

Creighton University Sustainability Report

Created By Facilities Management

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Sustainability Report Created For:

Sustainable Endowments Institute

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1) How have your school's construction and/or renovation projects included green building features?

New construction at Creighton is being designed to be LEED-certifiable, including two current projects: The Harper Center and the Wareham Building. The new Public Safety and shuttle service building is planned to use water source heat pumps. New construction also considers the use of water-saving low-flow urinals and toilets.

- A. The general conditions to specifications to contractors for construction projects has language that directs the contractors to be sustainable. Some examples include taking salvage from demolition to Habitat for Humanity; recycling cardboard and construction scraps; encourage car pooling to the job; and minimizing the use of water for clean up.
- B. Construction requires the use of green paint. Incidentally, for us that is Sherwin Williams Harmony
- C. The building automation system is continually being enhanced. The present project is a complete replacement of the controls in an older campus building.
- D. The new construction projects undergo a commissioning program as part of the project.
- E. New and revitalized landscape is accomplished with sustainability as a basis for design using deciduous trees to afford summer shade and winter sun on the buildings; use of an increasing number or perennial flowers to reduce use of water; and water management.
- F. In addition to the buildings mentioned as LEED certifiable in the above findings, the University has started construction of a women's athletic facility and a fitness facility and both buildings will be LEED certifiable. Being LEED certifiable is a building standard.

2) In what ways has your school encouraged the use of alternative forms of transportation?

- A. Facilities Management is adding electric powered carts to its fleet and considering using ethanol fuel for the campus fleet. The university works with master planners, adjacent neighborhoods, and with local government to encourage the development of bike paths.
- B. Creighton University has supported and endorsed the area wide car pooling effort developed by Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) and results from MAPA report that there are Creighton populace using the program.
- C. Public Safety has purchased small SUV's for cruisers to eliminate the full size SUV's in the inventory.

- D. Significant is the project to construct a mass transit transfer station on campus that will have slips for mass transit busses and for Creighton University shuttles. Along with the bus slips, lockers are planned for bicycle storage for the convenience of those that ride the bus to campus and then use the bikes around campus. The project is expected to be completed in fall, '09.
- E. Through the efforts of the Creighton Sustainability Council there is a committee working on a bike program. The program is developing plans to partner with a local bike shop for bike rental; bike repair; bike safety training; and general awareness. Further the committee is enhancing the bike clubs on campus to increase awareness.
- F. Planning for a bike path on a City Street that bisects the campus is expected to include provision for bike paths. Planning for the project likely will start later in 08 and could be functional in late 09.
- G. A program is being explored with the mass transit organization that essentially gives away bus passes to members of the campus population. It is expected that the program would be functioning in September, '08, and is designed to get more riders using the bus system.
- H. A second pedestrian mall that will be four blocks long through campus is under construction in the land available from a vacated street. When done, the mall will be a piece of the fabric that pedestrians and bicyclers could use to reach the City's iconic pedestrian bridge over the Missouri River when the bridge opens later this fall.
- I. To reduce the use personal vehicles on campus, the University continues to operate a robust shuttle system that extends out into the community to assist students, faculty and staff in their commute.

3) How has your school taken steps to improve energy efficiency and/or obtain energy from renewable sources?

- A. The University has an energy conservation policy that establishes heating and cooling space temperature limits. The university is also planning to engage in a performance contract for energy conservation measures focusing on energy conservation awareness and sustainability, including the use of renewable energy and occupancy sensors. Light bulbs are low wattage and new construction makes use of high efficient lighting with daylight harvesting.
- B. The University is about two weeks away from having a computerized irrigation system controller in operation. The system considers soils conditions, topography; plant life; and weather conditions to control the amount of water applied via irrigation. In addition the system can sense when water flow is excessive because of a damaged pipe or irrigation head and curtail water flow.
- C. The Purchasing Department has language in their specifications to always buy Energy Star rated equipment. Further the Purchasing policies direct that purchases within 500 miles for shipment be given priority. The products are to be manufactured from recycled commodity when ever reasonable and that products purchased can be recycled.
- D. The University has a Memorandum of Understanding with the local electrical utility company to develop a commercial size solar collection system on campus for the purpose of education and awareness. The collector will generate electricity that will be "sold" to the grid and depending on the contract and funding sources will be "purchased" by Creighton.
- E. From the above findings, the performance contractor has been selected and is investigating the campus for possible energy conservation measures that can be accomplished with a

reasonable payback. The performance contractor was selected in large part based on the demonstrated sustainability program and a solid energy conservation awareness program.

4) Does your school employ a sustainability staff? If so, please give the number of full-time employees who work primarily on campus sustainability initiatives. If your school employs any part-time sustainability staff, please list that number separately.

