This report is an example of the collaboration on sustainability issues that has become standard on this campus: Students, staff and faculty working together, each bringing their own perspective and experience to the project at hand. Our campus is driven by the many committed students that have made the pursuit of sustainability a goal of their academic studies, these efforts informed by supportive faculty and facilitated into physical reality by our dedicated staff.

It has been my pleasure to watch this process from inside the Campus Planning Studio classroom and to work with the many students that contributed their research, writing and presentation skills to the production of this report. It has also been an honor to have this work supported by the institution at all levels. Western is committed as much to teaching students as it is to learning about how it can reduce its demands on the biosphere and support a livable world for all. It is my hope, and the hope of many others here at Western, that our real success lies not in creating a sustainable campus, but the effects that such a campus has on the 4,000 graduates that leave here each year. The creation of a sustainable world depends on them and Western has taken that responsibility seriously.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the Campus Sustainability Report. I hope that you find it informative, but more importantly, I hope you find it inspiring. One of the main goals of this work is to generate new responses to the challenges that lie ahead. If you’ve thought of a way to improve our operations or have an idea for research that could lessen the collective Western footprint, we’ve done our job. I encourage you to not stop there, but to continue on to work with the Office of Sustainability and the many other sustainability advocates on campus to make Western a national leader in sustainable thought and action. The Western graduates of 2108 will thank you for it.

Best,

Seth Vidaña
Coordinator, Western Office of Sustainability
The word “sustainability” has become symbolic of Western’s long-term commitment to our environment, equity, the economy and health; evolving efforts that have been in place for decades. The University’s efforts come from a sense of responsibility to future generations and to provide for them while meeting our own present needs.

A sustainable Western, through its academics, research and operations:

- Protects local and global ecology
- Upholds social equity
- Creates economic vitality
- And maintains the health of the Western community

Western strives to both recognize and support the connections between these areas in hopes of creating a truly sustainable campus. Though Western has made strides in its on-campus activities, it is in the future pursuits of Western graduates where the University truly achieves the aim of the sustainable University.

Each section in this report highlights strategies that Western is employing to achieve sustainability as well as metrics for measuring our progress where measurement is available. This report, the first of its kind at Western will act as a foundation on which to base future sustainability reporting.

This report outlines many, but not all, of the academic, research, and operational strategies currently in place at Western.

For more information on Western sustainability initiatives, visit www.wwu.edu/sustain.
Methods

The Western Washington University Campus Sustainability Report is a product of student, staff and faculty efforts during the 2007-2008 school year. The structure of the research and layout of the report is taken from the Sustainability in Higher Education Assessment Framework, a campus sustainability assessment framework created by Puget Sound regional colleges and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. During fall and winter quarters, student researchers from the Campus Planning Studio class (ENVR 471) conducted interviews with staff, students and faculty throughout Western’s campus under guidance from the course instructor, the Western Campus Sustainability Coordinator. Information for the report was also derived from existing Western documents regarding past and present Western sustainability strategies. During each quarter, draft documents for research areas were produced and provided to departmental contacts for feedback and editing. Spring quarter students created final drafts using departmental feedback and produced the final layout for the report.

Energy sustainability involves meeting energy needs indefinitely without exhausting finite resources by using energy wisely and renewable energy technologies like solar, wind, and biomethane. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, buildings use 40% of the total energy in the U.S., 66% of the electricity, and account for 35% of greenhouse gas emissions. These statistics are echoed in Western’s energy use, which has increased steadily over the last five years, in total and per student. Western purchases 100 percent renewable electrical energy and is pursuing policies and programs to reduce energy use. By conserving energy, the University saves money and the environment benefits from reduced energy production emissions.
Strategies

Western President Karen Morse signed the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment on January 12, 2007. By signing this document President Morse acknowledged that as a University, Western recognizes the importance of reducing global greenhouse emissions by two percent by mid-century. This document also requires action, within one year of signing, the University must complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions which will be updated every other year. Within two years of the signing date Western must develop an action plan to become climate neutral.

Western’s Office of Sustainability is working to complete both the inventory and the action plan. The greenhouse gas inventory is approximately 70 percent complete while the climate-neutral action plan is about 30 percent developed. The University hired McKinstry for 2 ESCO, Energy Service Company, projects and is now doing the energy audits and retrofits.

The University meters electricity consumption with a variety of electric meters. Some individual buildings are fed from a common utility meter and have their own sub-meters, some groups of buildings share a sub-meter and others have their own utility meter. During the 2006-07 school year, two Engineering seniors installed an electricity meter to demonstrate monitoring electricity use on one floor of the Ross Engineering Building. This technology could be installed in other buildings to monitor specific uses of electricity.

Heating and hot water for most of the on-campus buildings is provided by the steam plant, which consists of five natural gas boilers capable of generating 253 thousand pounds of steam per hour. The steam plant does not produce electricity at the same time, however, it is not considered a cogeneration facility. The steam plant also powers the central compressed air systems used for academic labs and building control systems.

Florescent bulbs were swapped out for energy efficient bulbs in the Performing Arts Center, Humanities, Wilson Library, Fine Arts, Steam Plant, Arntzen Hall, Old Main, and Bond Hall. The Environmental building, Parks Hall, Art Annex, and Physical Plant are being retrofitted. Bond Hall and the Communications building have occupancy sensors to turn off lights that are not in use in some rooms. The current practice is to install occupancy sensors in rooms as they go through major capital renovation.

Technology to reduce vending machine energy consumption, Vending Misers, has been installed in 51 machines. Devices were not installed on glass front beverage machines with an ‘elevator’ to dispense the container because of physical problems with the elevator when power was cycled.

A solar photovoltaic panel demonstration system of 2 kW will be installed this year on the bookstore. Puget Sound Energy will help fund the installation. Alpha Technologies will donate the panels and electrical components and Bonneville Environmental Foundation will cover the cost of the accompanying informational kiosk. The project was started by the on-campus club, Students for Renewable Energy.

The University has begun energy conservation outreach and education campaigns. Last year, students who lived in on-campus housing were surveyed about their conservation knowledge and habits of resource use. In 2008, the Office of Sustainability has introduced the Residents’ Resource Awareness Program, which encourages student residents to think about their electricity use through an intra-dorm Energy Use Competition and the peer education of Eco-Reps. The Conservation Committee of the Students for Renewable Energy plan to make “turn-off-your-light” stickers to compliment the “Watt Watchers” stickers next to many light switches, and place semi-permanent posters that encourage energy conservation in the after-hours bus shuttle and in dormitories. In the Woodring College of Education, participating faculty make at least one curricular innovation to incorporate topics, assignments, or activities related to sustainability through the “Woodring Initiative for Sustainability Education.”

Metrics

Energy use on campus comes in two forms: electricity (measured in kWh), and natural gas used to heat buildings (measured in therms). Therms and kWh can both be converted to BTUs1, or British Thermal Units, so energy use can be combined into one unit. Electricity meters monitor either groups of buildings or individual buildings for kWh used. The steam plant measures the amount of natural gas that it burns in its boilers. Ron Bailey, Energy Manager at Western, records the numbers on a per-month basis and then organizes this data into quarters and the fiscal years.

In 2006, Western used 115,441 BTUs/square ft. of campus buildings (see Table 1). This reflects a 6.3 percent increase from the energy use per square foot in 2002 (see Table 1, percent cumulative change). The amount of energy used in 2006 (115,441 BTUs/sf ) is equivalent to 33.8 kWhr/1FTE/year, which is equivalent to turning on 100 15-watt light bulbs for 22.5 hours per square foot of campus space. The sharp increase in 03-04 can be explained by the fact that three new buildings (Communications, Student Recreation Center, and Campus Services) came online during this time. Between 2005 and 2006, energy use per square foot only increased 1.9 percent even though enrollment increased 3 percent. On a per-student basis, energy use has increased 9.3 percent between 2002 and 2006, to 29.19 MBTU/FTE (see Cumulative % Change in Table 2). On a positive note, between 2005 and 2006 energy use dropped 1.4 percent (most likely due to the lighting retrofits; see annual percent change column in Table 2).

