

## Appendix C: Sustainability at Peer Institutions

By way of web site searches and personal contact, the UF Committee on Sustainability examined the following peer institutions as to their respective levels of commitment to sustainability:

University of California-Berkeley  
University of California-Irvine  
University of California-LA  
University of California-San Diego  
University of California-Davis  
University of California-Santa Barbara  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington (Seattle)  
University of Texas-Austin  
University of Indiana  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
University of Virginia  
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana  
Penn State University  
Georgia Institute of Technology

Of the 17 peer institutions examined, 6 have a funded office of sustainability. These offices are funded in multiple ways: through the administration, grants, gifts and endowments. All 6 of these institutions include sustainability in their curriculum, research, and operational policies pertaining to the use of natural resources. Of the other 11 institutions, 7 have ongoing efforts to establish an office of sustainability, 6 have a university-wide committee on sustainability, 6 integrate sustainability concerns into their curricula, 4 into their research missions, and 8 into operational policies.

The data gathered appear below.

Peer Institutions with:

### **A funded office of sustainability or another office with comparable duties:**

1. University of Illinois (two paid coordinators in the college of Agriculture) – funded through hatch, extension and SARE.
2. University of Wisconsin – funded through research grants, corporate gifts and private funds
3. Georgia Institute of Technology – funding from the vice provost for research and the dean of graduate studies
4. Pennsylvania State University – campus departments, Heinz Endowment
5. University of North Carolina – funded through the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Services
6. University of California, Santa Barbara –paid sustainability coordinator

### **A university-wide committee focused on sustainability:**

1. University of California, Berkeley – Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability
2. University of Washington – Environmental Stewardship Advisory committee
3. University of North Carolina – Sustainability Coalition
4. University of Indiana – Council for Environmental Stewardship
5. University of California, Santa Barbara
6. University of California, Davis – Sustainability Administrative Advisory Committee

**Sustainability represented in the curriculum:**

1. University of Illinois – Master’s degree in sustainability
2. University of Virginia – Integrated into architecture curriculum
3. University of California, Berkeley – Freshman seminar on sustainability
4. University of Wisconsin – office of sustainability works with several departments on their curriculum and offers some graduate student funding
5. University of Washington – Four courses related to sustainability
6. University of California, Irvine – Offers an interdisciplinary minor in sustainability
7. Georgia Institute of Technology – Integrates sustainability into many courses covering a broad range of disciplines.
8. Pennsylvania State University – Offers both courses for credit and for the community
9. University of North Carolina
10. Indiana University
11. University of California, Santa Barbara – One course
12. University of California, Davis – offers several courses that address sustainability

**Sustainability policies enacted through their operations and physical development:**

1. University of Virginia
2. University of California, Berkeley
3. University of Michigan
4. University of Washington
5. University of Texas
6. University of California, Los Angeles
7. Georgia Institute of Technology
8. Pennsylvania State University
9. University of North Carolina
10. Indiana University
11. University of California, Santa Barbara
12. University of California, Davis

**Research pursuits addressing sustainability or have a policy to do so:**

1. University of Illinois
2. University of California, Berkeley
3. University of Wisconsin
4. University of Southern California
5. University of Washington
6. University of California, Irvine
7. Georgia Institute of Technology
8. Pennsylvania State University
9. University of North Carolina
10. University of California, Santa Barbara

**Some course of action to establish a sustainability office or committee:**

1. University of Illinois – seeking a third coordinator
2. University of California, Berkeley – advertising for a Unit Sustainability Education Coordinator
3. University of Michigan – requested the appointment of a sustainability coordinator
4. University of Texas – requested funding for both an office and committee
5. University of California, Los Angeles – Institute of the Environment is trying to organize an effort.
6. University of California, Davis – their committee is charged with forming an office of sustainability
7. University of California, San Diego – they are trying to form a committee

**Programs to preserve natural resources and protect the environment of their campuses:**

1. University of Michigan
2. University of Washington

**University of California - Berkeley**

Sustainability was first formally introduced to UC Berkeley administration at the UC Berkeley Recycling Summit in February 2002. The following year an undergraduate student introduced a proposal at the 2003 summit to create the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS). Chancellor Berdahl gave his approval verbally at this summit and the manager of the Campus Recycling and Refuse Services was asked to convene the CACS.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace launched the UC Solar campaign in June 2002 after winning a tremendous victory for solar energy in the Los Angeles Community College District. After a year of successful organizing on nearly every UC campus, the UC Regents passed unanimously on July 16, 2003 a policy to promulgate green building design and clean energy use. The document calls for all campuses to achieve a standard equivalent to LEED(tm) (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) "Silver" rating and 20% (10 MW) of all energy purchases from renewable sources by 2017. It is the most comprehensive green building and renewable energy policy in the nation.

