

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Strategic Initiative: *Sustainable Idaho Initiative (SII)*

Name: *Maxine Dakins, Chris Dixon*

Reporting Period: *October 2008-February 2009*

HIGHLIGHT

Sustainable Idaho planned and hosted University of Idaho activities for the **National Teach-In on Global Warming on February 4-5, 2009**. Over 300 students, faculty, staff and local citizens participated in the nationwide effort that included some 700 colleges, universities, high schools, faith organizations and civic groups, and nearly 1 million individual participants. Presentations, video screenings and panel discussions covered a broad array of topics, from the global impacts of climate destabilization to everyday choices individuals can make to reduce their carbon footprint. Activities varied in scope, as well. While one panel of experts addressed the specific effects of global warming on local ecosystems, another posed the general question of "What Motivates Action?" Acknowledging Goal 2 of the UI Strategic Action Plan, the event was designed to be interdisciplinary, incorporating the expertise of faculty, staff and students across several departments and colleges including CNR, CAA, COGS, CLASS, COS, UI Sustainability Center, UI Service-Learning Center, and the City of Moscow. Teach-In organizers hope to make this an annual event.

The Teach-In represented one step toward honoring the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The university joined ACUPCC in March 2007, agreeing to exert leadership in addressing climate change, including providing the knowledge and educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality.

"The long emergency of anthropogenic climate change is the single, gravest environmental challenge ever faced by humanity, and the University of Idaho through its programs in sustainability is building a foundation to meet this challenge," said Stephen Mulkey, Director of the Environmental Science Program.

Teach-In activities can be viewed online at www.EcologyOnline.net/teachin2009.htm. The Teach-In agenda is attached to this progress report.

ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION

In the first year of the Initiative, we held the first annual *Palouse Project Faculty Workshop to Infuse Sustainability Across the Curriculum in January, 2007*. Seventeen faculty members from across the University attended. In the second year, a *Greening the Curriculum Request for Proposals* was prepared and distributed in April, 2008. Projects involved faculty designing new courses or re-designing existing courses to include sustainability concepts. Faculty received funding for summer salary, travel to workshops/conferences, and for student salaries. Eleven proposals were received, of which eight were funded. The total amount awarded was \$19,668. Details are included in the June 2008 Progress Report. The **2009 Greening the Curriculum Grant Competition** was held in March-April and awarded \$17, 860 across seven projects. In this RFP, the SII requested proposals that include at least one of the following

components: 1) environmental service learning that engages both the UI and Moscow communities, 2) interdisciplinary hands-on collaboration (involving more than one college) to create learning communities around sustainability, and 3) climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Projects that incorporate service learning, in particular, will allow us to increase the outreach component of the grant. Winning projects will be announced soon and included in the next SII Progress Report.

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Each fall, the Sustainable Idaho Initiative releases a Request for Proposals (RFP) for sustainability projects led by UI faculty and staff and involving faculty, staff and students. Each project can receive up to \$7,500. Our Fall 2008 RFP was distributed in September and resulted in 13 submitted proposals. Four projects were fully or partially funded for a total of \$15,000. The funded proposals will be completed by summer 2009. Progress on each project is provided below.

