

mission green™

FAU



Jan - Apr '09 • Volume 1, Issue 1

Sustainability—A History

The idea of sustainability has heralded the rise or fall of many a civilization.

Cultures have either thrived with good sustainable practices based on preservation and temperance, such as the Mesopotamian civilization (now Iraq) or vanished due to destruction or exhaustion of resources, such as the Polynesian Easter Islanders or the Mayans of Central America.

The root verb—to sustain—holds many meanings; to support, to maintain, to keep.



As the Earth's population has swelled and the demands for resources have escalated to provide for this

unprecedented growth, the world has begun to understand how pervasive this concept really is.

Modern day thought has embraced sociopolitical, economic and environmental realms in hopes that the needs of the present world may be met without compromising the needs of future generations to provide for themselves.

Inside this issue:

Academics and Research	2
Housing	3
Purchasing	3
Food Services	3
Transportation	4
Facilities and Operations	4
Community Engagement	4
Make It Your Mission	5

Sustainability at FAU—Mission Green

Since FAU's inception, the idea of sustainable development; meshing the concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social challenges facing humanity, has been integrated into the University's vision and practice.

From the careful relocation of the burrowing owls on the Boca Raton campus as development increased to the ardent recycling program that has populated

the University's grounds with "Trash, Paper, Plastics" bins, FAU's commitment to responsible growth has been unwavering.



In 2007 President Brogan signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. This commitment's

concept is based on bringing stability to the Earth's climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering a better equipped society to effect it through education and research.

To ensure that this commitment was upheld and the University becomes a role model for sustainability practices, **Mission Green**, the University-wide sustainability campaign, was born.



Making a Campus Sustainable: Campus Sustainability Committee

In advance of President Brogan becoming a signatory to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment Letter in May 2007, he initiated the Campus Sustainability Committee and asked that their first task be to review and understand the commitment.

This was necessary as the commitment brought with it several objectives including completing an emissions inventory within one year, instituting policies such as LEED standard buildings and a movement towards incorporating sustainability in to the curriculum. The University is required to develop a Climate Action Plan by September 2009 that will set a target date to become carbon neutral (no net carbon emissions).

Collaboration from key units such as colleges and divisions was required to understand the commitment's scope and to develop and implement University-wide programs.

As a result, **Mission Green**, the effort to translate the commitment into

sound sustainability programs and projects was born.

The Committee

Co-Chairs:

Azita Dashtaki,
Shannon Clounts

Sub-Committees:

Academics and Research

Chair: Dr. Tobin Hindle

Housing

Co-Chairs: Larry Faerman,
Jill Eckardt

Purchasing

Chair: Steve Saposnik

Dining Services

Chair: Stacy Volnick

Transportation

Chair: Jill Rosen

Facilities and Operations

Chair: Robert Richman

Community Engagement

Chair: John Hardman

MISSION GREEN

Promoting sustainability through education, operations and community engagement.

www.fau.edu/missiongreen

Membership:

President's Office
Communications and Marketing
Facilities
Faculty Senate
Student Government
CAUPA
College of Engineering and Computer Science
College of Nursing
Student Affairs
Pine Jog
Center for Environmental Studies
Partner Campuses:
Jupiter
Broward
Treasure Coast
Guest Members

Making a Campus Sustainable: Academics and Research

Academics and research can support the pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental—in a myriad of ways.

By offering programs of study and courses in various disciplines such as engineering, sciences, architecture and planning, future generations will not only have the concepts ingrained in them to pursue change but also have the tools to effect it.

Through research conducted via several FAU centers including investigat-

ing and documenting state-wide water pollution and effecting sustainable design, the University is able to collaborate with local and regional entities to advance sustainability initiatives.

Through technological investment; from offering distance learning classes to meetings held via video-conferencing and conference calls, the University is upholding the commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.



Making a Campus Sustainable: Housing

FAU houses approximately 3,500 students on the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses.

By implementing such programs as the Energy Conservation Contest and setting up a Green Tour Room as a educational tool, the sub-committee has exposed residential students to the philosophy of conservation and climate neutrality (term used interchangeably with carbon neutrality but includes other greenhouse gases).

By using low-emissions paint and carpet in residential buildings such as Heritage Park, off-gassing by these products has been reduced which contributes to better air quality. The underlying carbon foot print to produce these products is reduced as well.

By installing motion sensor lighting, in and around buildings, energy is utilized only when needed thus decreasing unnecessary consumption.

By spearheading the Recycling Card-

board Campaign for New Move-Ins and involving staff, several facets of the University community have become engaged in the cause.