The Associated Students club, Students for Renewable Energy, succeeded in placing an initiative on the Spring 2004 student ballot that asked students if they were willing to pay an extra student fee to guarantee Western purchases one hundred percent renewable electricity. Eighty-five percent of students approved the measure, and following Board of Trustees approval, Facilities Management negotiated an annually-renewed Green Tag contract with Bonneville Environmental Foundation in the spring of 2005. The University is listed in the EPA’s Green Power Partnership as a “100% Green Power Purchaser.”

1 Multiply kWh by 3,413 to get BTUs and multiply therms by 100,000 to get BTUs.
Opportunities

- Data collection, documentation, evaluation and analysis of energy use and projects to save energy.
- Campus-wide policies and programs, including education and publication, about energy conservation, such as the EPA’s Combined Heat and Power Partnership. Harvard University is particularly progressive, asking its faculty and staff to take the “Sustainability Pledge,” which encourages the development of energy-conserving habits like setting computer on sleep mode, turning down the thermostat when a room is not in use, replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, and unplugging chargers and power adapters. Dartmouth College has taken aggressive measures to reduce their emissions and energy use while also staging a vigorous campaign to educate and inform the campus community about climate change and energy use. Posters are displayed in every campus building, updated monthly and provide feedback on the amount of energy, water and steam used for that building.
- Installation of more renewable energy technology on campus, such as geothermal heat pumps, solar thermal system, on-site wind turbine(s), or fuel cells. Students for Renewable Energy aims to expand on-campus renewable energy generation, through the installation of a 2 kW solar panel demonstration system on the bookstore. Napa Valley College and Butte-Glenn Community College both installed solar systems greater than 1 megawatt (making them the top two universities in terms of on-campus solar power generation potential) meeting 30 to 40 percent of their campus electricity demands through funds provided by their utility companies, loans, and government incentives.
- No Biomass combustion is used at Western. Vegetable oil as a fuel source in the boilers was explored, but issues with supply availability and air pollution arose putting an end to this venture for the time being. Biogas combustion is used by The Vehicle Research Institute to build a methane-powered car. The methane is derived from a local anaerobic digester owned by Van der Haak dairy.
- The Purchasing section discusses EPEAT computers at the University of Washington, where it is estimated the University could save $600,000/year in energy usage over the life of the EPA certified computers. Based on the number of computers at Western, it could save as much as $60,000/year.

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Western’s Master Plan transportation goal is to ensure that single-occupancy vehicle travel is the least prioritized mode of transportation. The plan focuses on making other forms of transportation, such as public transit, walking, and bicycling, highly encouraged and adequately funded. The Transportation Management Program (TMP) was initiated by Western in 1995. Until 2007, the TMP was coordinated by Parking and Transportation Services. In Fall 2007, with implementation of the Student Transportation Fee, the Sustainable Transportation Office was relocated, housed with the Office of Campus Sustainability. Sustainable Transportation is structured within the Department of Public Safety, separate from Parking Services. The sustainable transportation office is responsible for the operations of the student bus pass and Late Night Shuttle programs, and the employee Commute Trip Reduction program.

The TMP is intended to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles and minimize impacts of automobile transportation. Western supports alternatives to automobile commuting by providing information, assistance and incentives encouraging students, faculty and staff to walk, bike, bus and carpool. The use of alternative means of transportation will decrease pollution, traffic, and parking congestion, increase health, save money and decrease dependence on petroleum.

Strategies

The planning, design, and implementation of transportation at Western is coordinated by Facilities Planning, Environmental Health and Safety, Parking Services and Sustainable Transportation. The Office of Sustainability, The Sustainability Committee, and the Associated Students Alternative Transportation Advisory Committee also provide input. The Office of Sustainable Transportation organizes and coordinates transportation through close communication with the City of Bellingham and the WTA. Western employs Carol Berry as the Sustainable Transportation Program Manager, Washington State and Whatcom County Commute Trip Reduction laws and programs provide Western with added motivation and supporting programs for automobile trip reduction.

The Transportation Working Group of the Sustainability Committee drafted a Sustainable Transportation Vision in November 2006. An important goal of establishing a sustainable transportation system is to protect local and global ecology by limiting the emissions and waste within the planet’s ability to absorb them, as well as minimizing the consumption of non-renewable resources and land use. Also outlined in this draft is an effort to create economic vitality by making transportation affordable, and to maintain human health by pursuing clean air, water, and noise reduction, in addition to physical exercise.

The University has begun site design or redesign to encourage walking and bicycling. Bike lane and pedestrian walkway improvements have been made, including some marked arterials. Parking for bicycles has increased to 800+ bike racks on campus. Covered parking for bikes is minimal, although approximately 30 percent of all bike racks are covered, and many of them insufficiently so. Eight bike lockers are available for rental. The lockers are located in lot 10G at the end of East College Way, next to the Fine Arts building. The fees for locker rental is published at $15 per quarter/$60 per year, with a $50 key deposit; the fees are currently being waived to promote use of the lockers. The Outdoor Center also features a bike repair shop on campus, with work stations for rent at $2. The Hub community bike co-operative, with rental work space, is 6 blocks from campus. Bike rental is available at the Outdoor Center by the day or week. Soon there will be additional “commuter” bikes, 6-8 highly customized rides for rent. Western also supports an annual bike to school/work day and accompanied programs such as SMART TRIPS — an ongoing partnership between local government, public agencies, employers, and schools to promote walking, bicycling, sharing rides, and riding the bus.

Western Student Transportation, known as WST, was developed after Western students approved an Alternative Transportation Fee in April 2007 with an 80 percent vote. The fee of $25/quarter ($20 Summer quarter) provides all students taking 6 or more credits with a Viking Student Xpress Bus Pass, subsidized by parking fees. Staff and faculty, as well as students with less than 6 credits can opt to pay this fee. The fee cannot increase by more than 5% each year, and is up for re-approval by a vote of the students in 2012. In the first year of the program WTA saw an increase of nearly 700,000 passengers. The student transportation fee funds a student Late Night Shuttle, with two routes serving Downtown Bellingham, Western, Bill MacDonald Parkway, and Lincoln Creek Park and Ride, Lakeview Center, and the York Neighborhood. The late-night shuttle system operates until 2:56 AM, seven days a week. Guaranteed rides home are available to
Western staff who are Registered Smart Commuters with a free taxi ride in the event of illness, emergency, or unexpected overtime.

Employees are organized and encouraged to carpools through a car-share program. The Office of Sustainable Transportation collaborated with staff of Huxley College to use Geographic Information Systems maps and databases to determine relative proximity of Western employees residences. Discount parking passes for commuters who primarily use alternative transportation are available as Commuter Packets, packs of 10 daily commuter permits. Preferred parking is reserved for carpools.

Car sharing programs are available through WTA’s Vanpool and Car Share of Bellingham. An Administrative Assistant position was offered for 2006-2007 off-campus work-study to aid in the education of coordinators in a school anti-idling program. Employees may request consideration for telecommuting for all or part of their work if their work does not require either physical presence on campus or contact with other employees, or students, or the public. Web based classes are offered, which allow both faculty and students to telecommute.

