



University of Washington: Integrating Sustainability

Climate Action Plan

September 2009

History

Founded in 1861, the University of Washington is the **oldest university in Washington State**.

- **2007** – Former President Emmert signs the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)
- **2009** – UW Climate Action Plan (CAP) submitted to ACUPCC
- **2011** – CAP oversight chartered 3 sub-committees to develop policies – reformation of the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)
- **2012** – Executive Order for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Link to Climate Action Plan: <http://green.uw.edu/cap>

A Climate of Change at the University of Washington



Link to Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7tC6OXa4Ao>

See more of the UW Sustainability Video Series: <http://green.uw.edu/climate-of-change>

Approach

The University of Washington fosters sustainability through an **institutional approach that continually embraces multiple stakeholders** as a part of the planning process.

Sustainability is a significant part of the University's educational mission, due in large part to student demand, engagement and activism.

This focus on sustainability **adds value in recruiting the best faculty, students and research support.**

“We approach environmental problems from a multi-dimensional point of view, and we try to think about the full complexity of these issues, pulling connections and expertise from a variety of sources.”

- Dean Lisa Graumlich, College of the Environment



Campus Integration

Our campus' strategy **brings together students, administrators, faculty, and staff** in addressing issues of sustainability.

The Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability office **coordinates information and facilitates initiatives** within three campus locations, medical centers, and auxiliaries.

The office also serves to **raise university-wide visibility of sustainability.**

"Increasingly, the sustainability challenges we face today require connected, integrative solutions based on highly collaborative problem-solving research that spans disciplines and reaches across geographic boundaries."

- President Michael K. Young



Engaging Stakeholders

The University of Washington aims to engage all stakeholders in the decision making process through information and transparency. Our stakeholders can get involved through our resources and programs.

- Campus Sustainability Map
- Green Office & Green Lab Certification
- Peer-to-Peer EcoRep Program
- Sustainability Tracking and Assessment & Rating System (STARS)
- Climate Action Plan Outreach & Analysis
- Sustainability Snapshots
- Earth Day
- Sustainability Video Series

“It’s essential that students see the value of your sustainability efforts. They have to be engaged.”

- Richard Chapman, Associate Vice President, Capital Projects Office

Planning for Climate Action

Environmental
Stewardship
Committee

Sponsors

Groups Represented:
President, Provost, Senior
Vice President, Treasurer

Advisers

Groups Represented:
University Relations,
Advancement, Faculty, Staff,
Students

Oversight Team

Groups Represented:
University Relations,
Advancement, Faculty, Staff,
Students

Academic
Working Team

Groups Represented:
Astronomy, Faculty Senate, Built
Environments, Students,
Atmospheric Sciences, Capital
Projects, Information School,
Dentistry, Electrical Engineering,
Environmental Science, Business
Marketing, Oceanography,
Information School, Interdisc. Arts
& Sciences, Mechanical
Engineering, Architecture,
Forest Resources

Administrative
Working Team

Groups Represented:
Students, Investments,
Transportation Services, Capital
Projects, Planning & Budgeting,
Purchasing, Manager of Program
Ops, Real Estate, Built Environments,
Mechanical Engineering, Housing
Advancement, Facilities – UW
Tacoma, Strategy Management, UW
Technology, Atmospheric Sciences,
EH&S

Strategy Management:
Environmental Stewardship
and Sustainability

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Represented by

- 6 **administrative departments** (including 4 VPs)
- 7 **academic units** (including four Deans)
- 4 **students**
- ex-officio **members from UW Bothell & Tacoma campuses**

Identifies opportunities for collaboration among academic and administrative units, and **offers the campus as a learning lab**. This committee reports to the President, Provost, and Senior Vice President.



“There’s no one leader when it comes to collaborative sustainability partnerships like this.”

- Charles Kennedy, Associate Vice President, Facilities Services

Link to ESC: <http://green.uw.edu/esc>





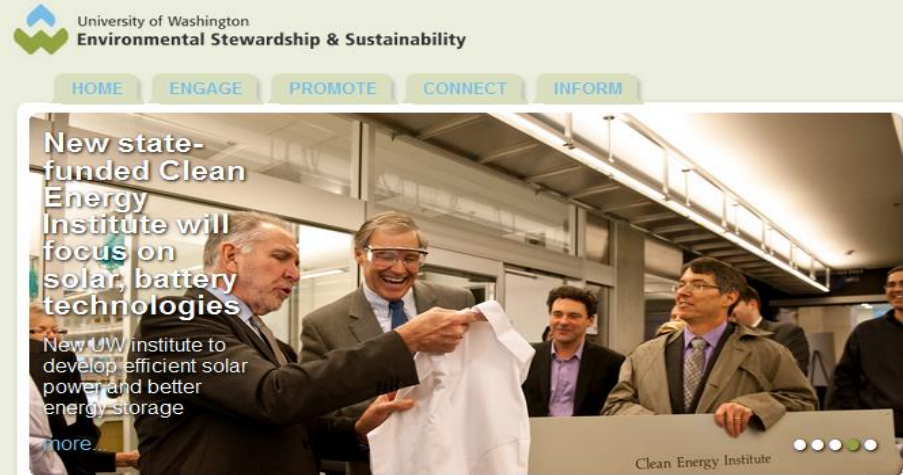
“By making sustainability a priority in our daily operations and practices, we demonstrate in an authentic way our commitment to making a better world for us all.”