- Tara George and University Housing received \$7,500 for their project “Residence Hall Recycling Program” to educate students in all aspects of Single Stream Recycling and give them experience becoming environmental stewards as they move forward in their careers. As of February 2009, the team has ordered and distributed residence hall recycling bins, developed marketing materials for single stream recycling, and recruited Residence Hall Sustainable Ambassadors (RHSA). The RHSA members are responsible for facilitating the RecycleMania competition within their respective halls. Marketing materials include campus posters and flyers, and weekly emails to all residence hall students on educational topics related to RecycleMania and single stream recycling.
- Another \$3,750 was awarded to Dr. Nancy Deringer and Angela O’Connell for “Planting the Seeds of Change: Nutrition and Sustainability at the UI Children’s Center.” This project will develop a locally sourced whole foods program at the University of Idaho Children’s Center (UICC) through collaboration among UI faculty, staff, students, UICC parents, local farmers, and local community organizations. As of February 2009, the team has collaborated with the UI Family and Consumer Sciences Department to assess the current menu and develop new menu options. They have begun purchasing local fresh produce where available (given that it is winter), including purchasing carrots and potatoes from UI Soil Stewards, and have added a greater variety of produce to the menu. In March, UI FCS Nutrition students will give lessons in four pre-school classrooms on the nutritional value of peas, potatoes and carrots. The team also attended a Farmer-Chef collaborative event where they spoke with local farmers and ranchers about obtaining locally produced food.
- Dr. Erik Anderson will head up a third project, “Creating a Culture of Sustainability through Recycling at the University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene Campus”, which received \$2,250. This project will expand the recycling program at the Coeur d’Alene campus by increasing the types of recycled materials, implementing more prescribed recycling processes, and outfitting offices and common areas with recycling bins. As of February 2009, Anderson has communicated the project objectives to the Coeur d’Alene campus community, hired an undergraduate research/project assistant, assessed current recycling methods, and researched local recycling options. He has also developed a survey to assess faculty and staff knowledge and attitudes about recycling and begun work on the Coeur d’Alene Campus recycling web site and promotional items.
- The final project, “HOPE Garden: Moscow’s Accessible Community Garden”, received \$1,500. Dr Matthew Wappett and his team will construct accessible garden beds within the Moscow Community Garden to allow individuals with disabilities and senior citizens the opportunity to

grow their own fruits, vegetables, and flowers in a community setting. As of February 2009, the team has developed a marketing strategy and materials for use in fundraising with the PCEI development staff, arranged for materials donations and formalized their plan for ground work as the weather warms up. Dr. Wappett's Core Discovery class will assist with fundraising and ground preparation this spring. On Saturday, April 18th, volunteers turned out in large numbers to start construction on the site. Organizers were thrilled by how much was accomplished on their first day.

Sustainable Idaho funded the third and fourth projects above with the intention of increasing our presence in the Moscow community and at one of UI's satellite campuses. Within our financial means we are committed to increasing the outreach component of the grant.

MANAGEMENT

Darin Saul continues to provide leadership and coordination as the UI Sustainability Coordinator and the Director of the UI Sustainability Center. As well as taking on the major work for President White's climate change initiatives, he is working with the student staff of the Sustainability Center on projects that include implementing a full-scale recycling program and carrying out a campus sustainability assessment. His recent activities include:

Waste and Recycling

- Submitted a waste minimization and recycling RFI proposal, which is still in process. A few highlights include:
 - UI Marketing and Communications will convert the UI Register to electronic form only this summer, which, if you include printing, mailing, distributing and disposing of each copy, will save UI approximately \$30,000 per year.
 - ITS will change settings on computers in the student labs this summer so that computers will automatically hibernate when not used. This simple step will save UI \$7,000-\$10,000 per year in electricity costs, and additional money from reduced cooling costs.
 - A suite of waste reduction activities will reduce UI's waste stream, saving money on purchasing, handling and disposal of paper, electronics, furniture and other items.
- Organized the launch of RecycleMania in the UI student Residences. This project involved the Core Globalization course in helping with RecycleMania and other waste minimization and recycling projects on campus as part of service learning activities. The project involved active participation by the UI Sustainability Center, UI Residences, Career and Professional Planning Office, faculty and over 80 students on campus. RecycleMania was successfully implemented in Jan-Mar 2009, with 3.25 tons of recyclables collected from student residences during the 10 weeks of the project.
- Launched Family Housing Single Stream Co-Mingled Recycling pilot in March 2008. As of December 2008, the program had recycled 12.62 tons of materials from Family Housing.
- Developed the Stop Junk Mail Campaign, which resulted in the Bulk Mail Policy (approximately 25 tons per year of junk mail is now recycled rather than delivered), and a junk mail campaign in residences which was launched this spring as part of the RecycleMania effort.
- We have worked for two years to set up composting for campus dining on campus, and everything is now coming together. All food waste from campus dining, including from their catering operations, will be composted starting Fall 09 semester. This will amount to 70-100 tons of food

waste being composted rather than thrown away, and should amount to approximately a 90% reduction in waste from Campus Dining.