Metrics

A large majority of students live either on or near campus and walk or bus to school. The use of single occupancy vehicles decreased by 55 percent from 1992-2003. All of the vehicle transportation was replaced by transit use. Another large increase in bus travel and accompanying reduction in car use can be expected with the introduction of the Viking Student Xpress Bus Pass.

**GRAPH 1: Transportation Modes: Western Students (2003)**

**TABLE 1: Transportation Modes Western Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupant Vehicle</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employees live further from campus than Western students, and single occupancy vehicle travel forms a steady majority of their transportation choices. Targeting staff and faculty is necessary to encourage and facilitate changes in traditional modes of transportation.

**GRAPH 2: Transportation Modes: Western Employees (2007)**

**TABLE 2: Transportation Modes Western Employees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupant Vehicle</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Other includes Vanpool, train, telecommuting and employees who did not complete the survey.

**GRAPH 3: Number of Whatcom Transportation Authority Passengers per Year**

*The figure for 2003 is an estimation due to a gap in records for this year – 2,764,173 is the average for the years 2002 and 2004.

**NOTE:** October 1, 2006 was WTA’s first fare increase since 1999. The cost of one-way face went from $0.50 to $0.75. WTA implemented a student fare for all high school and higher education students of $10.00/month. Western Student Viking Xpress pass price increased from $20 to $30 per quarter.
The WTA (Whatcom Transit Authority) has seen a steady increase in ridership of about 5 percent/year over the course of the decade due to increased population and gas prices, in addition to expanded service. In 2007, the year the Viking Student Xpress Bus Pass was implemented, WTA experienced a nearly 25 percent jump in passengers. In February of 2008, ridership increased 46 percent over the previous February, with Western students accounting for 73 percent of the increase.

Opportunities

• Information and awareness; an article in “The Western Front” about the Sustainability Committee’s meeting to discuss lowering the annual bus fare.

• Investments in bicycle infrastructure, more and better developed bike routes, more covered bicycle parking facilities

• Integrated transportation planning with the City of Bellingham

• Incentives for commuters who use alternative transportation, such as fees reduction or bonuses

• Prohibitively high parking permit prices, restrictions on the sale of parking permits

• Free bike program (e.g. “yellow bikes”)

• Reserved parking spaces for hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles

• Expand University vehicle fleet to more electric vehicles, hydrogen fueled vehicles, hybrid vehicles, or vehicles using alternative fuels like ethanol or biodiesel

• Participation in Best Workplaces for Commuters program

Sustainability at Western is often thought of in terms of wastes and materials, but is increasingly being recognized through the building of facilities and construction. Through the processes of green building certification, increased employee sustainability knowledge and the re-use of excess building materials, the University is committed to the future of both environmental consciousness and sustainable building.
Strategies

With the employment of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED certification, the University is working toward promoting sustainability in campus buildings and facilities. In conjunction with US Green Buildings Council (USGBC), the LEED standard and certification program scores facilities in five different categories: site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. When a new building is completed, individuals involved with the construction are able to apply for LEED certification. This process entails receiving 'credit' in the five major areas of consideration based on documentation reviewed by the USGBC. A rating is then based on credits received for certain areas, such as site sustainability, materials and resources used, and indoor environmental quality that can be worth from one to ten credits, some areas being required for certification. Ratings include Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum at the highest level. Once LEED certification is attained, it can lead to not only the recognition of an establishment’s environmental commitment, but also to marketing exposure through the USGBC website as well as qualification for state and federal government initiatives.

Western has been an early leader in the implementation of LEED standards, specifically in the area of LEED New Construction for buildings. In 2003, the University’s Wade King Student Recreation Center received LEED Certified standard for lighting, water and material use, and other sustainable plans, and was the first University recreation center with a swimming pool in the nation to be certified. This accomplishment was done prior to the passing of a 2007 Washington State law which required all facility projects more than 5,000 sq. ft. in area or major facility renovations of 50 percent greater than the assessed value of the facility, to be designed, constructed and certified at least LEED Silver. In addition, many of the buildings being built and renovated on campus are likely to receive a LEED Silver standard under the new state law. The Academic Instructional Center (AIC) being constructed on campus as well as the future renovations of Miller Hall and Carver Gym are all likely to receive LEED Silver certification. Though Western has no specific design specifications for sustainability that are included in the construction notes for contractors, the likely LEED Silver certification of the AIC, which was not required by law to follow any LEED certification at the time of its development, is primarily due the interest and efforts of Facilities Management, the Western Administration, other departments and students who were concerned with the establishment of sustainable building on campus. Through these efforts, passive heating and natural ventilation systems will be employed in order to facilitate LEED certification as well as educational signage about the buildings energy conservation and design to be posted in and around the building is being planned. The Western planned water front facilities, as well as the Buchanan Towers addition, are also likely to be LEED Silver certified. At this time, no buildings on Western’s campus are scheduled to be remodeled for LEED Existing Building certification, which involves the standardized measurement of operations, improvements and maintenance for a buildings maximum efficiency.

The community at Western is also becoming increasingly interested in sustainability. In March 2005, Western joined the USGBC after interest in sustainable building on campus increased from the commitment of Western to purchase 100 percent green power. As an education institute member of the USGBC, Western is able to attend various workshops, including a LEED conference, which six Facilities Management employees attended in spring 2007. Additionally, Facilities Management engineers and architects have participated in LEED training classes. Three members of Facilities Management are LEED Accredited Professionals, having taken the LEED exam. Knowledge about the LEED program has also led to construction professionals becoming more informed and familiar with sustainable building and the products involved in today’s market. Other steps are being taken to promote sustainable building on campus, including the implementation of occupancy sensors to reduce energy usage, linoleum flooring in place of vinyl, which is made of natural linseed oil rather than petroleum based products and low volatile organic compound paint, which releases less toxins into the air after being applied, being used in facilities.

Space and material consumption at Western is also becoming a primary concern for the University. The percentage of remodels and new construction on campus known for the next five years will be 100 percent LEED certified. In addition, there is a space utilization tracking system that keeps record of the total available free space in square footage on campus, though it does not include how that area is used by facilities. Contracts between Western and subcontractors stipulate recycling policies to manage wastes as well as contractors and Facilities Management commitment to re-use materials as much as possible. Projects done through facilities management often go through the Western Student’s Associate Recycling Center, which receives about 10 percent wood waste from small projects, the remainder of the waste coming predominantly from non-reusable shipping pallets. This wood is then sent through a Bellingham company that ships it to one of several Washington state facilities that burn it with coal for electricity. Appliances in need of disposal are sent to the ReStore for possible re-use. Worn items, such as couches and desks, which cannot be donated under Washington state law, are able to be auctioned, but are many times thrown away.

Metrics

Unconditioned areas of campus require less energy to maintain then conditioned areas of campus. Space utilization at Western is measured by the total area of conditioned buildings per full time campus user (FTCU); with Western’s FTCU calculated at 337 sq. ft. In addition, between 1 and 3 percent of the 3,199,129 sq. ft. of Western floor space is unconditioned, including some sky bridges, classrooms, storage facilities, and other such spaces. Unconditioned areas of campus require less energy to maintain then conditioned areas of campus.

Opportunities

Western has shown a commitment to sustainable building through the LEED certification of buildings as well as the re-use of construction wastes, but there are still areas that would benefit from increased attention. Though there is a limited amount of educational signage surrounding the LEED certified buildings currently at Western, more signage would foster a better understanding of the Western efforts to promote sustainable building as well as create a campus consciousness in the area. In addition, the increased level of community involvement in building design and other environmental issues would create more public support for sustainability and the University. The management of building wastes could also be improved. Finding a better system for the re-use/selling of used building furniture would allow for a more environmental exchange rather then being forced to dispose of select items.
In the fiscal year 2007 Western paid Bellingham’s Sanitary Service Company, Inc. $322,642 for waste disposal. This figure represents only a fraction of the material stream running through campus. Many of the materials used at the institution are reused or reduced and recycled. In 1976 the Associated Students incorporated the Recycle Center, which is still student owned and operated. The center was formed by a student group of Huxley College students. Under the supervision of a full-time staff coordinator, approximately 3800 pounds of recyclable material are collected each day.