A part time sustainability coordinator position was created effective July 1,'08, as additional duties for a staff person employed by Creighton University Facilities Management. It is expected that the duties will be about 30% of the responsibility.

5) Please describe your school's recycling and composting programs.

The University has been recycling office paper, cardboard, electronic components, light bulbs, batteries and scrap metal for several years. The program is being enhanced to a single stream recycling program in late August to add plastic and aluminum to the list of recycle commodities. The program will not accept glass, "bathroom or lab trash", or material significantly contaminated with food stuff. Part of the program includes removing waste baskets from the desk side in favor of recycle bins. The enhanced program will be campus wide. The program is expected to divert 70% of the trash that might have been destined to the landfill.

6) Has your university created sustainability initiatives in administration or policy development that are not mentioned above?

- A. Creighton's Sustainability Council advises the university and initiates projects concerning sustainability. The Sustainability Council is currently drafting a sustainability policy.
- B. From the above findings, the Sustainability Council has over 100 members involved from all parts of the campus populace and from the surrounding community and the business community.
- C. The campus website for Sustainability has "gone live" about two weeks ago in early July.
- D. The campus policy is to accomplish only green cleaning.
- E. A community recycling site is being developed with the City and the University to be located on the campus. It is expected that the site will be functioning in 3 to 4 weeks.
- F. A "Sustainability Teach-In" was presented on Oct 24, 2007. Participating faculty members dedicated a full class session to teaching a sustainability-related topic that fit with in their discipline. The day also included presentation of a film "The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream(2004)"
- G. The draft sustainability policy mentioned above is complete and in the University approval process.
- H. The President has directed that sustainability be one of the pillars of University operation during his annual convocation given in February 2008. The remarks went on to direct people to reduce energy consumption by 10%.

H1) Concerning purchasing and use of locally grown food:

For continuity and completeness, below are the remarks sent to you from The Creighton food service provider.

1a) From how many local farms and/or other local producers do you make purchases?

1b) How much do you spend annually on purchasing locally grown food?

The Sustainability Council's efforts include supporting Sodexo with its Farmer's Market Program and working with Sodexo to enhance programs for buying locally raised foods.

We contract with a regional produce supplier, Loffredo Produce out of Des Moines Iowa. We are able to purchase regional produce in season.

1c) Are you contracting with a local dairy?

We contract with Robert's Dairy, actually adjacent to the university, very local!

1d) Do you source any food from an on-campus farm or garden?

We do not have an on campus farm or garden at Creighton University

H2) What type of organic or other sustainably-produced products are you purchasing?

- Creighton University serves 100 percent fair-trade coffee.
- With Dining Services, we serve 100% Green Mountain Fair Trade Coffee, and except for a very small percentage of seasonal flavors is also certified organic.
- Organic "Naked" brand juices are a favorite of the Creighton Students in our retail outlets.
- We have also tried some marketing of packaged organic salads, but in the last semester there was not enough demand to sustain the program of limited products. We will reintroduce these programs periodically.
- Nebraska note: Although there are organic produce items available in local stores, many local Omahans are able to have small gardens in their yards and that supplies much of the organic demand in this area.

H3) Do you offer specifically-labeled vegan options on a daily, weekly or other regularly-scheduled basis?

- We offer vegan and vegetarian options at the Resident Dining Halls, in catering and in our retail outlets. A coding system differentiates between the vegan and vegetarian options - a sunflower designates vegan, a tomato icon designates vegetarian.
- Vegan and Vegetarian entrees and nutritional information are available as separate designated stations in the dining halls, even though other offerings may also be offered at other stations.
 - For example Stir Fry stations and Salad bars include bean and tofu options to meat. Beans and grains are offered daily on the hot serving lines. Soy milk is available as an option at all Dining Hall meals and in retail operations, especially those serving espresso based drinks and packaged milk.
- In addition to the vegan offerings, we also held a PB&J promotion for Earth Day. With professional four color display ads, the earth friendly, carbon footprint reducing advantages of a vegan diet were promoted around Peanut Butter and Jelly promotions all over campus.

H4) Concerning waste reduction:

4a) Does your school's dining services department have a program to address the waste generated by to-go containers?

4b) Has dining services reduced to-go waste and/or have you eliminated the use of Styrofoam products?

4c) What incentives are you offering students to encourage use of reusables?