- President Michael K. Young

Commitment to Sustainability

- A 15% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020
- Reducing the University's paper use by 30% and purchasing only 100% recycled paper
- Recognizing sustainable practices, offering advice on areas of improvement and encouraging sustainability competition and collaboration throughout offices, laboratories, Residence Hall rooms and Greek housing

Link to Sustainability Lessons: <http://green.uw.edu/climate-of-change/lessons>



Campus Stakeholders – UW Sustainability

- A central portal for sustainability at the University of Washington
- Promotes sustainability research and projects of faculty, staff, and students
- Provides recognition for sustainable activities on campus

Above: The Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability webpage
 Below: "Sustainability Snapshots" – profiles of sustainability projects

Sustainability Snapshots is your one stop shop to learn about many projects that have occurred on campus related to sustainability and conservation efforts. Either choose a category to browse in the drop-down bar, or select a project name to the right.

Projects by category:

The University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) has set rigid environmental goals for the organization – including zero waste in food service operations.

Most Recent Projects

- [Restroom Paper Towel Composting](#)
- [The Denny Project: The Future of Waste at the UW](#)
- [Odegaard Undergraduate Library Renovation](#)
- [One Thing Challenge](#)
- [Sustainable Living Community](#)
- [e-Media Recycling](#)
- [Managed Print Services](#)
- [Alternative Spring Break – Environmental Education ASB](#)
- [Reusable laundry bags - IMA Green Team](#)
- [Urban Farm Supershed](#)
- [Elm Tree Table Project](#)
- [Easing the Disposal Dilemma in the Husky Den](#)
- [Recycled Graduation Regalia](#)
- [Carbon Neutral Laundry](#)
- [Green Laboratory Program](#)

1 of 6 [next >](#)

Link to ESS Webpage: <http://green.uw.edu/>
 Link to Sustainability Snapshots: <http://green.uw.edu/snapshots>





Campus Stakeholders – Students

With over 40 student groups focused on environmental and sustainability issues, students are involved with a variety of projects -

- Peer-to-peer EcoRep program
- Earth Day
- Climate Action Plan outreach & analysis
- Sustainability Snapshots
- Sustainability Videos
- Campus Sustainability Map
- Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS)

Over \$1 million has been dispersed to 30+ student sustainability projects over 3 years.

Link to Student Groups: <http://green.uw.edu/env-students>

Above: Student Group SEED – Students Expressing Environmental Dedication
Below: Volunteers planting native plants



Campus Stakeholders – Staff and Faculty

- Staff and faculty can participate in the development of a more sustainable campus via administrative functions and direct involvement with sustainability.
- Green Teams and Green Certifications allow staff to directly impact sustainability in their workplace
- Participation in committees for planning and development of sustainability policy
- Green Office and Laboratory certifications recognize leaders in applied sustainability.



Above: UW Sustainability map – locations of Green Teams on campus

Below: There are many opportunities for staff and faculty to get involved!



Link to Green Certifications: <http://green.uw.edu/certification>

Achievements

The University of Washington has developed a **Climate Action Plan** working in concert with students, faculty and staff.

As a result of this plan, we have achieved:

- A **8% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions** since 2005
- A **58% waste diversion rate**, saving \$1.2 million in 2013
- A University population where **81% commute using alternative modes of transportation**

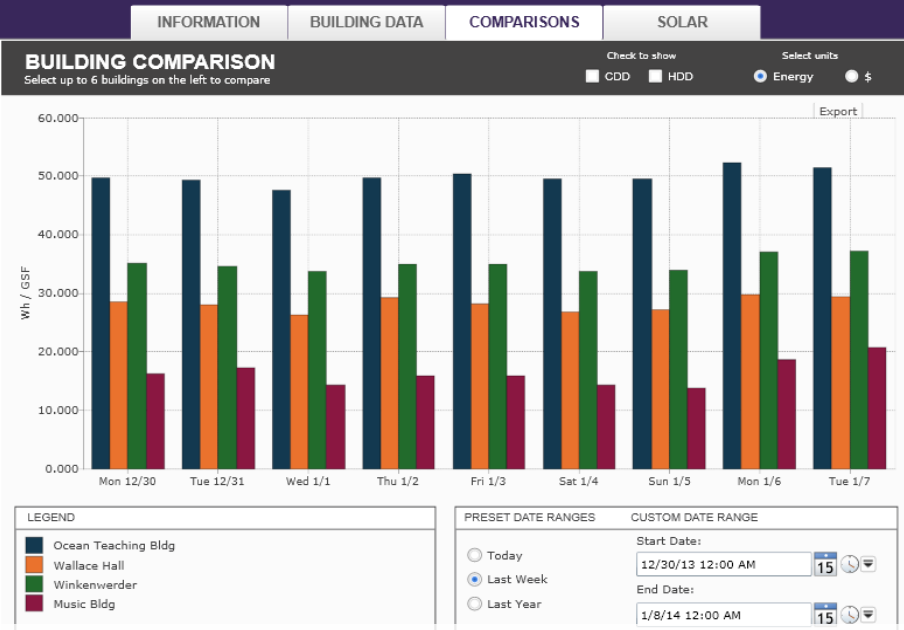
“The most important thing we can do... is to focus on creating and sustaining a healthy living and work environment for students, faculty and staff.”