After the UC Regents accepted the recommendations of the student-led movement, Greenpeace turned its focus nationally and the students formed the California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC), composed of active representatives from nearly every UC campus. The group is currently developing a transportation demand management policy. In August 2003, the University of California Student Association chose unanimously to promote UC-wide sustainability programs as one of its three action items for the 2003-2004 school year. A major component of the sustainability program will be for each campus to form a committee similar to the CACS at UC Berkeley.

This year at UC Berkeley the third class of Residential Recycling Education Coordinators is active and organized by Student Recycling Education Coordinators under the supervision of Campus Recycling and Refuse Services. For the second consecutive year, a professor is teaching an over-subscribed freshman seminar on sustainability. Last year the same professor taught EPS 80, a 470-student lecture also about sustainability....”

In addition to the class mentioned above, there are many apparently uncoordinated teaching and research efforts by individual faculty members and units. Institutionally, the CACS has 16 members, including two appointed by the Faculty Senate, seven students including both graduate and undergraduate students representing a variety of perspectives, and seven staff. The Committee’s mission is “1) To engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about reaching environmental sustainability; 2) to integrate environmental sustainability with existing campus programs in education, research, operations, and public service; and 3) to instill a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design.” Berkeley is currently advertising for a Unit Sustainability Education Coordinator who will work primarily on recycling. Berkeley also profits from its membership in the UC System, which has campus-wide Green Building Policy and Clean Energy Standards, a website that provides information to Case Studies and other resources, and links from one campus to another.

**University of California – Irvine**

The University of California, Irvine does not have a centralized Office of Sustainability. However, it has numerous faculty engaged in sustainability-related teaching and research covering a wide range of disciplines. Academic programs with sustainability projects, reports, coursework or publications on the website include computer sciences, transportation, aquaculture, e-commerce, economics, mathematics, manufacturing, mechanical engineering, oceanography, forestry, eco-tourism, and energy. A student webpage hosted through the Associated Graduate Students website presents a wealth of information about sustainable schools. Based on the webpage research, three programs seem to be at the forefront of UCI’s interdisciplinary projects in sustainability. These programs are the Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project, the Citizen Peacebuilding Program and the Interdisciplinary Minor in Global Sustainability.

<http://mamba.bio.uci.edu/~pjbryant/global/>

Special Notes: UCI offers three online undergraduate courses that focus on sustainability.

### **University of California – LA**

There is a UC Regents' policy on sustainability and an office, with web site, has been set up within the Office of the President. Several campuses—notably UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz—have created committees and some funding.

At UCLA, Vice Chancellor, Pete Blackman, is very progressive on substantive matters such as hazardous waste reduction, green purchasing, and use of alternate fueled vehicles on campus. Mary D. Nichols, Director, UCLA Institute of the Environment is trying to create an organized sustainability policy and has had very modest success in networking with the people in charge of constructing new campus buildings, helping them to network with colleagues on other campuses, etc. At this point, however, UCLA has no formal sustainability program, office or coordinator.

<http://www.ioe.ucla.edu/sustainabilityCTR.htm>

### **University of California – San Diego**

The University of California system hopes to establish a sustainability committee with student representation on every campus. These committees will work locally with their Chancellor's office and system wide with the UCOP. They will also provide a permanent framework for students and the community to be involved with future sustainability efforts.

### **University of California- Davis**

The University of California – Davis has a Sustainability Administrative Advisory Committee that has been charged to formulate an Office of Sustainability. The purpose of this advisory group is to assess the degree of sustainable development and operating practices being conducted on campus and to investigate methods to increase such practices. Through this committee UC Davis can streamline the implementation of sustainable efforts being made within all constituencies including administration, faculty, staff, and students in order to meet and surpass the guidelines set out by Regents Action 102 and the Office of the President.

Sustainability achievements on campus include:

- Classes in many UC Davis programs, such as the Education for Sustainable Living Program, and departments such as, Landscape Architecture, Community and Regional Development, Wildlife Fisheries Conservations Biology, Environmental Science and Policy, Ecology, are just some examples on campus that have addressed the issue of a sustainable future.
- Administration begun to address a sustainable campus in their Long Range Development Plan and the Strategic Plan.
- The University of California Regents also acknowledges the importance of sustainability in Regents Action 102. The UC Office of the President is preparing to pass its Green Buildings and Clean Energy policy July 1st, 2004.