- Worked with Moscow Recycling to increase the rate that UI is paid for its recycled commodities. The rate adjustments will increase the amount UI is paid for some commodities by 25%-50% and UI will start being paid for a number of commodities that it previous was not paid for at all. This increase in revenue will provide additional financial resources to a severely underfunded recycling program.

Energy/Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Developed a commuter survey that was administered mid-Fall 2008 to 300-400 students, faculty and staff. The survey enabled the calculation of commuter-related emissions. Initial estimates of commuter-related emissions were reduced as a result of this finding: 93% of students and 72% of faculty and staff live within 1.6 miles of campus.
- Recruited projects from Avista Multi-Residences House Energy Conservation Program. Recruited energy conservation equipment and labor from Avista for 17 Greek Houses and for portions of the UI Residences not included in the ESCO project. Projects in the Greek System included lighting upgrades, insulating 6 houses, changing to low flow showerheads and offering site specific rebates for HVAC and windows. Work in the Greek System will save 360,000 kWh and 3,421 therms per year, and the portion of work completed so far in UI Residences will save the university 200,000 kWh per year (Calculations from Bill Starr, UCONs, the Avista contractor). Combined, this amounts to \$32,000 in energy savings per year, not counting the original donated work and equipment from Avista.
- Working with Dr. Greg Donohoe's Electrical and Computer Engineering senior design class to create a charging station using wind and solar power for five electric cars.
- Completed a \$6,800 contract to develop a Greenhouse Gas assessment and plan for Agri-beef, a Caldwell agricultural business. Based on the results, we received a \$5000 donation from Beef NW to conduct assessments on 120 cattle ranches.
- Last January 2008, UI passed a building policy requiring that all new buildings will meet or exceed the Silver LEED standard. In practice, this policy is already obsolete, with both buildings currently in planning stages expected to meet the Platinum level or higher. This shift results in buildings that not only are more energy efficient, but that will actually be cheaper over the lifetime of the building when both upfront construction costs and operational costs are accounted for.
- Completed the University of Idaho Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2005-2007 to meet our American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. The inventory can be found at http://www.uisc.uidaho.edu/University_of_Idaho_Greenhouse_Gas_Inventory.pdf. We are in the process of developing an emissions reduction plan, to be completed by September 2009.
- We completed our Chicago Climate Exchange baseline and 2007 emissions report. Emissions from UI operations decreased around 2.2% in 2007 from a 2000 baseline, exceeding our CCX commitment to a 1.5% decrease. This gave UI 1200 tons of carbon credits, which we are planning on banking until the market improves or using in the future to help us move toward a climate neutral emissions profile.

Service Learning

- Working with over 325 students in Spring 2009 on service learning projects:
 - 82 students from Core Globalization classes helped implement RecycleMania
 - 23 students from BUS 478 “Business Management” class developed zero waste program for UISC and recycling and waste management program for Kibbie Dome sports events
 - 200 students from ENVS 102 “Field Activities in Environmental Science” helped UISC with campus-wide waste characterization study
 - 4 students from HIST 424 “American Environmental History” developed an historical baseline for native plant communities of the Palouse as part of a native habitats restoration program on campus
- Initiated substantial native habitats restoration program involving several faculty, staff and community partners. As part of the “Get Rooted” project, eight sections of land will be planted with native vegetation. This project will engage several UI classes in service learning activities.

