

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARGES FOR 2011-12

Hal Crimmel, Chair
Ed Hahn, Liaison

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

The Environmental Issues Committee shall help facilitate the integration of environmental initiatives into academic affairs, student affairs, and facilities management. The committee shall serve as a local and statewide source for scientifically-based information and for leadership on environmental issues affecting Utah, the Wasatch Front and WSU campus communities.

1. Continue organizing the EIC's speaker, film, and discussion series.
2. Keeping the EIC website up-to-date and producing four issues of a newsletter distributed through a campus list-serv.
3. Working with Student Affairs and Student Senate to gather support for including a student sustainability fee into the student fee structure (sustainability fees are assessed at most large universities now, including the U of Utah and Utah State) that will fund student staff positions, sustainability initiatives and more.
4. Defining and approving the General Curriculum-Focused Sustainability definition, the Specific Sustainability Curriculum definition, and the Checklist for Sustainability Curriculum Designation for the STARS (Sustainability Tracking and Rating System) program to which WSU has subscribed. These definitions apply *only* to the STARS program and are used for STARS purposes only. (Fall Semester)
5. Considering ways to better incorporate sustainability into the curriculum in order to help WSU achieve a Bronze rating from the STARS program. Currently, across the three STARS categories, Planning & Administration earns 22 points, Operations earns 28 points, but Education and Research only earns 6.5 points. To improve, we need to consider how to improve the following 5 categories:
 - Incentives for faculty to develop sustainability courses
 - Student sustainability educator's program (i.e. eco-peers)
 - A completed student outreach campaign that produces positive results (i.e. participate in RecycleMania and increase our recycling rate as a result)
 - Incorporate sustainability into new student orientation.
 - Conduct a sustainability literacy assessment of our students.
6. Coordinating with the WSU Student Environmental Club to increase student involvement and awareness with environmentally-and sustainability-related issues.

7. Partnering with campus organizations to offer faculty education workshops on the topic of sustainability. Explore ideas and funding sources for a 'sustainability in the curriculum' faculty retreat in 2012.
8. Exploring opportunities to provide environmentally-themed outreach programs to local schools.
9. Exploring best practices in office power conservation: power strips, campus campaigns, new software programs that reduce desktop computer electricity use, etc.
10. Taking the lead to explore options to reduce WSU's paper inundation—how can we reduce the amount of flyers and notices sent through campus mail?
11. Working with Facilities Management to explore 'greener' ways to manage campus lawns and create more xeriscaped areas.
12. Ensuring the recycling signage and the "Turn Your Key: Be Idle Free" signage is installed in fall 2011.
13. Assisting in hosting the Northern Utah Recycling Symposium in March 2012.
14. Continuing to build partnerships with student organizations, the WSU Outdoor Program, alumni, the City of Ogden, other universities statewide, the Teaching and Learning Forum, and more.