### **University of California – Santa Barbara**

At UC-Santa Barbara, Bren Hall has been given the U.S. Green Building Council's LEEDTM Platinum Award--one of only two awarded nationally--for being the greenest laboratory building in America. It is a physically realized manifestation of the School's environmental programs, and is a frequent selection for architectural and landscaping tours and awards for sustainability. The School is compiling complete information and statistics about sustainable building practices as a resource for other builders, and Bren Hall is being used as both example and model in the UC Regents' newly adopted Green Building Policy, which applies to all 10 UC campuses statewide.

A mandate from Chancellor Henry Yang stipulates that all new construction at UCSB must be LEED Certified to the Silver level. UCSB has hired a new campus sustainability coordinator for physical facilities.

Apart from the paid Sustainability coordinator, there is no other funding for the office of sustainability – it is all volunteer run. There is a class on sustainability that is in the curriculum, but otherwise the sustainability coordinator is concerned with operations.

Website: <http://facilities.ucsb.edu/>

### **University of Southern California**

While there is no office of sustainability or sustainability committee, at the University of Southern California, there is a research center titled Sustainable Cities Center. Its activities are not directed inward (toward the campus), but outward. Its mission: "The Center for Sustainable Cities engages in research and education on environmental, social and economic sustainability challenges facing metropolitan regions, and contributes to policy that improves urban natural and human environments."

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/geography/ESPE/index.html>

### **University of Washington**

Effective, July 29, 2004 The University of Washington embraced its important leadership role regionally and nationally to be an environmentally, economically, and socially responsible institution. The University is committed to practicing and promoting environmental stewardship while conducting its teaching, research, and service missions as well as its facility operations in all of its locations. The institution and all members of the University community support actions, decisions, and leadership that will:

- Provide educational opportunities to the campus communities on sound environmental practices.
- Create intellectual resources which can be used to achieve goals for sustainability for this and future generations.
- Create partnerships at all levels within and outside the University that further the practice of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Through its landholdings and operations on three campuses and several other locations, the scale and scope of the University's activities have the potential to significantly affect the environment, ranging from working on a reclaimed landfill site, to long-term monitoring of intertidal wetlands, upland temperate forests and fully built office high-rises in downtown Seattle. By exercising effective management over its activities, the University will promote the sustainable use of its resources, seek to minimize risks to and negative impacts on the environment, and underscore our commitment to protect human health and the environment.

<http://depts.washington.edu/poeweb/resources/susuw.html>

Special Notes: Offers four specific courses addressing sustainability issues in various disciplines.

### **University of Texas – Austin**

Their Director of Environmental Health and Safety (Erle Janssen) provided a PowerPoint presentation about Austin's on-going sustainability efforts and an executive summary they have prepared that will be used to request funding for an Office of Sustainability and the establishment of a Campus Sustainability Committee. The EH&S office hired a graduate student to collect information about existing efforts and projects on their campus and to help prepare these documents. In addition, the University participates in Central Texas Sustainability Indicators project. The web site for that project is:

<http://www.centex-indicators.org/index.html>

The main University web address is: <http://www.utexas.edu/>

It appears that their School of Architecture is working with the facilities folks regarding sustainable buildings. Per their VP for Employee and Campus Services, the last few building projects were LEED certified. They may set a goal of buildings with LEED certification but have not yet made that decision.

## **University of Indiana**

The Council for Environmental Stewardship's mission is to engage students, faculty and staff in academic programs and administrative efforts that enhance the University of Indiana's campus environment and contribute to a healthy and sustainable world.

Formed in early 1998 as part of a campus-wide initiative, the Council has approximately 35 members. It meets monthly to plan programs and activities for the campus. Working groups within the Council research issues, develop recommendations and then work with key decision makers and organizations to implement actions. Working groups look into such areas as energy use, environmental education, green space, hazardous materials, transportation, and materials management, waste reduction, and safety. The Council builds on existing campus policy and practice, working collaboratively with staff, faculty and students to enhance IUB operations and academic programs.

Current efforts include:

- Green Landscaping - By modeling a strong land ethic, IUB can contribute to the health of its own campus ecosystem, reduce negative impacts on adjacent ecosystems and instill a parallel land ethic in its student body.
- Waste Reduction - Reducing waste at Indiana University benefits the environment as well as the campus community. Focus is on the current state campus dining-related waste and how to improve efficiency.
- Campus Climate Neutral - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions on campus while educating students, faculty, and staff on issues of global climate change. This project is part of a larger national effort.

