

## **USC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001**

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## **USC ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2001**

### **GOAL 1: Members Of The University Community (Faculty, Staff And Students) Will Have A Basic Understanding Of Their Impact On The Environment**

#### Objective 1: Incorporate environmental and sustainability issues into the University curriculum

The University has an obligation to offer both formal (courses) and informal (lecture, events etc.) environmental education opportunities. The students will be the future leaders of industry or government and the University has the responsibility to ensure that they are prepared to make environmentally sound decisions.

#### ***Suggested Actions:***

1. Increase environmental course offerings.
2. Establish new undergraduate degree programs in Environmental Sciences and/or Studies
3. Establish annual faculty award for Excellence in Environmental Teaching and Education.

**School of the Environment 777-9153**  
**Sustainable Universities Initiative 777-7760**

#### Objective 2: Increase opportunities for informal learning about environmental issues for students, faculty staff and public

Informal learning opportunities such as speakers, seminars and events, offer an effective means of educating faculty, staff and students. Therefore, these informal learning activities should be fostered throughout campus by student groups, faculty and administrators.

#### ***Suggested Actions:***

1. Establish regular semester-long program of seminars on environmental issues, sponsored by the School of the Environment
2. Encourage attendance of at least one such seminar from all University 101 students, followed by a written report
3. Follow precedent set by Honors College, and attempt to include actions 1 and 2 in university strategic planning process in order to garner increased support

**School of the Environment 777-9153**  
**Sustainable Universities Initiative 777-7760**  
**Freshman Year Experience 777-6029**  
**Students Allied for a Greener Earth**  
**Department of Student Life 777-5782**

Objective 3: Encourage research that aids in understanding of issues and solutions to environmental problems

It is often said, "the world has problems and universities have departments." Recognizing this, universities should encourage research that crosses disciplinary boundaries and focuses on environmental problems in a more holistic way.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Establish environmental research category for the research competition taking place during Graduate Student Day.
2. Establish annual faculty award for Excellence in Environmental Research.

**School of the Environment 777-9153**  
**Sustainable Universities Initiative 777-7760**

Objective 4: Increase service activities by faculty, staff and students that enhance environmental awareness within the institution and foster sustainable thinking within the larger community

The University has the obligation not only to educate formally, but also to encourage all members of the University community to become involved with environmental issues. Opportunities for learning can be developed and promoted through service-learning and outreach programs by faculty and staff as well as students.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Office of Community Service Programs has five environmental projects available at all times.
2. Sponsor a "Teaching Seminar" on service learning through the Provost office that has an environmental focus.

**Office of the Provost 777-2808**  
**Department of Student Life, Community Service Programs 777-5780**  
**School of the Environment 777-9153**

<p><b>GOAL 2: The University Community Will Promote Environmental Sustainability By Example.</b></p>
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Objective 1: Conserve resources (waste reduction, recycling, energy and water use minimization)

Resource conservation decreases the University's strain on the environment by both reducing inputs and reusing or diverting outputs. Solid waste reduction, increased energy efficiency and reduction in water use are the most common way to affect the University's environmental impact. This can be accomplished both through technological improvements by Facilities Management as well as through behavioral changes by University students, faculty and staff.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Attain a 35% recycling rate (of total waste stream) by June 30, 2005
2. Attain a waste production rate of 3.5 lbs/day/person by 2005
3. Integrate all University departments into one recycling program
4. Require all new copiers purchased to have duplexing capabilities and to meet Energy Star standards
5. Require all new computers and monitors purchased on campus to meet Energy Star standards
6. Implement an energy conservation education campaign
7. Obtain an additional composter in order to increase the quantity of food and yard waste being composted
8. Train staff, mostly custodial, on the importance of recycling, energy conservation and other environmental issues
9. Initiate a program to reduce the number of telephone books delivered to campus
10. Implement the Energy Master Plan (mostly equipment upgrades) to increase efficiency

**Facility Services, Recycling & Waste Management 777-6798**

**Facility Services, Energy Services 777-3593**

**Consolidated Services, Purchasing Department 777-3884**

**Facilities Planning and Construction, Construction Services 777-3126**

**Facility Services, Custodial Services 777-4223**

**University Housing 777-4283**

**University Dining Services 777-4161**

**School of the Environment 777-9153**

Objective 2: Minimize negative impacts of the University on the environment

The University can act proactively through “green purchasing” programs and pollution prevention. These programs not only reduce disposal requirements but can significantly affect the markets for sustainable goods and services, given the significant demand for certain products and services.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Increase campus education on purchasing more durable goods, including workshops for faculty and staff
2. By 2005, 25% of all purchases, by dollars spent, must contain recycled content
3. Increase the quantity of printer cartridges that are recycled and repurchased
4. Educate faculty and staff about greener purchasing options
5. Use Integrated Pest Management for outdoor and indoor pest control
6. Use alternative fuel vehicles for campus shuttles, University fleet and public safety
7. As vendor contracts are renegotiated, incorporate environmental considerations, as appropriate (waste minimization, energy conservation, supply of recycled goods)
8. Reduce Styrofoam use in Dining Services
9. Construct a dormitory using sustainability concepts and practices by 2005

10. Establish a “decay-in-storage” program for solid radioactive waste
11. Reduce hazardous, infectious and radioactive waste generated by the University

**Consolidated Services, Purchasing Department 777-3884**  
**Vehicle Management and Parking Services 777-4209/777-1080**  
**Facility Services, Grounds and Landscaping Services 777-4299**  
**Facilities Planning and Construction, Construction Services 777-3126**  
**University Housing 777-4283**  
**Department of Environmental Health and Safety 777-5269**  
**University Dining Services 777-4161**

Objective 3: Think globally and act locally by promoting and using recycled or remanufactured goods, locally-generated products and native species in natural landscapes where possible

University campuses are ideal areas to showcase local flora and protect biodiversity to the degree possible. This adds to the aesthetic and educational value of the campus. Also, using native landscaping tends to lower inputs for maintenance of grounds.

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Convert landscaping to more natural vegetation
2. Use more local businesses to supply goods and services, where possible
3. Buy more locally grown food for dining services

**Facility Services, Grounds and Landscaping Services 777-4299**  
**University Dining Services 777-4161**  
**Consolidated Services, Purchasing Department 777-3884**

**GOAL 3: The University Will Evaluate And Monitor Progress Toward These Goals On A Continuing Basis.**

Evaluation can be the most important aspect of implementing an Environmental Policy. By periodically reviewing what has been done on campus, continuous improvements are possible. Without a means to evaluate our progress, we are left without direction for the future.

Objective 1: Implement an Environmental Management System for auditing inputs and outputs and quantifying savings from sustainable practices

**Sustainable Universities Initiative 777-7760**  
**School of the Environment 777-9153**

Objective 2: Produce an annual “Environmental State of USC” report under the leadership of the Environmental Advisory Committee

Environmental Policy Implementation Plan  
adopted by the Environmental Advisory Committee, University of South Carolina  
April 24, 2001

The presidentially-appointed Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) will oversee the progress toward of these objectives and will serve as a clearing-house and contact point for environmental activities throughout campus and will communicate to the University community the results/progress

***Suggested Actions:***

1. Produce an annual "Environmental State of USC" report
2. Release the report to coincide with Earth Week activities
3. Make a web site for the Environmental Advisory Committee, making environmental information accessible