Sustainability in Community Colleges:
Growing a Culture of Sustainability
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Sustainable Development is often defined as:

“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

The Three Components of Sustainable Development
What Businesses call “The Triple Bottom Line”
Education for a Sustainable Society:

“enables people to develop the knowledge, values and skills to participate in decisions ..., that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future.”
Global Perspective

life supporting resources declining

consumption of life supporting resources rising
Why Sustainability & Why Now?

“Climate change is for real. We have just a small window of opportunity and there is not a moment to lose.”

Dr. Rajendra Pachavri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, January, 2005
Effects in Our Lifetime

- Disruption of food production and the food chain
- More extreme weather events
- Disruptions of ecosystems, including water supplies
- Spread of disease e.g. West Nile, Malaria
- Submersion of land masses – was 1 to 4 foot sea level rise - now up to 48 feet
- 50% of world’s population lives on the coasts
- = Civilization Disruption

Sources: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, EPA
Trends and resources in sectors – some examples

- **Business** - LOHAS, SOL Sustainability Consortium, CERES, Businesses for Social Responsibility, Shareholders, Investors (e.g. Goldman Sachs and Swiss RE)
- **Communities** - Mayors Climate Protection and Smart Growth, Grand Rapids model
- **K-12** – Nat. Assoc. of Independent Schools, U.S. Partnership resources
- **Faith** - National Religious Partnership and Interfaith Alliance, Regeneration Project
- **Youth** – Climate Challenge, Reduce Your Impact, Action Campaigns...
For higher education, Sustainable Development integrated into:

- Curricula
- Research
- Operations
- Purchasing
- Student Life
- Professional Development
- Mission and Planning
- Community Outreach and Partnerships
GREAT NEWS!!!
Growing National Trend:

Over 17 national higher education associations are creating initiatives in education for sustainable development
Engaged National Associations

1. ACE—Am. Council on Ed.
2. AAC&U – Assoc. of American Colleges and Universities
3. AACC – Am. Ass. of Community Colleges
4. AASCU – State Colleges and Universities
5. AGB – Governing Boards
6. NACA – Campus Activities
7. NAEB – Educational Buyers
8. APPA – Facilities Officers
9. NACUBO – Business Officers
10. SCUP – College and University Planners
11. ACUI – Student Unions
12. ACPA – Student Affairs
13. NACUFS – Food
14. ACEED-I – Events and Conference Directors
15. NACS – Campus Stores

AND MORE
Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium - HEASC

- Shared professional development,
- Shared publications,
- Greening of offices and conferences
- Informing the public about higher education’s commitment to sustainability

www.heasc.net
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Organic Organization

- Recycling
- Energy Mgt
- 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 (inservice)
- 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
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.
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
“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
“It is becoming more widely recognized that social inequalities are among the causes of environmental degradation.” (Foley, 2004)
Triple Bottom Line: Society

- 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
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
In Guiding Documents

• In Vision, Values, or Mission Statement
  Warren Wilson – mission statement
  City College of San Francisco – trustees
• In Strategic Plan (35+)
  Dickinson; Oberlin
• In Campus Master Plan
  Green River C.C.
  Sustainability Plan or Report – Mount Wachusett
Guiding Documents

• Policies (Sustainability, Procurement, Investment, Energy, Building)
• Miami Dade – energy conservation
• Oakland – green procurement
• Los Angeles – green building, solar
• Cape Cod – building (LEED)
Staff and Structure

Coordinator, Staff, Committees

• Portland - Coordinator

• Lane – Coordinator, Energy Analyst
Awards, Recognition, Celebration

- Campus Sustainability Day, Earth Day
- Campus Theme for Year
- Internal Awards
- External awards

AASHE Leadership Awards 2006 Winners
Lane, Berea, Warren Wilson, U of British Columbia
Sustainable Dining

- Farm to table movement
- Sustainable Dining Initiatives
- Sustainable Gardens
- Seattle Central
Fuel and Energy

- Bio Fueled Fleets
- Bicycles
- Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation
- Central Oregon – student fee increase for renewable energy
- Los Angeles – solar initiative
- Lane – wind power
Curricular Initiatives

• In General Education Core
  Oakland C.C.
  Broward C.C.
  Miami Dade
• Curriculum infusion
  Chandler Gilbert
Campaigns

- Campus Climate Challenge
- 30+ youth organizations for clean energy
- MTV/ThinkMTV Break the Addiction campaign
- Sustainabile Living
- Eco-reps, peer-to-peer sustainability outreach
- Fair Trade (coffee, tea, sugar)
- Student Green Fees
- Focus the Nation
- Recyclemania
- EPA P3 Award
Governance and Planning

• Many organizations have sustainability initiatives
• APPA – serving facilities leaders
• NACUBO – Business Officers
• SCUP - Planners
• NAEP – Procurement
• League for Innovation
• CQIN
Key Strategies

• Connect diversity, global learning, service learning, civic engagement, economic development, student life, facilities – build critical mass
• Professional development for faculty and staff
• Weave together - create real world opportunities for students
• Make sustainability “cool”
The Power of What You Do

We can choose a sustainable future