research
Energy
Food Systems
Green Building - LEED EB/CI and LEED NC
Institutionalizing Sustainability
Procurement
Waste Reduction & Recycling
Student Affairs
Transportation
Water

Below is just a bit of what was covered at the conference.

What is sustainability? Sustainable practices are those that meet the needs of the current generation without limiting ability of future generations to meet theirs. Sustainable practices are environmentally sound, socially just and economically viable.

General

- Campuses that have instituted sustainable policies have generally done so (1) because of chancellor's mandate or (2) in response to student demand.
- LA Community College Chancellor reports being an advocate for sustainability due to economic pragmatism. He got green to save green.
- All schools report the dire need for education of faculty, staff, administration and students on the concept and benefits of sustainability.

- ASHE is trying to develop a Campus Sustainability Rating System
- Climate Action Registry

Sustainability in the Curriculum

Ideas

- Sustainable Ag class, campus garden and composting, self sustaining enterprise, sell food to cafeteria and local community.
 - UC Irvine students received funding from their food service contract provider - for green houses.
 - San Jose State - with limited on campus space for gardening created gardening project with local residents - in exchange for mowing the homeowner's front yard, students were allowed to garden the back yard. Highly successful, now there's a long waiting list of homeowners.
 - UC David has a sustainable ag major
- Increasing Student Awareness of Sustainability Issues
 - In many cases administrative action is driven by the demand from students. The question is how to create the excitement and awareness among students.
 - One solution is to create a general education class that requires student involvement. An example is at Santa Barbara Community College. They organized guest speakers - which class members were required to attend and had class projects that included educating other students.
- Writing Classes - iterative semester writing project that involves primary and secondary research of a sustainability related issue - even one on campus. Facets of the assignment include identifying and understanding the problem, recognizing their own impact on the item, investigating solutions and taking action. If the research is regarding a campus system this could be especially useful for helping our campus make change.
- Continuing Education may be the place to start - since courses do not follow the same articulation process

Examples

- Environmental Literacy at Chico State, taught by James Pushnik. Freshman level course. Considered environmental, political, social and economic aspects of sustainability. Part I - earth and systems thinking, Part II - Current Health of the

Earth, Part III - Sustainability Revolution.
Mondays - introduction to a topic, Wednesdays - guest speaker and reading assignment, Fridays - discussion. COMPLETE SYLLABUS PROVIDED. Three summative essay exams, an iterative writing assignment, graded discussions, additudinal assessment -pre and post. Required service learning.

- Environmental Literature course. Goals: students become discerning in interpretation of environmental information, can express their opinion, and consider the effects of their actions. <http://faculty.scuci.edu/brad.monsma> and <http://www.asle.umn.edu>

Other

- Associated Students at Chico initiated graduation requirement change - that all students must take an Environmental Concepts class in order to graduate
- Lessons Learned from student perspective: project based classes and community service requirements are successful
- ESLP - **Education for Sustainable Living Program**

How to get faculty to change the curriculum

- Faculty = old graduate students; throw regular mixes with pizza and beer; give away lunches to pairs of professors to discuss ideas for sustainability. At the end of the semester must do something to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.
- Get grant for faculty to modify at least one existing syllabus - half the grant money provided at the beginning, the other half upon completion.
- Organize environmental film festival.
- Make it a campus strategic priority.

Resources

- ASHE and their Sustainability in the Curriculum Workshop in July.
- **Piedmont Project and Ponderosa Project**
- Orange Coast College business professor and honor's program co-director Lee Gordon is interested in creating a business class that incorporates sustainability. Looking for ideas and partnership with other faculty.
- **Outdoor Classroom K-12**

- Environmental K-12 Initiative - integrated in 2008 curriculum

Sustainable Food Systems

- Student demand initiated change to sustainable campus food systems for several schools. UCSD demonstrated and quantified student demand through surveys and by organizing a free organic dinner for students (consider culinary schools & local companies, farmers for funding). Also must demonstrate ability to come close to matching price point of non-organic foods.

Resources

- John Turenne, President & Founder of Sustainable Foods Systems LLC. Former executive chef of Yale; transformed their food systems to sustainable food systems.
- UCSD is currently making the change based on student demand
- The Real Food Challenge - project for incorporating 'real' foods on campus - please see pdf under Files
- Vivid Picture Project - effort for sustainable food systems in CA schools
<http://www.vividpicture.net/>
- Roots of Change (ROC) is a collaborative of diverse leaders and institutions which are unified in a common pursuit of achieving a sustainable food system <http://www.rocfund.org/>
- CAFF - The Community Alliance with Family Farmers is building a movement of rural and urban people to foster family-scale agriculture that cares for the land, sustains local economies and promotes social justice. www.caff.org Aliza Wasserman, Institutional Outreach Coordinator
- Grower's Collaborative
www.growerscollaborative.org
- United Natural Foods Inc. Largest national distributor of organic and natural products. Kate Tierney, VP of Sales
- Alba Farmers, Agriculture Land Based Training Association. Dina Izzo, Marketing Coordinator
- <http://caldining.berkeley.edu/> Ida Shen, Executive Chef & Assistant Director of Cal Dining
- National Association for College & Food Services
- California Institute of Rural Studies
- Food Alliance - certification program for sustainability <http://www.foodalliance.org/> Roberta Anderson, Business Development Manager