General

- Sustainability Assessment: information gathering and analysis is largely completed and chapters have been drafted on energy use, GHG emissions, and recycling. Information gathering and planning have been initiated for food systems and transportation chapters. Student groups developed data for the water section and collected waste stream analysis data during Fall 2008.
- A Sustainability Revolving Loan Fund has been established with \$50,000 seed money from Facilities, and is posted in the APM at <http://www.uihome.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=113746>. This fund will help capitalize sustainability-oriented projects that will provide operational savings. A portion of the savings will be used to pay back the loan, providing resources to capitalize additional projects.
- Working with Moscow High School to start K-12 revolving loan fund with \$1000 seed money obtained through grants. The school would commit 25% of savings back into RLF and 25% of savings would be applied to sustainability curriculum. First RLF project would be upgrading lighting fixtures in Moscow High School for increased energy efficiency.

EDUCATION

No GreenHows Speaker Series events were held between July 1, 2008 and February 28, 2009. The series will be reinstated for the 2009/2010 academic year, and will feature completed SII grant projects, including a visit to the Green Roof at the Student Union Building, along with guest speakers.

We continue to manage the SII page of the Environmental Science website, (<http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/envs/sustainability.htm>). In addition, the website for the student-run Sustainability Center (UISC) is in the process of being converted to an umbrella site for all sustainability activities, including SII. The website titled “Sustainability at the University of Idaho and its Communities” (www.sustainability.uidaho.edu) will be taken down and its links folded into the UISC website, which will include a “Resources” link where visitors can learn about various topics in sustainability, along with service learning and volunteer opportunities. The new UISC site will consolidate student, faculty and staff sustainability efforts, and community efforts as they relate to the UI campus. The goal of the site is to create a comprehensive one-stop shop for sustainability at UI, making it easier for visitors to grasp the scope of activities at UI.

In the first year of the Initiative, we released “Green Tips” announcements for the campus community, distributed through Today@Idaho, the Register, and the new UI website as part of our campaign to raise awareness of sustainability at UI. Last year, the UI Sustainability Center adopted this task, creating “Conservation Matters”, a weekly tip sheet on how to live more sustainably. The tip sheet is distributed through Today@Idaho, the UI website, and regularly picked up by local radio and newspapers. This consistent exposure is helping us successfully brand the University with a culture of sustainability.

PLANS: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Work with the Sustainability Coordinator to:

- Continue implementation of the Revolving Loan Fund and set up RLFs for K-12 institutions.
- Continue work on the Campus Sustainability Assessment and develop solid draft to circulate across campus (described above).
- Improve the recycling program on the UI campus (described above) by continuing to work toward single stream co-mingled recycling system across campus.
- Continue work to activate the UI President’s Climate Commitments (described above).
- Continue working with Sodexo on improving sustainability of food service operations at UI (described above).
- Coordinate with students at the Sustainability Center to hold awareness-creating events at New Student Orientation, Palousafest, and monthly throughout the Fall & Spring Semesters.
- Prepare to write a grant in response to the anticipated Higher Education Sustainability Act RFP when it is announced.
- Continue the campaign to raise awareness of sustainability at UI through “Conservation Matters” announcements.
- Continue to pursue internal and external funding sources for Sustainability Coordinator position.
- Pursue media training and increased interactions with local news media as we develop and implement the media plan.
- Continue collaboration with community entities to identify and fund sustainability projects.
- Identify experiential learning projects to be incorporated into future courses, including activities related to the native habitats restoration program.

BUDGET: PROJECTED EXPENSES SHOULD BE TAKEN FROM BUDGET PAGE IN FULL PROPOSAL.
 ADD BRIEF NARRATIVE FOR CHANGES IF NOT ADDRESSED IN PREVIOUS SECTIONS.

