



ACPA's Presidential Taskforce on Sustainability

Tool Kit for Creating a Better World: Ideas for Campus Activities that Support and Educate About Sustainable Living

A. Visuals to Educate about Sustainability

1. Have a poster session at a prominent campus location(s) – share what good work the campus is doing and generate new ideas by collecting suggestions and volunteers
2. Build a community organic garden (plant a seed)
3. Develop a bio-diesel demonstration, use the fuel locally
4. Make papercrete forms (benches)
5. Develop library displays
6. Create a website about facilities/campus sustainability initiatives
7. Post permanent signs to recognize and celebrate what campus has already accomplished in pollution reduction/sustainability initiatives
8. Create a logo to add to all items that are sustainable – hold a contest for the logo design
9. Create a series of passive bulletin boards that can be used to educate about sustainability; recycle/reuse paper and move to different public locations on campus. (See D-2,3,4)

B. Clothing

1. Fashion focus student club sustainability fashion show
2. Organize clothing swaps
3. Initiate a boycott/protest about companies using sweatshops, unfair wages or toxins in their clothing and other products and share your campaign with other campuses (www.usft.org and www.coopamerica.org)
4. Work with bookstore personnel to promote/advertise fair wages and sweatshop free environment.

C. Involving Many Student Groups

1. Use student activities poster from ACPA website <http://www.myacpa.org/task-force/sustainability/docs/Sustainability-Flyer.pdf> – get all organizations to “sign on” to sustainability
2. Involvement of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
3. Involvement of other student organizations dedicated to issues of diversity, the environment, business clubs, social justice, community service, etc. (i.e., Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity)
4. Connect with Hillel and other faith communities <http://www.hillel.org/conferences/spitzer/sustainability.htm>

D. Integrate into Student/Residential Activities

1. Use freshman pledge and graduation pledge <http://www.graduationpledge.org/>
<https://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/OSA/earthstockforms.nsf/signup> http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/sustainable_u/
2. Develop web resources for all campus community members
<http://www.housing.umich.edu/services/environ/index.html>
3. Distribute sustainable living guides to all residence hall students
http://www.aashe.org/resources/living_guides.php
4. Develop sustainable living campaigns and contests
http://sustainability.unc.edu/index.asp?Type=Materials&Doc=green_games
<http://www.tufts.edu/tie/tci/DoItInTheDark.htm>
5. Develop feedback loops for students living in the residence halls
6. Develop an ecovillage or sustainable living residential community
<http://www.berea.edu/buildings/ecovillage/default.asp>

7. Develop a green team approach <http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/greenteams/>
8. Partner with Downtown Associations and local government
9. Create community green vendor tabletops
10. Hold a CO₂ dance – get pledges to purchase carbon offsets and reduce climate change
11. Develop a campus sustainability film series (contact dgrowe@oaklandcc.edu for an updated list of films)
12. Develop a campus/community speaker series on sustainability or integrate it into the existing speaker series
13. Have students collect campus, community and even global success stories about sustainability oriented actions and disseminate (e.g. video via U-tube; written articles via student newspapers, send the stories to local and national media)
14. Recognize individual/group or departmental contributions to sustainability on your campus and/or in the community with awards. Get coverage of these awards in local publications, on local video and on local television.
15. Sponsor a sustainability themed poetry slam

E. Academic Connections (many of the items in the other sections of this list may also provide independent study or thesis opportunities for students if they ask faculty)

1. Post sustainability oriented campus projects on “Play a Greater Part” website <http://www.playagreaterpart.org/> – include University name in beginning of title for easy searching by students. Also collect and add projects from local non-profits, businesses, city and state government, etc.
2. Connect all First Year Experiences (FYE) to sustainability
3. Get students involved in energy legislation – work with staff in your state legislature
4. Utilize service learning opportunities to explore issues related to sustainability (hunger and homelessness agencies; women’s empowerment agencies; etc.)
5. Support undergraduate research that explores issues related to sustainability – and apply research findings to improve local communities.
6. Focus course projects on local issues that would benefit the university community (residence hall energy consumption; town and gown collaborations on recycling; etc.)

F. Social Justice on Campuses

1. Commit to paying only livable wages.
2. Adopt domestic partner benefits policies.
3. Review all policies and procedures through the lenses of sustainability and cultural competence.
4. Require anti-sweatshop practices and signage in all bookstores, convenience stores, and from vendors.

G. Climate Change Focus

1. Participate in the Campus Climate Challenge <http://climatechallenge.org/>
2. Use the Energy Star Student Activity Guide (PDF)
3. Sign-up for Focus the Nation www.focusthenation.org January 31st, 2008: Create a school-wide, day-long, interdisciplinary event with the endorsement of faculty and administration.
4. Incorporate An Inconvenient Truth into Residence Life Staff Training <http://climatecrisis.org/>
5. Join the “Chill Out Contest” <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/ChillOutcontest.cfm>

H. Orientation and Career Services

1. At orientation or check-in, ask each student to calculate their ecological footprint <http://sustainability.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/footprint.htm>
2. Work with career services to educate students about necessary sustainability skill sets and career possibilities
3. Include resources in career office in highly visible places

I. Funding Sustainability on Campuses

1. Use endowment \$ to fund sustainability initiatives www.endowmentinstitute.org
2. Work with state legislators to fund sustainability.
3. Organize to raise student fees to support sustainability.