



More Than A Place To Park

CREATING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS FOR
COMMUTER STUDENTS AND ADULT LEARNERS

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What exactly is sustainability?

“Sustainability is achieved when all the people on Earth can live well without compromising the quality of life for future generations.” (Rolf Jucker, 2003, UNESCO Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future: A Critical Evaluation, Trumpeter, Vol. 19. No. 2)

*Definition used by ACPA’s Sustainability Task Force



“Sustainability is a characteristic of a process or state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely. . The term, in its environmental usage, refers to the potential longevity of vital human ecological support systems, such as the planet's climatic system, systems of agriculture, industry, forestry, and fisheries, and human communities in general and the various systems on which they depend in balance with the impacts of our unsustainable or sustainable design.”

Source: Wikipedia



Confused???

- There is a wide assortment of definitions for sustainability as there are definitions for leadership
- As an association, ACPA uses the Rolf Jucker's definition



Vision for sustainability development

Three components of sustainable development:

- Healthy environment
- Social justice
- Economic growth and equity



Student Learning Outcomes

Source: ACPA's Sustainability Taskforce, 2006



Student Learning Outcomes

Each student will be able to:

- Define sustainability.
- Explain how sustainability relates to their lives and their values, and how their actions impact issues of sustainability.
- Explain how systems are interrelated
- Utilize their knowledge of sustainability to change their daily habits and consumer mentality.



Student Learning Outcomes

5. How to apply concepts of sustainability to their campus and community by engaging in the challenges and solutions of sustainability on their campus.
6. Learn change agent skills.
7. Apply concepts of sustainability globally by engaging in the challenges and the solution of sustainability in a world context.



Steps to Sustainability within the Commission for Commuter Students and Adult Learners

- ❖ Educate ourselves and our Commission members
- ❖ Assess how our Commission can be sustainability advocates
- ❖ Incorporate sustainability efforts in Commission programming and initiatives
- ❖ Assess and educate ACPA about incorporating commuter students and adult learners into the association's sustainability efforts



Key question within the Commission's new Sustainability Task Force became how can we learn about sustainability?

How can we simplify information about sustainability and apply it to our work with commuter students and adult learners?



Applying Sustainability-- Civic Engagement

“Service is the rent you pay for room
on this earth.” - **Shirley Chisholm**



Increasing opportunities for commuter students and adult learners to participate in service and service learning initiatives within the campus **AND** the communities in which they reside is a sustainability effort



Resource

Campus Compact

<http://www.campuscompact.org>



Resource

Corporation for National and
Community Service

http://www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/tta/index.asp



- *College Students Helping America* Report (published by Corporation for National and Community Service)
- Identifies key trends in college student service from 2002-2005; report published in 2006
- College students defined as persons between the ages of 16-24 who at the time of the survey were enrolled in a college or university



Key Trends and Implications for Commuter Students and Adult Learners:

- Tutoring and mentoring are the most popular volunteer opportunities
- The highest volunteer rates exist among students who work 1-10 hours and 11-15 hours a week, while students who don't work volunteer at a much lower volunteer rate
- The rate of volunteering declines for students who work 31-35 and 36-40 hours a week
- 31.6% of college student volunteers participate in service with educational or youth services organizations
- 44.1% engage in "regular" volunteering (volunteering 12 or more weeks a year with their main organization)



Additional Resources:

- Learn and Service America

<http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/lisa/index.asp>

- Idealist

www.idealists.org

- The Wingspread Principles for Best Practices in Community Service Learning

<http://www.johnsonfdn.org/principles.html>

- SERVENet

<http://servenet.org>

- ACPA's Commission for Student Involvement

www.acpa.nche.edu

ACPA'S Commission for Student Involvement has two listservs--

General (Activities, Leadership, Greek and Service): **Commission for Student Involvement**

