|  |
| --- |
| **Student Life** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Overview:** Student life and experience is key to understanding and furthering sustainability issues on Western’s campus. Since the early 90’s there has been a rapid expansion of interest and involvement in sustainable programs. Currently there is a massive effort across multiple outlets to reduce waste and pollution generated by everyday student activities. In order to understand sustainability on campus it is important to realize that change is for the student driven, and in order for projects to be successful, it has been shown that ideas that students believe in tend to be acknowledged. Student life in terms of sustainability can be essentially be broken up into three targeted areas: residence halls, student clubs and student awareness. Each of these categories covers a broad scope of projects and accomplishments, but it is widely agreed that sustainability starts with organizational commitment, and collective thought process.  Started in 2007, ResRAP is a program that was created by students in order to raise awareness of various environmental issues in residence halls across campus. The program gave birth to the popular Go For The Green event, in which each hall competes to save energy and reduce waste with each hall earning points for sustainable practices. Go For The Green has seen a positive response from Western as money saved in energy bills is very tangible. ResRAP’s Eco Reps, who are elected officials from each hall also host educational events about campus sustainability. In 2013 ResRAP was accepted for a grant to implement the Green Residence Certification program, where residence halls are weighed on a scale of sustainability to encourage less wasteful practices. ResRap continues to work on bringing more campus wide education to Western.  Dorms have also undergone physical changes to become more suited to conserve energy. Pilot programs for food composting, shower timers, automatic lights and outlet timers are among just some of the ideas beginning to emerge to promote sustainable facilities at Western. A mock sustainable dorm room was even created in Buchanan Towers fitted with cutting edge green technology to be used as a blueprint for an ideal energy saving residency.  Students involved with environmental clubs, committees and awareness groups are making a huge difference on campus due to the initiative and interest they demonstrate in building a better western. Each of these groups working independently solicit massive change on a campus wide level. In 2005 the green energy fee was voted into action by the student body by means of the associated students voting system. Since then the fee has allowed clubs and awareness groups to request funds in order to see their projects become realized. The Green Energy Fee allowed the purchase of the Dyson Airblade hand dryers that have replaced the use for paper towels.  Students have made an effort to eliminate the need for a personal automobile through initiatives such as the Student Transportation Fee, which gave all students bus passes, the late night shuttle service, and increased bike lock-up and shelter areas designed by students which have all seen full implementation. Students also voted to pass a bottled water ban on campus, which promotes the use of a reusable water bottle and cuts waste dramatically. All of these are examples of how student awareness helps to cut emissions around Western’s campus. Western’s Students for Renewable Energy recently created the Divestment Committee whose goal is to facilitate the reduction or even complete elimination of fossil fuel use on campus.  Student Life’s sustainable influence is not only bound to Western’s Campus. As early as the mid-1970s, Western’s AS took over the recycling center in 1974. Huxley Environmental Preference Bureau turned this project into the community recycling center. Whatcom County adopted this model and has been recycling effectively throughout the county since. Club Surf Rider promotes ocean pollution prevention and organizes beach clean-ups regularly. (LEAD) organizes ecological work parties that remove invasive plants, replant native species, and perform trail maintenance and wetland restoration. |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Vision for area:** Western Washington University strives to increase sustainability awareness and communication among the student body, as well as empower clubs and activist groups to increase collaboration and transparency with administration.  **Goals:**   * **Goal 1**: Strive to build relevancy between student life and sustainable programs, while helping to build a cohesive community that shares the common goal of living a sustainability oriented life   + **Objective 1.1:** Increase resources and university support for programs that reinforce student awareness and set standards for sustainable student life at Western.   *In order to keep new and existing programs effective, well organized, and contemporary, Western must make a commitment to support programs as they continue to grow and evolve.*   * + - **Strategy 1.1.1:** Increase support for and expand coverage of the end of the year residence hall recovery drive.     - **Strategy 1.1.2:** Place recycling receptacles in more convenient locations than dumpsters.     - **Strategy 1.1.3:** Expand bottled water refill stations, with the goal of at least one station per building by 2018 in order increase visibility of sustainable programs.     - **Strategy 1.1.4:** Post clear and easy alternatives to buying plastic bottles next to vending machines, and move vending machine locations closer to water bottle refill stations.   *The idea behind this strategy is to inform students of responsible alternatives to buying beverages in non-renewable packaging and increase the convenience of alternatives.*   * + - **Strategy 1.1.5:**Expand the size and legibility of recycling receptacles outside residence halls in order to reduce overflow and improper sorting.     - **Strategy 1.1.6:** Place electronics and battery recycling receptacles in each residence hall.     - **Strategy 1.1.7:** Install automatic lights in dorm bathrooms.     - **Strategy 1.1.8:** Issue power outlet timers for all dorm rooms.     - **Strategy 1.1.9:** Assess applicability of practices in the BT Sustainable Energy Efficient Dorm (SEED) room pilot for use in other areas.   KPI: Measurable via energy consumption, and recycling rates.   * + **Objective 1.2:** Increase awareness of Western’s sustainable norms and practices among the student body.   *Because the university supports a wide variety of diverse backgrounds and cultures, it is important to educate students so that there is a common understanding of sustainable practices at Western.*   * + - **Strategy 1.2.1:** Implement a sustainable literacy test for incoming students and graduating seniors. This test is to be given twice in order to track progress and education about the environment on campus. (See Channel Islands California State University)     - **Strategy 1.2.2:** Implement a sustainability orientation seminar for all incoming students during the first week of fall quarter. This orientation should assume that students are interested in living sustainably as a baseline, and be both engaging and entertaining. (See “Climate Week” at Stanford and University of Illinois)     - **Strategy 1.2.3:** Place an extensive focus on assessing the best way to communicate current programs and events to students, this includes finding what works and filtering out what doesn't.     - **Strategy 1.2.4:** Integrate WWU sustainability education/orientation into the curriculum of 101/GUR classes that students are required to take.     - **Strategy 1.2.5:** Expand the neighborhood coverage of the moveout madness program, and ensure that students are aware of their closest pick-up location.     - **Strategy 1.2.6:** Implement the Green Residence Certification Program campus wide for students who want to make a self commitment to reducing impact.     - **Strategy 1.2.7:** Reopen project Mug for reusable beverage containers campus wide.     - **Strategy 1.2.8:** Expand the scope of the Go for the Green challenge to all campus buildings, not just residence halls (see “Green Grades” at KU).     - **Strategy 1.2.9:** Reinforce awareness of the WWU zipcar program, bolt bus, and other sustainable modes of transportation.     - **Strategy 1.2.10:** Strive to offer the same programs and resources that on-campus residents receive to all off-campus students as well, in order to bridge the gap between sustainability awareness on and off campus.   KPI: Measure the baseline of sustainable accessibility, ease, and participation among the WWU student body via survey, as well as results since increased education steps have been followed.   * + **Objective 1.3:** Bolster sense of community and responsible citizenship through sustainability and a recognition of a greater connection to Whatcom County and the planet.   *In order for sustainable life to be fully integrated into student life, it is important for there to be a variety of outlets for students to see these practices in action. This will create a sense of community immersion.*   * + - **Strategy 1.3.1:** Establish an extension of Bellingham’s farmer’s market on campus for students to enjoy in red square on a selected day of the week. (See UC Davis)     - **Strategy 1.3.2:**Create a campus wide waste reduction challenge, which asks students to challenge themselves to cut their waste by a certain amount each week. The results are to be measured and displayed.     - **Strategy 1.3.3:** Create an interest based, on campus community by means of a floor or section of a residence hall that focuses on uniting students around the central goal of sustainability and awareness. Aimed toward future huxley majors or people who care about improving our environment. (See “EcoVillage” at NC State)     - **Strategy 1.3.4:** Work to bring an on campus thrift store to Western. (See “The Trunk” at Middlebury, and “The Co-Op” at Trinity College) * **Goal 2:** Raise the level of organization and collaboration between student clubs and administrative bodies such as the AS, and prioritize the education of sustainable clubs in terms of resource availability and support.   + **Objective 2.1:**Prioritize transparency, efficiency, and collaboration between WWU administrators, the AS, and students.   *Currently at WWU, students and administrators don’t fully understand each other’s roles as advocates, and it is important for both bodies to be on the same page in order to solicit success.*   * + - **Strategy 2.1.1:** Ensure proper training of club leaders in order to work with committees of administrators and faculty so as to get everyone speaking the same language.     - **Strategy 2.1.2:** Mandate the creation of detailed legacy documents for clubs in order to record what has been learned and accomplished by these groups for public knowledge.     - **Strategy 2.1.3:** Ensure that feedback from WWU administration and the AS explains the steps that student clubs and action groups must take in order to achieve their goals and solicit change.     - **Strategy 2.1.4:** Prioritize transparency of how AS funds are raised and distributed to clubs.     - **Strategy 2.1.5:** Survey AS clubs on the types of info and resources they need to receive in order to remain relevant and successful.     - **Strategy 2.1.6:** Dedicate clear and accurate training to demonstrate the fastest way to complete paperwork for funds and resources for any club that shares a social or environmental focus.     - **Strategy 2.1.7:** Provide AS funding incentives for clubs that collaborate and pool resources in order to complete projects. |  |  |
| KPI: Measure clubs opinions of the level of accessibility to funds and services as well as results after support measures have been taken. |  |  |

**Stakeholder comments on this draft can be found at the following address:** https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16LOfEI28CmOipgdPcr\_3G513fQb4EmTqV2aXl2DaLEs/edit#gid=0

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Achievability** | **Action Steps** | **Related Strategies** | **Responsible Units** | **Completion Date** |
| **Achievable with Available**  **Resources:** | Implement a sustainable literacy test for incoming students and graduating seniors. This test is to be given twice in order | 1.2.1 |  |  |
|  | Establish an extension of Bellingham’s farmer’s market on campus for students to enjoy in red square on a selected day of the week. | 1.3.1 |  |  |
|  | Mandate the creation of detailed legacy documents for clubs in order to record what has been learned and accomplished by these groups for public knowledge. | 2.1.2 |  |  |
|  | Ensure that feedback from WWU administration and the AS explains the steps that student clubs and action groups must take in order to achieve their goals and solicit change. | 2.1.3 |  |  |
| **Achievable with Additional**  **Resources:** | Create an interest based, on campus community by means of a floor or section of a residence hall that focuses on uniting students around the central goal of sustainability and awareness. Aimed toward future huxley majors or people who care about improving our environment. | 1.3.3 |  |  |
|  | Implement a sustainability orientation seminar for all incoming students during the first week of fall quarter. | 1.2.2 |  |  |
|  | Place electronics and battery recycling receptacles in each residence hall. | 1.1.7 |  |  |
| **Achievable through Policy Change:** | Provide AS funding incentives for clubs that collaborate and pool resources in order to complete projects. | 2.1.7 |  |  |
|  | Post clear and easy alternatives to buying plastic bottles next to vending machines, and move vending machine locations closer to water bottle refill stations. | 1.1.4 |  |  |
|  | Place recycling receptacles in more convenient locations than dumpsters. | 1.1.2 |  |  |
| **Achievable through Institutional**  **Investment:** | Increase staff for end of the year residence hall recycling recovery drive. | 1.1.1 |  |  |
|  | Expand the neighborhood coverage of the moveout madness program, and ensure that students are aware of their closest pick-up location. | 1.2.5 |  |  |
|  | Expand bottled water refill stations, with the goal of at least one station per building by 2018. | 1.1.3 |  |  |