<http://environment.indiana.edu/index.html>

## **University of Michigan – Ann Arbor**

Over the past several years, the University of Michigan has empanelled an Environmental Task Force, a Steering committee for Environmental Issues and Research on Campus, and a Dean's Council on the Environment. A request has been sent by the ETF to the President's office for monitoring campus progress on environmental issues. It also requested the appointment of a sustainability coordinator, at a salary range of \$50,000, but the position has not been funded due to university-wide budgetary concerns. The Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning and the School of Natural Resources and Environment have been searching for a faculty member who will be jointly appointed to both colleges, with the goal of stimulating synergy between their academic units.

Among Michigan's initiatives are the following: The President's Office Master Plan development was charged with considering "issues of sustainability" and suggesting the development of and management of UM properties to "support the ongoing processes that sustain life and...promote their continuing function." They have developed several pilot programs on native vegetation and a general policy to avoid irrigation whenever possible and rainwater retention ponds for all new parking lots. They have an EPA Energy Star Buildings Program and do lighting retrofits. They have an Energy Conservation Measures fund. The Transportation Services area has several programs in place to help the environment. They have a Pollution Prevention Program for chemicals, pests, mercury, transportation, and waste. The Department of Occupational Safety & Environmental Health is engaged in storm water management, soil erosion control, air pollution control, clean up of contaminated properties, and similar programs.

Students are engaged in a number of clubs and organizations devoted to environmental issues. Taubman College students are entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Solar Decathlon, in schools of architecture build full-scale solar houses on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.umich.edu/~usustain/sustain.html>

<http://www.housing.umich.edu/services/environ/>

### **University of Virginia**

Efforts towards sustainability at the University of Virginia are being driven by several forces, most based in architecture: First, the original campus, designed by Thomas Jefferson, is a vital part of daily life, a reminder of the value of preservation and of an integrated vision of campus life. Second, the historic center and the rest of the sprawling campus is currently being managed by Campus Architect David Neuman, who is credited with initiating a campus-wide sustainability policy. The Office of the Campus Architect is developing storm water management methods and landscape standards that seem aimed at achieving the goal of sustainability. Third, internationally prominent sustainability advocate and architect William McDonough was Dean of the School of Architecture for a period of years in the late 1990s. His emphasis on sustainability has permeated coursework throughout the School's curriculum and, one might speculate, has led to the hiring of a number of nationally prominent professors of architecture and landscape architecture with this focus. One administrator stated that the University of Virginia does not use the term "sustainability" but engages in sustainable practices. This statement might explain the fact that the term does not appear in simple searches of the University of Virginia website.

In addition, the Facilities Management Department organizes operational issues related to Energy, Recycling, Systems Control, Heating, Cooling, Electricity and Piping, many of which reflect a sustainable ethos. Among their efforts they: Install motion sensors; retrofit building lighting; replace inefficient motors; procure and act on engineering studies of buildings, central heating and cooling plants, electrical demand limiting; automate equipment operation schedules; develop energy policies such as design guidelines for new construction and a motor efficiency policy. The University won the 2001 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award in 2001 for its "outstanding commitment to pollution prevention through continuous improvement of the University's energy management practices." The Facilities Management website states that in one year the University's energy program has saved almost \$100,000.

There is no evidence of institutional presence beyond these areas. The Senate does not have a committee that addresses sustainability across campus. There is not a campus-wide sustainability coordinator, though there are elected student recycling coordinators.

### **University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill**

At the University of North Carolina, there is a funded office of sustainability that came out of a coalition started in April, 1999. A Director was hired in 2001. There are now two additional staff people: a research associate and a person from energy services. The office is under facility services and is a peer of the energy coordinator. It is a mix of operations, teaching and/or research. The Director taught classes at first but then became too busy to continue. The university is trying to create a minor in sustainability. There is also a sustainability advisory board made up of coalition members, faculty and others who report to the Chancellor. UNC is now undertaking an environmental audit of all electricity, steam and chilled water on campus. All construction on campus must go through the committee and adhere to a silver level of construction. The director is Cynthia Pollock Shea.

<http://sustainability.unc.edu/>

<http://www.fac.unc.edu/sustainable/>

### **University of Wisconsin – Madison**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970 established the Institute for Environmental Studies, a special intercollege unit where professors, students, and other professionals with wide-ranging backgrounds could converge to better understand and resolve environmental problems. In 2002, the institute was renamed in honor of U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day and a lifelong champion of environmental stewardship.