Focusing on issues in Service-Learning: **Service/Service-Learning**

- Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

<http://civicyouth.org>

- Action for Change

<http://www.actionforchange.org>

- Points of Life Foundation

<http://www.pointsoflight.org>

- Seasons of Service

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/default.cfm>

- MLK Day of Service

www.mlkday.org



ACPA Sustainability Task Force's Tool Kit on Creating a Better World

Ideas for Campus Activities that Support and Educate About Sustainable Living

© ACPA – College Student Educators
International (<http://www.myacpa.org/>)
in collaboration with the U.S. Partnership for
Education for Sustainable Development
(www.uspartnership.org)



Relatable ideas for commuter students and adult learners in ACPA's Sustainability Toolkit

Note: Due to the timeframe for this presentation, not all ideas from ACPA's Sustainability Toolkit have been included. Some ideas have been altered to fit within the framework of working with commuter students and adult learners. For additional ideas and information, go to <http://www.myacpa.org>



Visuals to Educate about Sustainability

- Have a poster session at a prominent campus location(s) – share what good work the campus is doing and generate new ideas by collecting suggestions and volunteers
- Build a community organic garden (plant a seed)
- Develop a bio-diesel demonstration, use the fuel locally
- Develop library displays
- Create a website about facilities/campus sustainability initiatives
- Post permanent signs to recognize and celebrate what campus has already accomplished in pollution reduction/sustainability initiatives
- Create a logo to add to all items that are sustainable – hold a contest for the logo design
- Create a series of passive bulletin boards that can be used to educate about sustainability; recycle/reuse paper and move to different public locations on campus.

Source: ACPA Sustainability Toolkit



Involving Student Groups in Sustainability

- Use student activities poster from ACPA website <http://www.myacpa.org/task-force/sustainability/docs/Sustainability-Flyer.pdf> – get all organizations to “sign on” to sustainability
- Involvement of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society
- Involvement of other student organizations dedicated to issues of diversity, the environment, business clubs, social justice, community service, etc. (i.e., Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity)
- Connect with Hillel and other faith communities <http://www.hillel.org/conferences/spitzer/sustainability.htm>

Source: ACPA Sustainability Toolkit

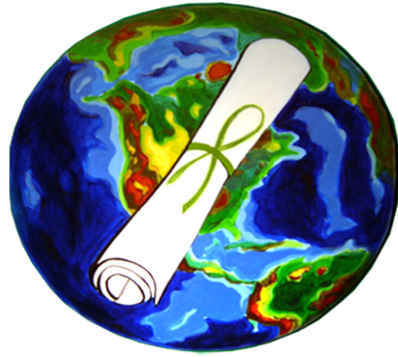
- Involvement of commuter student and adult learner organizations(LP)



Integrate into Student Activities

- Use freshman pledge and graduation pledge <http://www.graduationpledge.org/>
<https://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/OSA/earthstockforms.nsf/signup>
http://www.sustain.ubc.ca/sustainable_u/
- Develop web resources for all campus community members
<http://www.housing.umich.edu/services/environ/index.html>
- Develop sustainable living campaigns and contests
http://sustainability.unc.edu/index.asp?Type=Materials&Doc=green_games
<http://www.tufts.edu/tie/tci/DoItInTheDark.htm>
- Develop feedback loops for students living in the residence halls
- Develop an ecovillage or sustainable living residential community
<http://www.berea.edu/buildings/ecovillage/default.asp>
- Develop a green team approach <http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/greenteams/>
- Partner with Downtown Associations and local government
- Create community green vendor tabletops
- Hold a CO2 dance – get pledges to purchase carbon offsets and reduce climate change
- Develop a campus sustainability film series (contact dgrowe@oaklandcc.edu for an updated list of films)
- Develop a campus/community speaker series on sustainability or integrate it into the existing speaker series
- Have students collect campus, community and even global success stories about sustainability oriented actions and disseminate (e.g. video via U-tube; written articles via student newspapers, send the stories to local and national media)
- Recognize individual/group or departmental contributions to sustainability on your campus and/or in the community with awards. Get coverage of these awards in local publications, on local video and on local television.
- Sponsor a sustainability themed poetry slam