Your Green House!



Making a Campus Sustainable: Purchasing

All products and services the University requires are procured through the Purchasing Department. This includes contract bidding, vendor selection, acquisition of equipment, furnishings and supplies, and minor construction and contractual services.

Due to the extensive reach of this unit, by effecting change here it can

percolate University-wide.

Several initiatives have been implemented by the sub-committee to reduce product consumption such as, offering an online requisition process to decrease paper usage and recycling

laser printer toner cartridges.

By hosting green products workshops, departments can learn about environmentally-friendly products that can be purchased for their units.

Recycled Paper, Ink Cartridges and Office Supplies, Fuel Efficient and Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Low Emissions and Recycled Furnishings, Green-Aligned Vendors and Companies.

Making a Campus Sustainable: Dining Services

Why is food important to sustainability? Food processing contributes to the carbon foot print of the planet; from preparation to packaging to transportation, it all adds up. In addition to this, enormous amounts of food are thrown away everyday contributing heavily to waste disposal.

Another resource that is also consumed before, during and after food processing is water; from product

washing and adding to the food to dish washing.

Dining Services has made a significant contribution to achieving the sustainable campus model by adopting the Tray-less Cafeteria Program. This promotes water conservation (no tray washing) and smart portioning (less food waste).

It provides healthier choices by only

purchasing eggs from cage free hens.

By using more organic products such as growth hormone-free meat, there is less of a burden on non-renewable resources.



Making a Campus Sustainable: Transportation

FAU campuses can be classified as “commuter” campuses, that is, the majority of people who work or study on any site, commute to do so.

In addition to this, the University owns a fleet of vehicles and moving equipment ranging from cars to buses and golf carts to riding lawn mowers.

Many use carbon-based fuels, thus adding generously to the emissions inventory and the carbon footprint of

the University.

This sub-committee continues to work with the local entities to provide alternate means of transportation for employees and students. The Tri-Rail program offers discounts to patrons and a dedicated shuttle service to and from the Boca Raton Campus.

A carpool program has been instituted to offer discounted permits and reserved parking. Additionally, dedi-

cated parking spots for electric and hybrid vehicles have been designated University-wide.

Visit www.get2fau.com



Making a Campus Sustainable: Facilities and Operations

FAU has engaged in sustainable practices by progressively incorporating programs into University operations and planning.

By adopting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Standard Building directives created by U.S. Green Building Council, more energy efficient buildings are being built.

Protecting surrounding canals and ground water from pollution by effec-

tively managing storm water run-off with retention ponds, proper disposal of waste, managing construction debris, and controlling energy use by manipulating building temperatures, all contribute to FAU achieving a sustainable campus model.

The recycling program not only provides receptacles to collect same-kind waste throughout the University; offices, classrooms, common areas, but provides training to custodial staff in proper waste collection.

- LEED
- Building Operations
- Repair and Renovation
- Energy Conservation
- Storm Water Management
- Landscaping
- Recycling
- Waste Management
- Construction

Making a Campus Sustainable: Community Engagement

In order to achieve and preserve a sustainable campus model, participation from every facet of the University community is vital.

The committee has been able to bring awareness of the three pillars of sustainability: sociopolitical, economic and environmental, in hopes of effecting measurable change, through events such as:

Earth Day April 22, '09

Focus the Nation April 18, '09

Campus Clean-Up Day

Campus Sustainability Day October

Green Product Workshops

Move-In Day (Housing)

Academic Conferences

Symposiums

Visit www.fau.edu/missiongreen for details



Be informed, get involved!

We will create a culture of sustainability at Florida Atlantic University, in which the entire FAU community is aware of, involved with and committed to advancing sustainability through education operations and community engagement.

Contact Us:
Bldg 69, Rm. 104
777 Glades Road,
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Phone: 561-297-0197
Fax: 561-297-0915
E-mail: missiongreen@fau.edu

Visit us at
www.fau.edu/missiongreen

To submit articles for this project, send to :

Sharlene Sookhoo
Bldg 69, Rm. 112
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
ssookhoo@fau.edu

Making a Campus Sustainable: Make It Your Mission

Make your life Green:

Change to compact fluorescent	Turn off lights
Take shorter showers	Turn off computer
Don't take what you can't eat	Carpool
Donate items, don't throw out	Ride the bus
Turn off A/C when not at home	Walk or ride your bike

Most importantly: **VOLUNTEER!**

Looking
For a
Few
Good
Greenies!



E-mail missiongreens@fau.edu
to join!