

USC's First Annual Earth Summit (October EAC meeting) October 24, 2008

The purpose of the Earth Summit was to get administrators, faculty, staff, and students together to establish long-term goals and goals for the year.

Reports from USC Departments:

Business & Finance

- Health and Safety (Tom Syfert): co-chair to EAC
- Dining Services (Mike Scheffres): goal of dining services is to continue to be more sustainable; currently purchasing produce from 22 local farmers; offering free trade coffee on campus; biodegradable containers are expanding as well as more china being used in the dining halls; recycling cooking oil as well as office supplies; use electric car for catering on campus; are striving to use less water; have introduced the use of eco-friendly cleaners; composting is the biggest goal for the year
- Vehicle management and Parking Services (Gene Luna on behalf of Derrick Huggins): Rideshare program has been discussed; biodiesel program expansion into athletics is being focused on; more bike racks proposed for campus; alternative fuel fleet on campus in discussion
- Purchasing (Venis Manigo): E-waste disposal on campus for electronics that cannot be used; recycling of office supplies as well as office furniture; scrap metal being sold for recycling; focusing on buying recycled products

Facilities (Helen Zeigler): oversees Michael Koman in new sustainability position under facilities

- Landscaping & Environmental Services (Tom Knowles, Laura Pergolizzi): new certification for sustainable landscaping is being offered and obtained by USC employees; Tree Campus USA is current goal for landscaping department which involves the tree canopy on campus; recycling efforts on campus being improved; new cardboard dumpsters purchased for campus; green cleaning being done in the new Public Health research building
- Energy Services (Charles Stevenson): goal is to reduce water consumption from irrigation on campus; energy control contract with Johnson Controls; new biomass plant on campus
- Campus Planning & Construction (Ben Coonrod, Michael Koman): new design guidelines for campus projects that focus on storm water management; working with Derrick Huggins to turn old gravel parking lots into green spaces on campus; plant selection for improved storm water management; bike committee to provide more bike racks, a campus bike map, and biker/pedestrian planning; goal to attain grants for infrastructure and environmental buildings

Student Affairs and Academic Support (Gene Luna): dining has been moving in a green direction for sometime now; Healthy Carolina to marry the idea of resources and choices for sustainability because it must make business sense to move on

- Housing (Jim Sherry, Laura Bosselait, Jamie Shook, Stephanie Baker, Sandra Bray, Chris Bray): currently recycling in residence halls; low flow devices being installed in residence halls; new construction to be environmental (Green Quad is Silver LEED certified, Honors College to be Gold LEED certified); all green cleaning program to be instituted; goal to purchase paper products with recycled content for housing restrooms; Eco-reps from each residence hall have been designated who plan events focusing on sustainability for residents once a month; sustainability efforts in Greek Village, such as to purchase china instead of paper, plastic, or foam products; Capstone sustainability

Faculty

- School of the Environment
Gwen Geidel: new Environmental Science major in the works to take effect spring 2009
Phil Barnes: research on environmental management systems and environmental health
Hillary Sparks: Grad Assistant to the EAC as well as Sustainable Universities Initiative to give U101 sustainability presentations
- Green Quad
David Whiteman: Director
Jason Craig: Assistant Director
Jessica Artz: MEERM grad student and Grad Assistant to the Green Quad Learning Center
Thomas Chandler: publicity and information management; liaison to SAGE
Stephanie Powell: Assistant Program Coordinator
- Arts and Sciences
Greg Carbone: geography professor; classes offered and research in areas of water resource management and climate change
Jim Barilla: English professor; creative writing and environmental literature with an emphasis on cultural aspects
Kevin Elliot: philosophy professor; classes focus on environmental ethics, pollution research, philosophy of science, and food production and consumption
- Business
Andy Spicer: new manager of sustainable enterprises; hosting conference on sustainability with businesses; environmental curriculum being introduced to support the business case for the environment
Monica O’Caine: budget and procurement for Moore School of Business
- Students
Jill Rammiser: MBA student focusing on a two year plan for sustainable university practices
Breedlove: retired faculty member, current student taking environmental classes

➤ Others:

Peggy Binette: media relations; focus on promotion of sustainable efforts and outreach to involve the community

University Context (Michael Koman, Sustainability Coordinator):

- Schools in North Carolina looking at USC's practices.
- 60% of students applying to college are looking at school's green/sustainable record.
- Goal of having a Sustainability Coordinator is to understand what everyone's doing and combine into one office to help implement programs.
- Focus is on the Presidential Climate Commitment which strives for carbon neutrality.
- Alternative energy committee and an emissions inventory were created in order to assess USC's progress towards carbon neutrality. The emissions will continue to increase with more students and green, renewable energy will have to be implemented.
- Current carbon emission sources: 64% from purchased electricity; 18% from stationary sources (natural gas); 18% from transportation; <1% from solid waste, agriculture.

To meet PCC agreement, a plan must be submitted by next November, and then must be implemented. The EAC will be the primary committee to implement sustainable initiatives and to oversee the PCC agreement.

Break-Out Session Recap and Goals:

Resource Conservation:

Water—collect flow from hydrants and use for irrigation; utilize weather-sensitive sprinkler systems; use gray water; use biodegradable solutions for washing vehicle fleet

Landscaping—mulch; outreach and education

Storm water—bioretention for goal of zero stormwater

Recycling—Faculty/Staff Ecoreps similar to those in dorms; more accessible location for recycling center; athletic events; reallocating expenses from less trash to more recycling; 2-sided copying and printing; use minibins in trash cans

Education—staff training; media and marketing; campus as a classroom

Materials Conservation:

Dining—composting is biggest issue and biodegradable containers can then be composted; eliminate plastics; education of waste through U101 and signage; purchase local meats

Purchasing—maximize green purchasing; energy star appliances; online procurement; host a Green Expo of products for departments; communication plan

Custodial—recycling; recycling container availability and location; maximize green cleaning products

****Instituting a “Green Fee” for recycling, energy sources, energy efficient appliances, a bike fleet, etc.****

Energy & Atmosphere:

Reduce cars—increase parking fees and charge faculty and staff and use the money for bus passes, bike fleets, improved routes, and facilities; express bus routes to suburban areas; RideShare among faculty; begin building without a parking garage in the design; restrict cars for freshmen

Occupancy Changes in Buildings—4 day work/class week; reduce building hours to reduce energy consumption and instead encourage library use; occupancy sensors in buildings to reduce lighting and heating/cooling; increased online classes

Curriculum & Civic Engagement:

Broad normalization of sustainable behaviors and development of targeted expertise.

- Inventory of what has been done and then progress to be made
Involve international students for ideas and as a means to spread sustainable living.

Position USC as a leader in sustainable development and increase perception of USC as highly sustainable.

- Carbon neutral baseball game—advertising and communication.

Create a discourse on sustainability.

- Have a common forum and continue those discussions in classes.