Sample idea from toolkit



GRADUATION
PLEDGE
ALLIANCE



*I _____ "pledge
to explore and take into account the
social and environmental
consequences of any job I consider
and will try to improve these
aspects of any organizations for
which I work."*



For more detailed information about the Graduation Pledge, go to www.graduationpledge.org and www.E-xplore.org



Quick and easy ways to integrate sustainability

Incorporate sustainability living tips into your commuter and housing guides and resources for adult learners

Invite and/or incorporate sustainability efforts into off-campus housing, including the search process and housing fairs

Sponsor commuter and adult learner challenges throughout the year around sustainability issues with incentives that students would buy into the challenge



Sustainable Living

For sustainable living guide examples, check out the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's examples on

www.aashe.org/resources/living_guides.php



Academic Connections to Sustainability

- Post sustainability oriented campus projects on “Play a Greater Part” website <http://www.playagreaterpart.org/> – include University name in beginning of title for easy searching by students. Also collect and add projects from local non-profits, businesses, city and state government, etc.
- Connect all First Year Experiences (FYE) to sustainability
- Get students involved in energy legislation – work with staff in your state legislature
- Utilize service learning opportunities to explore issues related to sustainability (hunger and homelessness agencies; women’s empowerment agencies; etc.)
- Support undergraduate research that explores issues related to sustainability – and apply research findings to improve local communities.
- Focus course projects on local issues that would benefit the university community (home/apartment energy consumption; town and gown collaborations on recycling; etc.)

Source: ACPA Toolkit

- Focus course projects on the awareness of local issues that would benefit BOTH the local community and the university community (home/apartment energy consumption; town and gown collaborations on recycling; etc.) (LP)



Climate Change Focus

- Participate in the Campus Climate Challenge <http://climatechallenge.org/>
- Use the Energy Star Student Activity Guide (PDF)
- Sign-up for Focus the Nation www.focusthenation.org
January 31st, 2008: Create a school-wide, day-long, interdisciplinary event with the endorsement of faculty and administration.
- Incorporate An Inconvenient Truth into a training session <http://climatecrisis.org/>
- Join the "Chill Out Contest" <http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/ChillOutcontest.cfm>
- Participate in Earth Day (<http://www.earthday.net>)

Source: ACPA Toolkit



Election 2008

- Rock the Vote

From Rock the Vote's website, any campus can sign up for their online voter registration widget. From the administrative widget access online, a campus can view statistics(eg. number of completed registrations during a week, month, year, and current day), download registration information, view a count of the number of people from your campus who registers from the RTV website

It also gives to access to embed the widget in a website and blog; there is also an alternate code to embed the widget in a MySpace page

For more information, go to www.rockthevote.com

- Campus Compact's iVote Initiative

any campus can sign up to link and download the code for the iVote campaign

iVote resources include resources for students, faculty and staff, and community service and service-learning staff; includes sample programs and activities

For more information, go to www.compact.org/vote



Additional Programming Ideas

Earth Day 2008 on April
22(www.earthday.net)

Social action/legislative alert campaigns

Create incentives for students to refrain
from excessive use of paper in both
campus printing labs and in their homes

Include sustainability information and
resources on your website

Healthy Schools and Healthy Children
initiatives



Alternative Transportation Options

- Bike
- Walk
- Public transportation
- Telecommuting
- Online courses
- Carpool



Ideas to assist students in considering alternative transportation options

- Assisting students in locating childcare in close proximity to campus, their home, or place of employment
- Advocating for daycare facility on campus
- Work with your Financial Aid Office to advocate for increased funds in both FWS programs and student scholarship opportunities
- Jointly advocate with key campus constituents in increasing funds for student positions across campus



Additional Programming Examples

- ❖ Energy Scorecard Competition(Yale University)
- ❖ Spring Salvage(Yale University)
- ❖ Commuter Challenge(University of Canterbury, New Zealand)
- ❖ Arlington(Va.) Transportation Partners Carfree Diet Initiative



Final Takeaway:

Ensure that as commuter student and adult learner advocates, we are at the table or reminding key campus constituents that we need to be at the table with campus sustainability issues