- Sustainable Food Policy
<http://www.foodalliance.org/sustainablefoodpolicy/>
Sustainable Foods and Curriculum
- The Edible Schoolyard
<http://www.edibleschoolyard.org/> provides urban public school students with a one-acre organic garden and a kitchen classroom. Using food systems as a unifying concept, students learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare nutritious seasonal produce. Experiences in the kitchen and garden foster a better understanding of how the natural world sustains us, and promote the environmental and social well being of our school community.
- Life Lab - garden based learning
<http://www.lifelab.org/>
- One example of **Community Supported Agriculture** is the self supporting enterprise at Cal Poly
www.calpolyfarm.com They feed 320 people from an 11 acre farm.

Other

- Local resources can be identified through the Master Gardeners in the area
- If you are concerned about local foods then you should be actively involved in land use policy.
- UC plans to exclude GE foods

Green Buildings

CSU's Lessons Learned

- There should be no cost premium to upgrade from Certified to Silver
- Set clear energy performance goals ahead of time
- Make sure a LEED Accredited Professional is on the project
- Have routine meetings with the construction group
- Gained 42% water reduction by using waterless urinals and low flow toilets
- Use building as a teaching tool to get points for signage and conduct orientations

LA Community College District

- Producing their own energy from renewable sources. Expect to be OFF THE GRID in 5 years

Students

- California Student Sustainability Coalition - student initiated effort to create change toward sustainability on campus
<http://www.sustainabilitycoalition.org/main/>
fantastic resources for getting your college to go green
 - Amie Frisch from San Jose State - fantastic contact - led environmental group at her school and responsible for several unique and creative initiatives including community gardens
 - Santa Barbara Community College - 2 students (now former students) Leif Skogberg (Recycling Technician, City of Santa Barbara) and Shawn Jacobson (Geography student, UC Santa Barbara) started the environmental movement on their campus. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND GETTING THEM TO COME VISIT OUR CAMPUS and meet with our student group. They used innovative ways to energize their student body and affect change in the administration. Ryan is a certified green gardener.
 - Focus www.focusonthenation.org amazing project to organize student involvement in policy change to stop global warming. Thousands of schools are already involved. Students can create a project at their own campus using the tools here. Across the nation on January 31, 2008 students and politicians will unite to discuss policy and students will vote on student endorsed agenda. Eban Goodstein, PhD is project director of Focus the Nation and is professor of economics at Lewis & Clark University.
 - TGIF - the green initiative fund started on UC campuses. Students approved a fee increase of \$5 per semester to go towards green projects.
<http://www.votetgif.com/sbvotetgif/index.html>
Passed at Berkley and Santa Barbara
 - Green Campus Program
- Ideas
1. Get constitution from Mesa Enviro Club
 2. Develop charter/mission statement
 3. Meet with SBCC students
 4. Strongly consider implementing Focus on the Nation
 5. Consider activities for fall/organize calendar now!

6. Get AS representation - make this part of the AS agenda!

Lessons Learned

- Need a good connection between faculty and operations
- Need good cooperation among departments

Energy and Waste Reduction

Indicators

- CO2 emissions per year in tons
- Weight of compost material
- kW/sq ft
- gal per sq ft
- lbs trash per sq ft

Books and Films

Delicious Revolution book by Alice Waters

Store Wars - film

The Power of the Sun - film and book

Campus Sustainability Strategies for Success - book

Books by Eban Goodstein, Project Director of Focus the Nation

- Economics and the Environment (Wiley 2004)
- The Trade-off Myth: Fact and Fiction about Jobs and the Environment
- Fighting for Love: Extinction of Species

The Future of Food - film

Rivers & Tides - film

Other

This Way to Sustainability Conference III at Chico
November 1-4

Actionable Items

1. Arrange a meeting between Chancellor Carolle and Darroch "Rocky" Young, LACCD Cancellor
2. Arrange a meeting between our new Vice Chancellor of Facilities and LACCD, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning and Development
3. City to get Mesa's student enviro club constitution
4. Need LEED Accredited Professional on building committees
5. Organize farm visit for Sustainable Foods subcommittee and cafeteria staff

Environmental Stewardship Plan

Imagine the future we want - develop a plan to get there

Develop short term, mid and long term goals

Meet monthly - discuss barriers and new technology

Develop sustain plan - 9 areas covered - each has goals and indicators

Develop system for making info accessible to everyone

<http://.sustainability.ucsb.edu/plan>