- Richard Chapman, Associate Vice President, UW Capital Projects

Link to Awards: <http://green.uw.edu/awards>



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ENERGY DASHBOARD



Above: Electrical usage of UW buildings can be compared using the Energy Dashboard

Below: The UW Solar team with their newly-installed solar panels



Sustainability Focus – Smart Grid

The University of Washington Smart Grid project's goal is to **gather information** about the **costs and benefits** of a smart grid.

- Installation of more than **200 energy meters** on campus buildings
- Data from this project is **publicly accessible** on an energy dashboard
- Tracks consumption and **generation of renewable energy**

Link to Dashboard: <http://dashboard.mckinstry.com/uw/>

Link to UW Solar: <http://uwsolar.wordpress.com/>

Sustainability Focus – Campus Sustainability Fund

The Campus Sustainability Fund **provides grants to student-led projects** in sustainability.

- Over **\$1 million** granted to student projects, from installing solar panels to building a biodiversity green wall
- Managed by a **student committee and two student employees**

“Our on-campus research efforts also make us a public laboratory that can help incubate crucial sustainability breakthroughs that will help clean the sky, land and air for future generations.”

- Paul Jenny, Vice Provost, UW Office of Planning & Budgeting

Link to CSF: <http://csf.washington.edu>

Sustainability Focus – UW Farm



A combined effort of students, faculty and staff, the UW Farm is an educational, community-oriented resource that teaches about building productive and sustainable urban landscape.

- 54% of Housing and Food Service budget spent on locally processed/grown food, including food from the UW Farm
- Managed by students, faculty, and staff
- A project of the Campus Sustainability Fund

Above: Students volunteering at the UW Farm
Below: The UW Farm sells exclusively to UW's Housing and Food Services



Link to UW Farm: <http://blogs.uw.edu/uwfarms/>

Sustainability Focus – UW Biodiesel Co-op

A student-led project to **convert used cooking oil from Housing and Food Services into usable biodiesel** for UW's fleet of vehicles and generators.

- Managed entirely by students, with funding from the Campus Sustainability Fund
- Has grown from laboratory scale conversion of biodiesel to running large, dedicated converters



Settling the Biodiesel

Above: A video from the Biodiesel Co-op demonstrating the biodiesel-making process

Below: Used cooking oil from Housing and Food services will become biodiesel



Link to Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovauwk5aRvs>

Link to Biodiesel Co-op:

Sustainability Focus – UW Sustainability Dashboard

The University of Washington Sustainability Dashboard displays information on sustainability metrics and conservation targets in order to show the progress toward achievement of the goals outlined in the University's Climate Action Plan.

- Provides clear and transparent information about goals and progress in sustainability

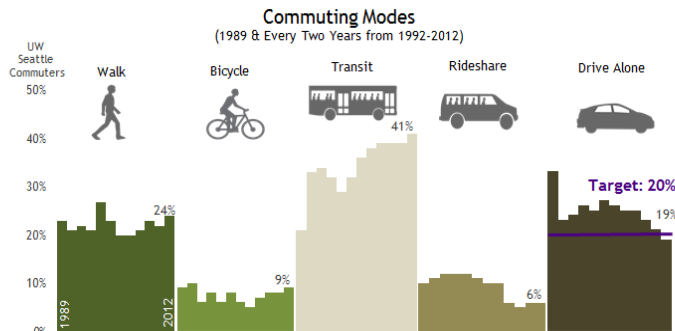


Above: The categories covered by the UW Sustainability Dashboard

Below: The Commuting section of the Sustainability Dashboard



The charts below show changes over the past 23 years in the percentage of UW Seattle commuters who use each mode of transportation. Our goal is to reduce the percentage of individuals driving alone to 20% or less. In 2012 we were at 19%. (For more information, view the 2013 U-PASS Profile Report).



[Download this Excel File](#)

Last Updated March 2013

Link to Dashboard: <http://green.uw.edu/dashboard>



UW Sustainability Leadership and Awards



Preserving Resources,
Preventing Waste





Thank You!

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