Western developed the Government Options to Landfill Disposal (G.O.L.D.) Plan for waste reduction, recycling, and procurement of recycled and recyclable materials in 1994. All departments, offices, and operations, including all Western faculty, staff, and students participate in achieving the G.O.L.D. Plan objectives.

The potential for improving the amount of recyclable materials reclaimed in residence halls has been, in part, addressed by the development of a Resident’s Resource Awareness Programmer working through Western’s office of sustainability. Though the position is still in development, Education Campaigns, such as “Go for the Green” aimed at reducing watt hours used in residence halls through friendly competition have proved successful.

The Associated Students Recycle Center hires an educator during each school year to recruit and coordinate EcoReps, residents with an acute awareness of campus sustainability practices, in an effort to further reduce waste and promote a conservative consciousness regarding waste, reuse, reduction and recycling. Publicity campaigns, such as America Recycles Day, Earth Day and the national recycling competition RecycleMania, provide venues for students to engage the institutional process of waste management.

Materials handled by the AS Recycle Center include glass, all numbers of plastics, aluminum, tin, steel, wood, paper and cardboard. Although the Recycle Center also serves students who wish to ensure responsible disposal of batteries, ink cartridges and non-recyclable packaging materials, students are encouraged by the Recycle Center Educator and Coordinator to hold manufacturers and distributors responsible for the collection and disposal of these specialized materials.

Birnam Wood residence hall has piloted a Food Recycling Program Managed by Bellingham’s Sanitary Services Commission. The program has not yet been evaluated; options for more effective reclamation of compostable items are under investigation by Recycle Center Staff. Western’s campus dining halls participate in a successful food recycling program. (See dining on page 20 for further discussion of food recycling on campus.)

Potentially hazardous materials are managed according to state laws, including the collection, storage, labeling, transfer, and manifestation of chemicals in Western’s laboratories. Western’s office of Environmental Health and Safety is accountable for ensuring these practices are in compliance. Laboratory standards have been written into the administrative code in order to protect employees who handle chemicals frequently. Mercury thermometers have been replaced excepting the one retained for its accuracy.

Computer printing in 94 percent of Western’s computer labs is controlled by Pcounter, a program which releases documents to a central print station, which requires students to approve each print job. Students are also limited to printing 500 pages per quarter and only two color prints per day. Most printers utilize both sides of the paper automatically.

Outdated or irreparable technology stored on campus eventually goes to the Washington State organization Ecflight for total reclamation. Furniture stored on campus receives evaluation when furnishing new rooms or

Strategies

In an effort to quantify the waste reduction strategies of the University, Western Recycle Center Employees conducted a waste analysis in the spring of 2007. In academic facilities recyclable material comprised only 3 percent of the disposed volume. Residential disposal facilities’ volume of recyclables totaled 37 percent.

The potential for improving the amount of recyclable materials reclaimed in residence halls has been, in part, addressed by the development of a Resident’s Resource Awareness Programmer working through Western’s office of sustainability. Though the position is still in development, Education Campaigns, such as “Go for the Green” aimed at reducing watt hours used in residence halls through friendly competition have proved successful.

The Associated Students Recycle Center hires an educator during each school year to recruit and coordinate EcoReps, residents with an acute awareness of campus sustainability practices, in an effort to further reduce waste and promote a conservative consciousness regarding waste, reuse, reduction and recycling. Publicity campaigns, such as America Recycles Day, Earth Day and the national recycling competition RecycleMania, provide venues for students to engage the institutional process of waste management.

Materials handled by the AS Recycle Center include glass, all numbers of plastics, aluminum, tin, steel, wood, paper and cardboard. Although the Recycle Center also serves students who wish to ensure responsible disposal of batteries, ink cartridges and non-recyclable packaging materials, students are encouraged by the Recycle Center Educator and Coordinator to hold manufacturers and distributors responsible for the collection and disposal of these specialized materials.

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Outdated or irreparable technology stored on campus eventually goes to the Washington State organization Ecflight for total reclamation. Furniture stored on campus receives evaluation when furnishing new rooms or
areas on campus. New purchases are made only when previously owned furniture is deemed inadequate. Different buildings have higher or lower standards for the condition of furniture depending on the visibility of the building. The Viking Union building for example has higher standards than many of the academic buildings because it is used by a high volume of people within the Western community and its visitors. Furniture designated inadequate is either recycled or sold by Western’s Space Administration.

Metrics

The AS Recycle Center keeps rough estimates of recycling data in pounds each year. Over the past 17 year, Western’s recycling rate has increased by 37%.

In Spring Quarter of 2007 The AS Recycle Center conducted a waste analysis in Old Main, Humanities, and Fraser Hall buildings. For one week, both recycling and garbage were sampled from these buildings. The results found that there is only room for a 3% recycle rate improvement. In comparison, the residence halls have room for 33% improvement.

Results from the 2007 Waste Analysis are shown below. The amount in pounds per week collected from the three study buildings are shown in the pie chart.

Western spent $322,642 last year on collection of garbage from Sanitary Services Company (SSC). Campus waste is only tracked by cost, which is a highly inaccurate representation of the actual amount by either volume or in pounds.

TABLE 1: Western Composition of Waste and Recyclables*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF WASTE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycled</td>
<td>1669 lbs</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Recyclable Garbage</td>
<td>585 lbs</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling in Garbage</td>
<td>73 lbs</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data collected from Old Main, Humanities and Fraser Hall buildings over a one-week Waste Analysis during 2007.

TABLE 2: Western Refuse Collection Cost*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF WASTE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Facilities</td>
<td>$195,364.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Buildings</td>
<td>$123,338.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Time Temporary Costs</td>
<td>$3,938.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data collected for the Fiscal Year of July 2006 - June 2007.

TABLE 3: Water Usage Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF WASTE</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Landscaping Water Consumption</td>
<td>75,772,400 Gallons/Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Consumption per Full-Time Campus User</td>
<td>7,970 Gallons/Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping Water Consumption</td>
<td>149,613.6 gallons/Watered Green Acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Watered Green Space</td>
<td>71% Green Space Watered (55/77Acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Non-Potable Water</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Unused Steam</td>
<td>16% Unused/Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities

Periodic analysis of Western’s waste stream in terms of volume or weight could create financial savings for the University as well as provide a clearer indication of where education is needed. Increased participation in National networks such as the National Recycling Coalition, and the associated events to create additional incentives for student behavior has increased rates of recycling in the past and is expected to continue in the future.

Other incentives to encourage changes in student behavior include reusable mug discounts at coffee shop locations across campus. Although these have been offered in the past, they apply only to certain brand mugs and the policy suffers a lack of enforcement uniformity. Student requests for comprehensive reusable mug programs are being considered concurrently with the development of additional eateries on campus.

Redistribution of used office supplies or the creation of a program to promote reuse holds potential for further reducing Western’s waste stream.
Sustainability becomes central when discussing the subject of food. Because of the wide range of practices used in the growth of local, regional and global food products, it is essential that choices involving those practices be made thinking for the future. Without regard for this, there is the potential for environmental harm and a loss of local economy. Western employs many sustainable concepts and practices through its partnership with dining services, and makes choices that show a conscious understanding for the need of sustainable accomplishments with food on campus.

