

Sustainability Actions

Creighton University is fully engaged in a sustainability program.

What is sustainability: There are many definitions the basis is to meet the social and economical needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs? It is an attitude!

What is happening at Creighton?

A A Sustainability Council has been formed to educate and offer awareness to the need for a sustainable environment.

Some of the action items from the committee are

- Author a draft university policy about sustainability as requested by the Bldgs and Grounds committee of the Board.
- Speakers are brought to each meeting to discuss sustainability
 1. Doug Alvine talked about LEED Certification and what can be done easily
 2. Marc Nichols talked about OPPD's sustainability program
 3. Staff from MAPA talked about their ride sharing program
 4. A presentation about Universal Waste and recycling
- Working with Purchasing to develop language for policies regarding buying and selecting vendors. Included is language about always buying Energy Star products when there is an option. This will be rolled out on Mar 5 at Purchasing's Sourcing 2008 event.
- Working with Facilities Management to develop specifications within the general conditions of each construction contract. These will be announced on Mar 4 at the annual "Contractors' Coffee Break"
- Working with Sodexo to enhance programs for buying locally raised food products.
- Working with Sodexo to develop programs that reduce the waste stream. A program for bringing one's own washable mug for refills is now in place.
- Working with Energy Systems Company to develop programs that has Energy Systems lowering its carbon footprint.
- Looking at about 20 colleges and universities recognized as doing sustainability well to learn from their successes and failures.
- Encouraging Facilities Management to go to a green cleaning program by August 1,'08. The first building to be cleaned with green chemicals may be the Harper Center as the program is phased in over the next few months. Green cleaning will not yield the same level of clean appearance as now enjoyed because the chemicals are not as strong and the finishes do not have the metal polymers needed for a lasting finish.
- Encourage Facilities Management to use interior paints with no VOC's.
- Supporting Sodexo with its Farmers Market program.
- With the help of Development and the Grants office, looking at opportunities for grants with possibilities from the Kresgie Foundation and the new Energy bill

B Curriculum and education is a key to sustainability.

- The University is adding a three credit hour course to the curriculum in 2009. The course is titled Sustainability and Rural America. The course will be offered by Anthropology and Sociology.
- Faculty has a sustainability committee that is focusing on curriculum and education.
 1. Best practices for eliminating waste in the classroom
 2. Exploring possibilities for a sustainability curriculum
 3. The viability of an interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program
- Child Development Center is implementing a Nature Garden using funds from a grant and other gifts.

C The University has a committee that is working on enhancing the recycle program. Some of the action items are

- The current recycle program on campus manages cardboard, paper, electronic components, scrap metal,

expended light bulbs, batteries, and cell phones but does not handle aluminum cans, plastic bottles or glass.

- The recycle program is being expanded in the residence halls and should be fully in place after spring break. An awareness program is about to begin.

- Review of a single waste stream program for all campus.

1. The program will likely involve adding more dumpsters on campus so at some sites there may be two dumpsters; one for trash and one for recycle materials.
2. Additional Facilities Management staff will likely need to be hired to handle conveying the recycle commodities but the pro forma about budget demands isn't completed. The present program breaks even due to the value of the products but single waste stream commodity isn't as valuable to the handlers.
3. It is the goal of the committee to have the single stream waste program in place in August.

- A pilot program of not having waste baskets at the desk, only recycle containers, is working better each day in the Wareham Bldg.

D Regarding energy conservation,

- Facilities Management convenes an energy awareness committee composed of interested staff from across campus. The committee considers ways to make the campus populace aware of energy conservation techniques. Further, the committee sponsors the Earth Day celebration each April.
- Facilities Management staff take daily physical temperature checks of random locations to identify spaces too hot or too cold
- The University has an energy conservation policy that establishes heating and cooling space temperature limits.
- The University is about to engage in its third performance contract for energy conservation measures. The focus of the selected partner will be on energy conservation awareness and sustainability. Use of renewable energy technology will be part of the review.
- The University is working with OPPD to develop a beta site for a large scale solar collector that can manufacture electricity sent out to the grid. In a sense, the site will be like selling electricity.
- Light bulbs purchased are all low wattage. More study is given to the fast changing technology to implement more LED lamps.
- Occupancy sensors are utilized in remodel and new construction to turn off lights when no one is present.
- The computerized energy management system is continually being enhanced to broaden the coverage and to more finitely control the use of energy without compromising creature comfort. The next building to be upgraded will be the Cardiac Care Center starting in a few weeks.
- Facilities Management has standard specifications that set design standards to architects and engineers. The document is always under review to insure the latest proven energy conservation technology is included.

E Reducing the carbon footprint is a key to sustainability. Transportation is a large contributor to the carbon footprint. Actions underway to reduce the carbon footprint include:

- Facilities Management and Public Safety are purchasing vehicles that operate more efficiently than earlier acquired vehicles. Facilities Management is enhancing its fleet with electric powered carts.
- A program with MAPA is being pursued to encourage car pooling
- Shuttle Services is investigating using ethanol fuel for the campus fleet.
- The draft sustainability policy has a requirement to reduce both local and long distance travel. There may be a clause that requires motor travel to sites within 500 miles rather than flying.
- Work with master planners, adjacent neighborhoods and with local government to encourage the development of bike paths continues. Two sites for bikers to shower are available now on campus and a thirds site at the proposed shuttle services building is being studied.

F Construction Practices lead to sustainability. Mentioned elsewhere in this report has been the use of sensors, design standards, energy system controls and sustainability language in the general conditions of construction contracts. There are further considerations in construction

- New construction is being designed to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certifiable. Some examples include

1. in the Harper Center

- The contractor is recycling all construction waste.
- Low VOC materials are required of all building materials
- Commissioning of the environmental controls is required during and at the completion of the project
- Use of energy saving HVAC equipment like the air transfer wheel installed to transfer heat between supply and return air ducts.
- Connect to the district heating and cooling system rather than have a stand alone plant.
- Use of a computerized irrigation control system that will become the beginning of the infrastructure for standard of control of irrigation across campus

2. in the Wareham Bldg

- Use of open space office landscape
- Use of water source heat pumps. A cooling tower was installed in lieu of wells because of the limited available land on the site.

1. planned in the proposed Public Safety and Shuttle Service Bldg

- Water saving, low flow urinals and toilets.
- Use of LED lights for the exterior lighting.
- Bike racks

1. planned in the Ryan Athletics Center

- High efficient lighting with daylight harvesting and other controls.
- Water saving showers.

- Remodeling projects are starting to include the same concepts to improve spaces on a smaller scale.

G What is next?

- The Sustainability Council is tasked to develop a website
- The Sustainability Council needs to do more public relations