Sustainability at Princeton

WWS Operations Staff Meeting
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Summary

• Sustainability…
  – In general…
  – The big Princeton perspective…
  – In your day-to-day…
Introduction

- What is sustainability?
  - Essence = support today’s society in way that doesn’t interfere with future
  - Is not a fad – businesses, banks, governments
- Boundaries but also opportunities
- More than climate change
  - Energy decisions, fuel use...
  - Also
    - resource conservation (e.g., water, soil)
    - health
    - local economy
    - equity
    - policy decisions and personal decisions
Sustainability at Princeton U.
History of efforts

• Interest among:
  – Staff and students
  – Peer institutions

• Pres. Tilghman ➔ PEOC ➔ PSC (2002)

• Office of Sustainability (2006)

• “Working groups”
  – Sustainability Plan (Feb 2008)
  – Sustainability Report (in process)
PU Sustainability Plan

• Three “themes” with goals
  – Greenhouse Gas Reduction
  – Resource Conservation
  – Research, Education, and Civic Engagement
Princeton Campus GHG Reduction Efforts

• Sustainability Plan GHG goal
  – 1990 levels by 2020
  – 10% less cars to campus by 2020; reduce fleet emissions

• Challenges:
  – More students
  – More buildings
    • Added 1.5 M sqft since 1990 – to add 2 M sqft by 2020
  – More computational needs and other process loads
  – Lack of local onsite renewable power
    • i.e. wind, tides, hydro, lakes, and biomass fuels
Offsets are not used for any CO2 Reductions
GHG Reduction Plan and Strategies

Princeton Campus CO2 Reduction Program

- Low Flow Fixtures, 1%
- Lighting, 9%
- HVAC/GSHP, 17%
- Energy Conservation, 8%
- Thermal Distribution Improvements, 8%
- Plant Efficiency, 14%
- Biodiesel, 9%
- Utility Grid Reductions, 9%
- Unknown/Future Technology, 25%
- Grid Reductions, 9%
Resource Conservation

Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
• By 2020, reduce personal water use per student by 25% below 2007 levels.
• Reduce water use for infrastructure.
• Apply an integrated landscaping approach to campus.
• Minimize use of potable water for irrigation.

Solid Waste and Green Cleaning
• Increase household recycling rate from 38% to 50% by 2012.
• Recycle at least 95% of all eligible demolition and construction materials.
• Convert to 100% Green Seal cleaning products by 2009.
• Complete transition to 100% recycled paper products by 2009.
• Reduce the use of disposable paper products.

Purchasing
• Maximize number of purchasing contracts for “green” products.
• Increase the percentage of “sustainably-produced” food items.
Research and Education

• Broaden interdisciplinary participation among faculty and students.
• Advance connections between faculty and graduate student research and undergraduate education.
• Increase research opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students that incorporate links between the local campus environment and global sustainability issues.

Civic Engagement

• Expose all Princeton University students to the principles of sustainability.
• Develop leaders in sustainability among students, staff and faculty.

Communications

• Expand the discourse about sustainability on campus, in the local community and across the nation.
• Instill in students an awareness of their responsibilities as global citizens.
• Increase public recognition of Princeton as a leader in sustainability.
Individual actions against the “unknown”

- Importance of personal actions – contribute to the other 25%
- Draw from Sustainability experience and leadership on campus
Dining Services

- **Sustainability goals**
  - purchase foods with lower environmental impacts
  - reduce dining hall waste
  - strengthen our ties with the local community

- **Catering events**
  - Responsible food options
  - Cups, utensils – recyclable options
  - Bottled water – drink local instead
  - Practical logistics as obstacles

- **Contact:**
  - Sarah Salati-Bavusto (salati@...)
  - Stu Orefice (sorefice@...)
Transportation and Parking

• New Transportation and Parking Director
• Transportation Demand Manager to be hired…
• Working on creating “bike-pedestrian culture”
• Support for transportation alternatives
  – Enhanced shuttle service
  – Employee support (carpool, vanpool, transit support)
• Contact: Kim Jackson (kimj@...)

Transportation and Parking
Purchasing

- “Green” supply options
- OfficeMax reusable delivery boxes
- 100% recycled, chlorine-free paper
- Cooperative buying – town-gown efforts
- Green-cleaning products (Green Seal certified)
- Recycled product contracts
  - Lighting, print cartridges, ...
- Contacts:
  - Don Weston (donw@...)
  - Lisa Leisinger (lisari@...)
  - Brian Rounsavill (brouns@...
Computing, Printing & Mailing

- Personal computer settings – *Ask!!*

- Video-conferencing (WebEx)
  - WebEx account, [www.princeton.edu/conferencing](http://www.princeton.edu/conferencing)
  - Set up conference: [princeton.webex.com](http://princeton.webex.com)

- Alternatives - soy inks, recycled/chlorine-free paper

- Think before you print:
  - electronic, duplex, margins…

- Event distribution methods…
  - Suggestions…

- Contact: Leila Shahbender (leila@...
What should you do?
Personal Decisions and Actions

• **Common recommendations**
  – Home choice/maintenance
  – Auto choice/maintenance
  – Food decisions (i.e., local)
  – Travel decisions
  – Pressure lawmakers for effective policies
    • *e.g. congestion pricing, “carbon tax”*
Personal Decisions and Actions

- **Uncommon** recommendations that can affect community behavior
  - Number of children
  - Citizen actions
    - Monitor your town
    - “Adopt” some buildings
  - Videoconference vs. travel

Source: Prof. Rob Socolow, Chicago Tribune 12/3/07
Bring ideas to...

- Office of Sustainability website:
  http://www.princeton.edu/sustainability/contact/

- September 17\textsuperscript{th} Sustainability event: “Introducing Princeton’s Green Initiatives”
  – Learn and engage...

- Apply to the High Meadows Sustainability Fund