Food purchasing at Western, done in the dining hall as well as some of the markets on campus through the partnership of Sodexo and University Dining Services, has begun using many purchasing strategies toward sustainability. Apples are being purchased by Dining Services from the local farm of Belle Wood Acres through a partnership with Sisco, a billing company, and are directly delivered by Belle Wood Acres. In addition, purchases are made of many value-added products, products processed from more than one ingredient, from several local businesses, like Baker’s Cookies, Tony’s Coffee and Rocket Donuts. All coffee on campus is purchased Fair Trade certified from Seattle’s Best coffee or Starbucks. Purchases made from Seattle’s Best Coffee are also certified organic, though it is uncertain how much of this coffee is purchased.

Dining Services makes all liquid dairy purchases from Edaleen Dairy, a local dairy farm in Lyden, which is free of the artificial growth hormone rBST and antibiotics. Ice cream for the dining halls is also purchased from Edaleen Dairy in Lyden as well as a second company in Salem, Ore. The locally purchased ice cream is hormone or antibiotic free. Meat that is anti-biotic and hormone free is available upon request for special events, but most of the meat purchased from Dining Services is not because demand does not consider the purchasing economical. All seafood purchased through Dining Services follows the Seafood Watch Guidelines from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which raises consumer awareness on the purchasing of sustainable seafood through developed information about how seafood is caught and processed. Vegetarian and vegan food options are available at every meal in the dining halls and a full time dietician is employed through Dining Services 10 months out of the year.

Pre-and post-consumer waste produced on campus through both the dining halls and retail stores on campus is processed through Bellingham Sanitary Services. Pre-consumer waste is collected in both locations and post-consumer waste is collected and composted from the dining halls and partially from retail stores on campus. Recently, composting areas have been made available to the public at the Viking Union Market as well as the Atrium but further composting areas at other markets are currently not available, though may be included in future plans. All used vegetable oil from campus is sold to Standard Biodiesel, which is then recycled into fuel. Dining Services also donates overstock food on holidays and perishable food on long weekends to local food banks, but no regular donation of leftovers exists for campus markets or possible dining hall wholesome leftovers. Biodegradable food ware is used during some catering events as well as reusable plates and dishware in all of the University dining halls but is not currently available in many markets. To reduce wastes in the all-you-can-eat dining halls, tray-less weeks have been implemented in the summer months and have shown a 45 percent waste reduction. In addition, during the regular school year a tray-less week was also implemented during Earth Week on campus and was shown to decrease waste by 35 percent. Currently, there is no plan to discontinue all-you-can-eat food services because of student views of its inconvenience.

**Strategies**

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Metrics

The percentage of Duck Delivery company food that is delivered to the University from local sources is 20 percent, which comes mostly from produce. 4.47 ounces of food compost is produced per person per meal and 225,720 gallons of compost are produced per academic year in the dining halls.

Opportunities

Food purchasing at Western is beginning to show sustainable attributes, but there are many strategies for improving the purchasing of sustainable food as well as strategies for a greater concern for the disposal of food wastes by the University. Wholesome food left over from regular dining halls could also possibly be given to food kitchens or a food kitchen could possibly be set up somewhere on campus in order to serve the greater community in need. Increased purchasing of organic and other sustainable food sources for the dining halls and on campus markets would increase the health of food provided for students and faculty as well as help decrease poor farming practices the use insecticides and other environmentally harmful chemicals. Increased support of companies like Growing Washington, which work with local farms to distribute locally grown food, would also support sustainability in the local community. Purchases of more locally grown and raised produce and animals would also help the local economy, reduce transportation costs and reduce carbon emissions used in transportation. The adoption of a sustainable purchasing plan would allow the consolidation of all these factors and could produce a more managed system of purchasing such foods, as well as audits to see what the level of sustainable food purchases were and the rate at which food is being pre- and post-consumer composted. Food grown in the Outback Farm during summer could also be purchased and would help support not only the organic garden and the AS club, but also the University as a leader in sustainable food purchasing and production. Currently, University Dining Services is always working towards buying more locally.

PURCHASING

Every product and service comes with social and environmental costs in addition to the price. Western has an incredible amount of purchasing power with which it can create positive social and economic changes. Western is taking a step in "greening" up its campus by adopting sustainable purchasing methods with some of its largest expenditures and most environmentally unfriendly products: paper, cleaning products and computers. Most negative environmental impacts of products come from the manufacturing process, and then the efficiency with which they are used. Concrete policies directed toward sustainable purchases and reduced consumption is the way for Western to help create a more sustainable future.

Western maintains independent purchasing policies within the State Office of Financial Management guidelines. Purchasing at Western is centralized, through the Purchasing department. Departments can place orders of less than $1000 directly with vendors. Purchasing processes orders over $1000 and orders over $3300 must go out to bid to at least three vendors. The University solicits bids for contracts and the lowest bid is accepted. In cases where a state or University contract has been established with a vendor, departments are obliged to purchase from the vendor. Central Stores places orders for inventory stock with vendors contracted by Purchasing or the state.
Strategies

Western takes most of its purchasing policy direction from the Washington State General Administration Department (GA), which sets guidelines for state agencies and institutions. These guidelines define minimum requirements, which allow Western to draft more rigorous policies related to sustainability. While many products do not have purchasing policies, the University uses sustainable products in most areas and follows state guidelines for recycled content, mercury reduction and energy efficiency, such as the purchase of Energy Star appliances and office equipment. The University also considers length of service life, durability and reparability, ease of disposal and total life cycle costs when soliciting goods and services.

The “Washington Purchasing Manual”, a document put out by the GA, defines purchasing guidelines that regulate Western. Following GA guidelines, Western has contracts for the purchase of Green Seal certified cleaning products, 100 percent post-consumer product paper, and energy efficient vehicles. The GA also has guidelines encouraging minority and women-owned businesses, small and local businesses, as well as guidelines for the purchase of recycled and low-impact products. Western also boycotts products associated with child labor.

Paper

Western purchases roughly 4,000 cases of paper annually, at 5,000 sheets per case; the University uses 20 million sheets of paper a year. In 2007, Western purchased only 100 percent recycled paper and virgin stock paper. 30 percent recycled paper was dropped from its purchasing agenda in 2006 due to cost. It was replaced by virgin stock, increasing the amount purchased from 76 percent to 83 percent of total paper purchases. This was attributed to cost and quality. 100 percent recycled paper is made from shorter fibers, which results in a grainier paper more likely to cause jams in printing machines, although printers can be calibrated to accept various papers.

The Governor’s office of Washington State has mandated office paper purchased by state agencies must have a minimum of 30 percent post consumer recycled content. Western was recently informed of this policy and as of May 2008, no longer purchases virgin stock paper and began purchasing paper with 40 percent recycled content.

Cleaning Products

Green Seal is a non-profit organization offering third-party certification of environmentally responsible products and services. Green Seal certified cleaning products account for 95 percent of Western’s expenditures on cleaning products. Academic Custodial Services, which cleans all academic and support areas on campus, endorses their use. Most of the products they use, including all solvents, are Green Seal 37 certified, which covers industrial and institutional cleaners. The floor finishes and strippers used are Green Seal 40 certified, which covers industrial and institutional floor cleaners. While not certified, lubricants are formulated from natural products, such as soy or citrus. To compliment the use of Green Seal certified products, none of the products Academic Custodial Services use contain petrochemicals or endocrine disruptors. And, although Western does not participate in purchasing cooperatives, there is a provision with Green Seal to allow other schools to use our contract. University Residences is now purchasing from the “green” contract with Coastwide Laboratories. University Residences is also phasing out incandescent light bulbs in the dorms and replacing them with compact fluorescents (CFL’s).