			Proposed Expenses 7/1/08-6/30/09	Actual 7/1/08 to 2/28/09	% of Proposed
1. Personnel					
	Coordinator	Hired	\$40,170	\$24,675	61.43%
	EnvS Admin	Clerical	\$5,000		0.00%
	Grad Student		\$5,000	\$2,678	53.56%
	Faculty Stipend	\$1,000 x20	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
		Total personnel	\$70,170	\$27,353	38.98%
2. Fringe benefits					
	Coordinator	35%	\$15,468	\$9,742	62.98%
	EnvS Admin		\$178		
	Grad Student	1%	\$50	\$156	
	Faculty Stipend	22%	\$4,370	\$0	0.00%
		Total fringe	\$20,066	\$9,898	49.33%
3. Equipment/capital expenditure					
		Total equipment			
4. Travel					
	domestic		\$500		0.00%
	international				
		Total travel	\$500	\$0	0.00%
5. Other direct costs					
	a. Materials and supplies		\$4,312	\$152	3.51%
	b. Publications/documents		\$0	\$59	
	c. Consultant services				
	d. Computer services				
	e. Subawards		\$15,000	\$15,000	100.00%
	f. Other		\$5,895	\$5,545	94.07%
		Total other directs	\$25,207	\$20,756	82.34%
		Total budget	\$115,943	\$58,007	50.03%

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Personnel:

25% of Sustainability Coordinator salary now covered by central administration.

Other direct costs:

Telephone services: \$219.72

Sustainability webinar: \$980

Greening Curriculum Grant: Given in lieu of faculty stipend. \$3675

Special check fee for late placement on system: \$50

Tree planting seedling purchase: \$621

Total budget reflects new money for FY08 - \$90,000 and a carry forward of \$25,665. For FY 2009, we project \$6500 in carry forward.

Signatures of the Principals:

____Maxine Dakins/md____ 2/28/09____
Name Date

____Christine Dixon/cd____ 2/28/09____
Name Date

Agenda for National Teach-In, Feb. 4-5, 2009

- Moderator: Dr. Stephen Mulkey, Environmental Science Program Director

February 4th	SUB Borah Theater	
1:30-2:20	Webcast: "Solutions for the First 100 Days"	Featuring David Orr, Hunter Lovins, Betsy Taylor, Ray Anderson, Dianne Dillon-Ridgely, Jessy Tolkan, Billy Parish and Wahlea Johns
2:30-4:00	Climate Justice: How Developing Nations are Affected by Global Warming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video screening and discussion 	Emma Farnsworth (Vice President, UI Oxfam America Club)

February 5th	SUB Silver/Gold Room	
9:30-10:30	Climate Change 101: What is it and How Will it Affect the Palouse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two 20-minute talks with Q&A session to follow 	Von Walden (Geography) Karen Humes (Geography)
10:45-11:15	Misunderstanding Climate Change	Stephen Mulkey (Director, Environmental Science Program)
11:15-12:00	Designing for Climate Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion with faculty and students from the College of Art and Architecture 	Bruce Haglund (Architecture and Interior Design) Jacob Dunn (Architecture Master's student) Heather Bergh (Architecture Master's student) Phillip Mead (Architecture and Interior Design)
12:00-12:45	Break for lunch	
12:45-1:15	Welcome	UI President Steven Daley-Laursen City of Moscow Mayor Nancy Chaney
1:15-2:00	Keynote Address: "Climate Change and Society: Social Impacts, Adaptation, and Mitigation Strategies"	Gary Machlis (Forest Resources)
2:10-2:30	Every Day Solutions: Simple Steps to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint	UI Sustainability Center Student Programs staff
2:30-3:00	How Do We Measure Up? Assessing the Carbon Footprint of the University of Idaho and City of Moscow	Darin Saul (UI Sustainability Coordinator and Sustainability Center Director) Heather Smith (senior, Landscape Architecture and Sustainability Intern at the City of Moscow)
3:15-4:00	What Motivates Action? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • panel discussion 	Leontina Hormel (Sociology), Adam Sowards (History), Lissa Firor (UI Sustainability Center) Jim Ekins (CAPP Service Learning Center), Jason Johnstone-Yellin (Philosophy)

4:15-5:00	Ecological Future of the Palouse: Planning for a Climate Destabilized World <ul style="list-style-type: none">• panel discussion with UI scientists from the College of Natural Resources	Lisette Waits (Fish and Wildlife Resources), Penelope Morgan (Forest Resources) J. Michael Scott (Fish and Wildlife Resources)
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