UW-Madison's schools and colleges, offer more than 100 courses. Topics range from environmental health to environmental ethics, from natural resources to natural hazards, and from climates of the past to energy sources of the future. The emphasis is interdisciplinary. The object is to blend the wisdom of many academic fields. Students, may design a campus recycling program, create a watershed management plan for a lakeside community, testing the latest technology for monitoring natural resources by satellite, or create web sites on environmental topics.

## Structure and Governance

The Nelson Institute is designed to encourage broad, interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty members at UW-Madison. Ideally, this creates a synergy that benefits the individual participants and strengthens the ties between their colleges, schools, and departments.

To meet its campus wide mission, the Nelson Institute is administered by a **director** who is appointed by the chancellor of the university and reports to the provost. An elected faculty **chair** oversees all operations of the Nelson Institute's **academic programs**. Each of these programs, in turn, has its own faculty chair and committee. Each of the institute's research centers has its own faculty director, appointed by the director of the institute.

**The institute's Governance Faculty is its main decision-making body. This group is composed of all "budgeted" (core) Nelson Institute faculty members, the director and academic programs chair of the institute, the chairs of each Nelson Institute degree and certificate program and of the institute's research and outreach committees, the directors of the institute's research centers, and six at-large members of the institute's general faculty. Tenured members of the Governance Faculty constitute the Executive**

### Research - current and recent topics of research:

- global environmental change and its impacts
- local and regional water management
- restoration of disturbed ecosystems
- new technologies for environmental monitoring and management
- international ecological sustainability and economic development

### Outreach

- an award-winning radio program
- distribution of environmental research data via the Web
- community-based water management workshops
- traveling environmental science demonstrations
- public lectures and other campus events

### Committee.

A variety of standing committees of faculty and staff members and students deal with matters ranging from curriculum review to long-range planning.

## University of Illinois

The University of Illinois has no Office of Sustainability at the campus-wide level. There is however, an Environmental Council which addresses issues of sustainability as well as runs a lecture series on the subject. The council seems to be very active, expending much of its efforts on sustainability.

There are two full-time positions in the College of Agriculture that promotes Sustainable Agriculture. Both of these positions have a budget of approximately \$150,000 plus travel, which consists of some hatch funding, some extension funding and funds from the North Central Region SARE. They are also both academic in nature, with their titles being Co-coordinators of the Agro-Ecology Sustainability Program. They report to the Department Head for Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Currently both co-coordinators focus on teaching and outreach. They also plan conferences and meetings, generate publications, and assist researchers connect with farmers.

An open meeting was called in January to gather information on major sustainability achievements on campus and over 60 people showed up. They realized that efforts were fragmented so they are seeking funding for a third full-time employee to maintain a virtual website.

<http://www.nres.uiuc.edu/outreach/programs/index.html>



**Penn State University**

The Center for Sustainability (CfS) at Penn State is working with faculty, students and the local community to test and exhibit more sustainable technologies and practices. At their 8.5 acre research site they are developing a sustainability showcase with the innovative technologies and techniques that are defining the sustainable revolution.

Housed in the Science, Technology, and Society department of the College of Engineering, the Center offers courses for credit including STS 497D—Projects in Sustainable Living. They also offer non-credit courses, as well as community volunteer workdays and special interest workshops.

Their weekend workdays offer the public an opportunity to learn through hands-on experience with alternative energy, green design, biointensive gardening and more. They periodically offer special interest workshops highlighting the expertise of local community members.

Special Notes: Several achievements are listed on their website, mostly solar power research and gardening innovations.

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

Georgia Tech has embarked on a multi-year agenda to incorporate the concepts of sustainable technology and development into the core curriculum, required, and elective courses so that their students' understanding of sustainability evolves with their understanding of their discipline and profession. As a major research institution, Georgia Tech's research programs serve a crucial role in undergraduate and graduate education, not to mention the on-going intellectual development of faculty and research sponsors.

Georgia Tech has an Institute for Sustainable Technology and Development which supports the incorporation of sustainability into existing and emerging research programs. They also coordinate the activities of larger scale, multi-organizational research programs in urban and regional ecology and environmentally conscious design and manufacturing. Because Georgia Tech's commitment to creating a more prosperous and sustainable society extends to their own corner of the community, ISTD works to develop campus projects (through senior-level courses and relevant research programs) and provides assistance in implementing changes to existing programs in a sustainable direction.

<http://www.sustainable.gatech.edu/about/vision.php>

Special Notes: Georgia Tech is focusing on creating courses that contain sustainability content. Their Spring 2002 list of these courses was five pages long and included many different areas of discipline.