Computers

Each year, the University purchases 900 to 1,000 new computers. They become part of a 3-year computer replacement cycle. Departments less dependent on computers receive old computers from departments more reliant on new technology as new computers enter the cycle. Western uses computers anywhere from 6 to 15 years before taking them out of the cycle. After a computer is deemed unusable it is sent to central stores to be sold or recycled in a program with our suppliers. Western purchases computers with a gold certification by EPEAT, Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool.

2 Washington State Purchasing Manual, Section 4.1, Chapter 43.19: RCW 43.19.538, RCW 43.19.637, RCW 43.19.663; Section 4.2, Chapter 43.19: 43.19A.005.

Metrics

**GRAPH 1: Quantity of Paper Types Purchased by Western per Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Virgin Stock</th>
<th>100% Recycled</th>
<th>30% Recycled</th>
<th>Tree Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**
- Virgin Stock $27.52/Case
- 100% Recycled $35.80/Case
- 30% Recycled $38.41/Case
- Tree Free
Opportunities

In 2004, the University of Washington’s Copy Centers switched over to exclusive use of 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper locally produced in Hoquiam by Grays Harbor Paper, the same paper Western uses. UW conducted several performance tests of the paper with positive results. To finance the price increase from virgin stock to 100 percent recycled paper the copy center at UW arranged an eighth of a cent price increase in their copy services. Grays Harbor Paper is made using 100 percent certified carbon neutral energy produced through biomass fuels. According to Gray’s Harbor, each ton of their 100 post-consumer paper used instead of virgin paper saves 10,052 gallons of water, 14 million BTU’s, 1,120 pounds of solid waste and 2,210 pounds of greenhouse gasses.

Policies and methods for sustainable purchasing addressing specific items across campus, and similar policies covering the solicitation of bids.

Sustainable purchasing programs for education and evaluation of the University’s progress.

INVESTMENTS

Socially responsible investing considers both financial returns and societal concerns, encouraging corporations to improve their practices on environmental and social issues. Socially responsible investing screens businesses for their involvement with alcohol, tobacco, gambling, weapons, the military industry, and politically sensitive areas.

No committee is solely responsible for socially responsible investment at Western Washington University, but in the spring of 2005, the Endowment Investment Committee adopted a socially responsible investment policy. Investing with Social Responsibility states, “the University will consider social criteria” in carrying out investment practices.
Strategies

The Investing with Social Responsibility policy requires the Committee to meet annually to review and enhance the policy and practice. In practice, the Committee meets two to four times a year to review the performance of the portfolio investments and overall adherence to investment policies, as stated within Defining Endowment Investment Objectives.

As further indication of the University’s commitment to sustainable investing, Investing with Social Responsibility lays out a framework for a “Best of Class” practice of positive screening. The Sustainable Investing framework is used to research and analyze companies based on corporate governance, community and environmental initiatives. The practice is intended to identify and promote social responsibility while meeting fiduciary responsibilities.

The University draws on investment managers from Smith Barney and Clearbridge Advisors, the latter of which specializes in sustainable investing. They assess companies using direct dialogue with corporate management, proprietary and third party social research, and publicly available information from industry and trade organizations, government agencies, public interest groups and others. They may also engage in proxy voting on behalf of their client on shareholder introduced resolutions related to sustainability.

The Endowment Committee is engaged with our investment managers in continuous review of the investment portfolio’s social performance, responsive to the present conditions and concerns of society, such as South Africa in the past, and currently Sudan.

Metrics

Western’s Endowment, the value of an institution’s donated funds and investments, has reached more than $7 million. Investing with Social Responsibility states that investment managers will evaluate large cap investments, companies with over $10 billion in market value, based on “Best of Class” criteria. These investments account for 34 percent of the total endowment, or $2.38 million.

Opportunities

Investing in Social Responsibility, the rating of “Best in Class” is applied only to large cap investments. The University is in the process of revising the policy to apply to its entire portfolio, including small and mid cap funds, thereby expanding where and how it can increase investments in social responsibility.
Because of Western’s numerous Associate Student (AS) recognized clubs, which numbers at over 200, there are ample areas to perform services through campus. Sustainability for campus community service and civic engagement relies on the idea that events and groups involved can be maintained with little long term effects on the environment. This means not only that any group participating in community service should be doing so through sustainable methods, but also through sustainability of the group itself.

Though there are many different clubs on campus, very few are dedicated to the specific idea of sustainability. Instead, there are many clubs with the goal of promoting social issues as well as service to the community which have sustainable ideals underlying their existence. There are 15 service clubs on campus whose goal it is to help the community and city through providing service and civic engagement as well as 18 clubs on campus that deal with social issues and raising community awareness about local and global concerns. There are also 16 cultural and ethnic clubs on campus that raise money for scholarships for minority populations. In addition, there are five clubs focused on politics who perform voter registration drives and educated on various political parties and representatives. Even through none of these clubs specifically raise the issue of sustainability, their activities have social impacts that have large effects on collective sustainability and the ideas it represents. There are approximately seven environmentalist clubs on campus that work through community service and civic engagement in a sustainable manner, including the Bellingham Emerging Green Builders, which discuss green building strategies. In addition, environmental service-learning programs like Learning, Environment, Action Discovery (LEAD), which uses work parties for environmental restoration in Bellingham, is supported by Western’s Huxley College of the Environment through funding and volunteer opportunities.

Western’s faculty, staff and students also engaged in community service through other organizations outside the AS, specifically through the Center for Service-Learning (CSL). The CSL is staffed with a 1.2 permanent full time employees (FTE) and receives .3 FTE support from Woodring College of Education for one faculty to help with planning, run the Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program and the Retention Project. One AmeriCorps member two part time work-study and graduate students also work at the Center. The Center for Service Learning is responsible for the coordination of projects based in the community in conjunction with course learning objective, though this can be difficult with so few staff available. It does this through the creation of service opportunities for both faculty and staff to improve student learning as well as the local community. Through the Center, in 2006-07, when a larger staff was available, service learning programs were incorporated into 37 classes on campus, with approximately 700 students involved in service-learning to serve over 75 community organizations, although an unknown number of classes participate in service learning without the aid of the CSL. Because the CSL is understaffed, it is also not able to specifically focus on sustainable service learning and is primarily involved in curricular based service learning. In addition to the CSL, students and faculty are encouraged to engage in community service on campus and in Bellingham through various events sponsored by Student Affairs New Student Programs, Residence Life and the Ethnic Student Center including Make a Difference Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Earth Day.

Students involved in work-study are also a large part of the community service present on campus. Though only required to use 7 percent of work study funds for community service by the government, approximately 12 to 14 percent of federal work study funds that come to Western are used for community service jobs. Through a full-time work-study coordinator as well as community partners who work through the work-study program, many opportunities are available on campus for service projects and approximately 43 students on campus in February of 2008 were participating in work study related service. Institutionally, sustainable community service and civic engagement is relatively unrecognized in conjunction with academic standards. There is no inclusion of work-study on student transcripts nor is there any institution-wide community service requirement for a student to graduate.

Opportunities

Though Westerns had many clubs and organizations dedicated to sustainable community service and civic engagement, there are ways that could both improve the organization of these groups as well as increase the potential for the University to help in the Bellingham community. With a more standardized way to record hours of service completed through campus organizations, there would be an increased ability to record and recognize the many students and faculty who work towards sustainability through service. In addition, instituting a requirement for the gradation of students that some level of community work be associated with University education would also uphold the institutions commitment to social and environmental concerns with the area. It would also allow for an introduction of students to community work that could possibly related to their field of study and promote the idea of future service in local and global areas. Additionally, increased resources and staff to programs like the SLC and others that encourage service-learning experiences would not only help raise students ability to connect ideas in the classroom to valuable skills learned through community services but also benefit the community of Bellingham in supporting student education outside of the University.