- Save some Green by Keeping it Green is our slogan for our refill program. Whether you reuse an old cup or bring your own vessel, customers receive up to \$1 discount on fountain beverages and coffee. This promotion is coupled with the use of a free refillable (spill resistant) mug available courtesy of the Alumni Library in the center of the main campus. Photos of the free mug are incorporated to the advertising at the point of sale. Any mug can be used for this discount, there are no restrictions.
- We also charge a fee for water when you take a new paper cup, while water in your own cup is always free.
- In the area of reducing styrofoam in dining on campus we have purchased custom Chinet brand plates are featured for large outdoor tailgate parties and picnics
- The combination Styro wrapped coffee cups previously used in our retail operations has been replaced by Green Mountain "Corn Cups". The Enviro cup is a paper cup with a corn polymer lining, offered with a recycled paper coffee clutch. We have moved to this cup for all retail coffee uses and all casual catering. We further have made this available to university departments who purchase them as an alternative to using styrofoam for office coffee.
- In our deli venues, reduced packaging is offered with either deli paper wrapping of sandwiches to go, or paper "boat" dishes instead of styro plates.
- We have added SCA Tork napkin holders to reduce napkin waste in our venues; the SCA napkins are also made with 100% recycled paper (40% post consumer). Although not a styro reducing effort, it does save trees.
- Not least of all is our constant promotion of our dine in programs at the Dining Halls. The convenience of credit card purchasing at the dining halls has been added to attract commuter students, faculty and staff. A frequency punch card program was also run last spring to introduce more customers to real plate dining in the dining halls.

H5. Does your dining service have a recycling program? If so, what materials are recycled?

- We recycle cardboard and cooking oil at all of our major venues. Plastic bottle and aluminum can recycling is also available near the point of sale of bottled and canned beverages.
- Sodexo also supports the Campus Kitchens project on campus. This is a student run organization that captures over produced food for feeding local people in need.

H6. Does your dining service have a composting program? If so, please provide annual composted tonnage and/or other relevant specifics.

Unfortunately this option is not available on campus or in our regional municipalities.

H7) What is the dining services' current waste-diversion rate (the percentage of recyclable and/or compostable waste diverted from traditional disposal)? If there are separate rates for recycling and composting, please make that distinction.

This data is not available although we do participate in recycling our cardboard , 4- 5 gaylords each week through the campus recycling program. The campus also supplies cardboard recycling during move in week for all the boxes coming in with students. The cooking oil recycling is also a major project, but I have no numbers to compare with waste diversion. Dining Services shares dumpsters with other buildings in all cases.

H8) Is the dining services director, or another dining services staff person, a member of any campus-wide environmental/sustainability initiatives or committees at your school?

Christine Krin participates in Sustainability Committee meetings, keeping other campus participants advised of dining services efforts and learning new ways to combine efforts. Dining Services also has a page on the new sustainability website on the University web page. Creighton Student Shara Mahoe, a member of the national Sodexo Student Board of Directors served on the sustainability committee.

H9) What is your total annual food budget?

\$2,433,416

H10) In what other ways has your school's dining services department made sustainability a priority?

- Tray waste studies are also conducted and an Earth Day trayless day in the dining halls promotes the reduction of food waste.
- EcoLab's APEX dishwashing program has been installed across campus to reduce water usage and to move towards a less caustic dishwashing chemical.
- We also participate in Sodexo's national online learning for managers with PLANit, to promoted sustainable dining education
- We work nationally and locally with our suppliers who use XY routing to reduce fuel usage and emissions in the food delivery process.

To review programs listed above:

- SCA recycled napkins and waste reducing holders
- Chinet and paper boat options to styro plates
- Corn cups replaced styro combo cups and are available for university departments to purchase
- Coffee is 100% fair trade and with minor exceptions, organic
- Organic Naked Juice popular choice with students
- Local dairy is adjacent to the University
- Cooking oil, cardboard and over-produced food are diverted to good use.

7) In what ways is your university encouraging student involvement in campus sustainability efforts?

- A. Students have organized a club for environmental awareness.

- B. Students are members of the campus Sustainability Council; recycle program enhancement program and the energy awareness committee.
- C. The student governing board has developed platforms related to sustainability awareness and action.
- D. The fraternities and sororities have an annual recycle contest to measure which house can contribute the most recycle commodity by weight.
- E. Service groups of students are involved with community clean-up and aiding individuals or other less fluent organizations with improvement projects in the City and at specific locations across the nation.

8) Other activities. Answers to these additional items are for information purposes only and will not be included in the evaluation process. Please provide a YES or NO response to each of the following items.

- Environmental student organization: YES
- Green dorm or house: NO
- Outing club: NO
- Participation in Recyclemania: NO
- Student trustee position: YES
- Sustainability student jobs and/or eco-reps: YES
- Revolving loan fund for sustainability projects: NO
- Environmental science/studies major: YES...BEING DEVELOPED
- Environmental/ science/studies minor or concentration: YES
- Graduate level environmental program: YES...DEVELOPING
- Merit and/or need-based environmental/sustainability scholarships: NO