Strategies

Because Western’s numerous Associate Student (AS) recognized clubs, which numbers at over 200, there are ample areas to perform services through campus. Sustainability for campus community service and civic engagement relies on the idea that events and groups involved can be maintained with little long term effects on the environment. This means not only that any group participating in community service should be doing so through sustainable methods, but also through sustainability of the group itself.
When students first enter the Western community, the importance of sustainability on campus is demonstrated through the incorporation of sustainability-themed workshops and tours during orientation sessions. Most recently, new student orientation facilitators have focused on the theme of Social Justice, tackling concepts of social equity and health on campus. Beginning in the 2009 academic year, Welcome to Western publications, for both students and faculty, will include information on sustainability at Western.

Starting in the 2007-2008 school year all Western Students receive a bus pass for the entire year. Many of the other sustainable facets of the campus community have been identified and created by students. This high profile example of campus commitment to sustainability demonstrates only one of the significant impacts students have had working with faculty and staff to develop and implement sustainable initiatives at Western.

Students, staff and faculty at Western are aware of campus efforts to cultivate a cultural awareness of sustainability as well as sustainable practices. The Sustainability Committee on campus was convened in April of 2005 and has served Western by developing a comprehensive definition of sustainability and promoting the collaboration of students, staff and administration around sustainable consciousness-building events. The effects of this collaboration have extended throughout campus and into the greater Bellingham community.

During the summer of 2006, the sustainability committee established the Office of Sustainability in order to raise awareness of environmental issues and to form the bridge between sustainable consciousness and sustainable practices. Western effectively achieves these measures by a variety of student initiatives, student organizations, student-staff positions, campus publications and events.

Strategies

Student Organizations, Events, and Initiatives

Student organizations contributing to sustainability on campus abound at Western and are tantamount to the events and initiatives increasing sustainable practices. The following achievements of various student organizations on campus demonstrate Western’s commitment and capacity to realize sustainability.

Motivated to make a change after completing Huxley’s Intro to Environmental Studies course in 2003, a group of students formed Students for Renewable Energy (SRE). This student-run group, supported by the AS Board, initiated the implementation of the student Renewable Energy fee (see Energy and Climate). The group is engaged in the process of bringing solar panels to Western with the first ten to be installed by the end of spring 2008.

Students for Sustainable Food (SSF) work with Western’s Dining Services and student body to facilitate a campus-wide movement toward the purchase of local and organic food for nutritional and environmental gain. SSF also significantly contributed to the development of the Dining Services compost system. SSF works toward the creation of a student-run cooperative store that would provide local, organic and tasty options to hungry students on campus.

Emerging Green Builders (EGB) is an active student club under Western’s Associated Students (AS) as well as the US Green Building Council. This student group aims to promote green building awareness and practice within the region through the organization of speakers, tours and events related to innovative and environmentally conscious building techniques. Student members of EGB have become significant participants in all of Western’s meetings regarding construction and remodeling of campus buildings.

The student-run Vehicle Research Institute (VRI) and the Western Hybrid Team focus on the design and engineer of environmentally friendly, energy-efficient vehicles. The Sustainable Transportation Club at Western, another student group, strives to educate students on sustainable transportation methods and also works as a forum for student discussion and suggestions on the topic.
The Associated Student Board of Directors and the Associated Student Senate serve to represent the concerns and innovations of these student organizations and of independent student organizers to Western’s administration. Collectively the student government plays a supportive role in the implementation of student generated sustainability initiatives.

**Associated Student Staff Sustainability**

The AS Environmental Center hires two Environmental Coordinators who help advocate sustainability on campus by hosting high profile events and networking among student organizations. Success is especially apparent by the coordination of Earth Week, including a day long event to celebrate our sustainable efforts on campus, as well as the implementation of specific events geared towards the accomplishment of sustainable agendas in Residences, Dining Halls, and in classrooms.

The student-run AS Recycle Center employs an Educator to work with the campus at large, and in particular with residents to increase the quality of recyclables collected, and to decrease the amount of recyclable material deposited in waste containers. For the past two years Western campus has participated in the nationwide recycling competition called Recycle Mania. More than a competition the Recycle Center uses this event as an opportunity for residents to network among themselves and for Western to network with other institutions interested in increasing their commitment to sustainable development, specifically by waste reduction and recycling.

Founded in 1972, the Outback Farm is a five acre, student-run site which teaches, develops and implements sustainable growing and land use methods in order to enrich the student body, the University, and the Bellingham community. Students care for garden beds collectively and share in the produce at the end of the growing season. The farm is also a class II wetland under restoration by student workers and volunteers.

**Publications and Events**

The Planet magazine is student-run publication dedicated to local and global environmental concerns. This magazine was first published by the Associated Students (AS) Environmental Center in 1979 and was later transferred to Huxley College of the Environment in 1992. Writers and editors of the magazine are Huxley seniors enrolled in the undergraduate environmental journalism program.

Two other publications widely circulate the campus community. The student-run newspaper, “The Western Front”, periodically includes sustainability related articles, however they do not have a specific section dedicated to this topic. The Associated Student’s The AS Review, contains a small section dedicated to sustainability tips and environmental information.

**Resident Hall Efforts**

Beginning in 1992, the Recycle Center Educator recruited EcoReps annually from the resident halls to form an understanding of sustainability on campus and devise techniques to further enhance their practice of sustainable living techniques. The EcoReps have been an integral part of emphasizing the cultural significance of sustainability at Western. The Office of Sustainability now employs a Residence Resource Awareness Programmer (ResRAP) who worked with the EcoReps for the 2007-2008 school year. Competitions among Resident Halls have been a popular way to cultivate sustainable behaviors (ie. recycling and turning off lights).

The most recent competitive event, “Go for the Green” saw successfully reduced kilowatt hours consumed. For the past two years Western campus has participated in the nationwide recycling competition called Recycle Mania.

University residences at Western install Energy Star appliances and equipment whenever possible. All laundry machines in University dormitories are Energy star rated and each vending machine is equipped with an Energy Miser to reduce energy input when not in use. In addition, the recent discontinuation of micro-fridge rentals to students living in the University residences will significantly decrease the energy consumption within individual dorm rooms. To reduce the use of paper products involved in University Residences procedures, new online and electronic forms and documents have been established.

Custodians who work in the residence halls are focused on using green cleaning solutions whenever possible to reduce the use of toxic chemicals harmful to the environment, dormitory residents, and themselves. Carpets installed in University residences must be made from recycled materials and contain no PVC.

**TABLE 1: Electricity Use Reduction, Online Survey Response Rates, & Money Saved from 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESIDENCE HALL</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM JAN 2007 - KWH/RESIDENT</th>
<th>RESIDENT POP. COMPLETED SURVEY</th>
<th>WINTER RESIDENT POPULATION</th>
<th>MONEY SAVED*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kappa</td>
<td>-16.7%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>$383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higginson</td>
<td>-16.4%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>$47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edens &amp; Edens North</td>
<td>-11.5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>$432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairhaven</td>
<td>-24.8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>$2,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchanan Towers</td>
<td>-7.4%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>$408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathes</td>
<td>-5.5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>$87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birnam Wood</td>
<td>-7.6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>$167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Price of electricity was estimated at a minimum of $0.065 per kWh. AVERAGE REDUCTION -12.8% TOTAL SAVED $3,695
Diversity

In addition to the organizations incorporating sustainability in their mission, organizations for social justice and diversity develop the cultural infrastructure necessary for implementation of sustainable agendas. Students for Social Change aim to promote social awareness and encourage change through education, community development and volunteer work. Their efforts contribute to the creation of a unified culture and the incorporation of new sustainable practices at Western.

Western’s academic programs incorporate knowledge of current agricultural and oil refining industries and the neighboring Indian reservation. Student and Staff populations do not reflect local Bellingham demography. Incorporating the programs GEAR UP and AVID, the admissions staff seeks to connect with middle and high school students and families who may not traditionally be college bound.

The Equal Opportunity Office (EOO) has taken responsibility for collecting data and statistics related to issues of diversity similar to those asked for in the SHEAF assessment. The successes of this program can been seen in the increase of tenure track women; up from 30% of professors in 1999 to 39.9 percent in 2005, and a reduction in the percentage of tenured positions held by Caucasians from percent in 1996 to 85.6 percent, in 2006 just to name a few.

Western's accomplishments in recognizing the presence and needs of diverse groups can be seen in the Universities mission statement:

"Western brings together an increasingly diverse and talented student body, faculty and staff to form a learning community that, along with community partners, involves its members in active learning, scholarly discourse and reflection."

The development and the practices of the Office of Admissions, as well as the variety of diverse student organizations seek to extend the benefits of attendance and employment at Western to increasingly diverse groups of people.

Employee Well-Being

Institutional support and cultural perception of the employee as an individual strongly affect an employee’s ability to continue performing his or her duties in an effective manner over the long term. Unsustainable work place situations can lead to a high turnover rate of employees, lower productivity and poor work quality. Some issues might include a high employee-to-work load ratio, or lack of mechanisms for conflict resolution or employee input. Sustainable employee well-being also includes many of the civil and labor rights issues in our country over the past century – equal opportunity in employment, equal pay for equal work, health benefits and employee assistance programs.

Workforce well-being is included in the guiding documents of the Human Resources (HR) Department at Western. Its mission is:

...to provide a working environment understanding of human needs and the effective delivery of an excellent learning and living program. Staff is committed to providing courteous, efficient service, supportive of employees, and the University mission and goals, in compliance with Federal, State, and University regulations."

Specific employment policies and procedures can be found on the HR Web Site, including faculty and staff handbooks, and documents on employee well-being topics such as Employee Health & Wellness, Whistleblower Policy, Alcohol & Other Drugs Policy, Employee Benefits Package, and the Employee Assistance Program.

An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) run by St. Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, is available to eligible Western employees (falling under one of several job description categories) as part of their benefits package. Included in this is counseling of various types, referral for financial and legal problems, stress debriefing, drug/alcohol assessment and referral, and mediation and intervention for work groups and families as well as other mental and emotional health programs.

Conflict resolution is a line item in the guiding documents of the HR department. Western offers individual counseling services through the EAP program run by St. Joseph Hospital. The HR department is also member to the Inter Local Conflict Resolution Group, which offers free mediation services. In addition, the 2007-2009 WFSE (Washington Federation of State Employees) agreement with Western (the union document) outlines a grievance procedure which includes potential for mediation and arbitration.

Child care is available on campus through the Associated Students Child Development Center. The center is intended for student parents and working professionals alike. However, student fees are determined by a sliding scale based on income, while a flat rate applies to non-students. A co-op is available to all parents, where by a reduced hourly rate is charged for parents who work in the center four hours a week.

The HR Web site does contain an information page on Employee Health and Wellness which includes some basic information on nutritional health and getting started with exercise activities. Additionally, a handful of activities and resources have been organized independently by staff and faculty who are interested in health and wellness issues. The ability for these employee-initiated activities to continue depends entirely on space availability.

Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2: Graduation Rate for Incoming Freshmen (2001)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Fall 2001 Incoming Freshmen who Graduated Within Six Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Fall 2001 Cohort still continuing after six years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unaccounted percentage of students left Western or transferred to other institutions.
TABLE 3: Undergraduate Enrollment by Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNIC GROUP</th>
<th>97/98</th>
<th>98/99</th>
<th>99/00</th>
<th>00/01</th>
<th>01/02</th>
<th>02/03</th>
<th>03/04</th>
<th>04/05</th>
<th>05/06</th>
<th>06/07</th>
<th>07/08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>8,975</td>
<td>8,993</td>
<td>9,003</td>
<td>9,531</td>
<td>9,722</td>
<td>9,870</td>
<td>10,088</td>
<td>10,262</td>
<td>10,322</td>
<td>10,137</td>
<td>10,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>298</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>977</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>1,153</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>11,476</td>
<td>11,655</td>
<td>11,708</td>
<td>12,307</td>
<td>12,409</td>
<td>12,493</td>
<td>12,680</td>
<td>12,940</td>
<td>13,076</td>
<td>12,979</td>
<td>13,352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 4: Retention Rate for Demographic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETHNIC GROUP</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American, Asian, &amp; Native American Average</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Generation Student</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 5: Retention Rate for Minority Students to Overall Retention Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>OVERALL RATE</th>
<th>MINORITY STUDENT</th>
<th>% DIFFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 6: Student Financial Aid Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Aid</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of financial aid that is need-based</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of undergraduates receiving PELL Grants</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 7: Employee Well-Being Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution’s employees who receive health insurance</td>
<td>87%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontracted employees who receive health insurance</td>
<td>0%**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty who work more than half time but are not on the tenure track</td>
<td>23%***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The remainder of employees work less than 6 months per year, or less than 20 hours a week. Statistics provided by the Western Benefits Department.
**Western does not provide health insurance to subcontractors.
***As of October 2006. Statistics provided by the Western Equal Opportunity Office.
Opportunities

The topic of sustainability is not directly focused on during staff and faculty orientation, however sustainable practices are encouraged. Online forms are used increasingly throughout campus departments, and students and staff take initiative to support recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Teacher candidates enrolled in Woodring College of Education secondary have the opportunity to integrate sustainability into pre-service teacher coursework. One project has focused on the pairing of pre-service education students with native Alaskan children to increase literacy, discuss the prospect of higher education, raise sustainability awareness and have even been involved in collecting direct evidence of climate change. The other project involves a service-learning school garden partnership between the University and a local elementary school. Each project is based on the three legs of sustainability and addresses the sustainability literacy themes of intergenerational perspective, stewardship, social justice and fair distribution, systems thinking and interdependence, importance of local place, nature as model and teacher and global citizenship.

Western’s Library holds numerous publications related to field of sustainability as well as local and global environmental concerns. In addition, the AS Environmental Center has a wide selection of books and videos related to sustainability and environmental topics. Huxley’s Library is located in a small room adjacent to the advising office in the Environmental Studies building, but most information revolves based on staff inclusion of material related to current coursework. Despite the significant volume of material relating to sustainability on campus, cohesive organization would effectively increase the availability of this information to students.

Residential students have the most in-depth relationship sustainable services provided on campus. Increasing efforts to coordinate hall representatives and residents for the mission of sustainability have been successful. The high receptivity of residents indicates the importance of continued institutional support to reach out in this area.

Western’s campus culture is creating a new breed of professionals. Not only Huxley Students, but all Western students are invited to attend Huxley College’s Job fair, featuring employers from the Environmental field. Employees at Western are especially supportive of these efforts. Surveying employees about job satisfaction provides an opportunity for employee’s to enhance the capacity of this institution to implement staff suggestions and to retain valuable employees making a contribution to the diversity and sustainably-minded culture on Western’s campus.
We would also like to acknowledge all of the many Western staff, students and faculty who provided necessary information and advice for the production of this report.