

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Strategic Initiative: *Sustainable Idaho Initiative (SII)*

Name: *Maxine Dakins, Chris Dixon*

Reporting Period: *March 2009-June 2009*

HIGHLIGHT

The book "Future Visions of a Sustainable Palouse," created by Gundars Rudzitis (Geography) and his team of UI faculty, staff and students, has sold out in just a matter of months! The creation of the book was funded by a Sustainable Idaho grant in spring 2007. Rudzitis originally printed 200 copies for distribution to the UI Bookstore, Moscow Food Co-Op, and BookPeople of Moscow this spring. Those copies sold out by June 2009. The team is now working with the Eastern Washington University Press to not only print a 2nd edition of the original book, but also create an academic version of the book and website for use in college/university courses.

Bill McKibben, environmental writer and climate activist whose book [Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future](#) will be the common read for all fall 2009 UI freshman, commented "we need a book like this for every corner of the country." McKibben said he would be honored to have his comments included in the next printing of "Future Visions of a Sustainable Palouse," and agreed to write a blurb for the 2nd edition.

All proceeds from sales of "Future Visions" are donated to the Sustainable Idaho Initiative.

ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION

Darin Saul, UI Sustainability Coordinator and Director of the UI Sustainability Center (UISC), established numerous partnerships with faculty across eight colleges to bring sustainability concepts and activities into more than 15 classrooms during the 2008-2009 academic year. Activities associated with these classes are described in the "Management" section of this report.

A Greening the Curriculum Request for Proposals was prepared and distributed in April, 2009. As in 2008, the RFP requested projects to design new courses or re-design existing courses to include sustainability concepts. This year, the RFP also requested that proposals address 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.

Seven projects were selected, with awards totaling \$17,860. Faculty received funding for summer salaries, travel to workshops/conferences, and for student salaries.

CORE 125/175, section 4 (PIs Darin Saul and Chris Dixon, \$2000): The project will create a new section of CORE 125/175, “The Earth and Our Place on It,” with a new curriculum that addresses the concepts outlined above.

ENGL 404/504, “Sustainability and Environmental Justice” (PI Jan Johnson, \$2000): The project will revise a previous literature course on environmental justice to include more explicit sustainability concepts along with service learning and other collaborative learning opportunities with the Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene tribes.

CE 504, “Sustainable Transportation and Community Design” (PI Michael Lowry, \$1986): This project will create a new course that explores how community design can make transportation systems more sustainable by promoting non-motorized travel and carpooling. The class will engage in a service learning project to provide transportation planning services to a local community.

Integration of sustainability principles throughout the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (HPERD) core curriculum (PIs Helen Brown, Grace Goc Karp, and Emma Grindley, \$3878): Three faculty will review all core course objectives, assessments, and curricula in summer 2009. Recommendations for increasing sustainability pedagogy, lab practice, field work and service learning will be presented to the Core Course faculty by June 30, 2009 for inclusion in fall 2009 and spring 2010 course syllabi.

CORE 125/175, “The Earth and Our Place on It” (PI Robert Goodrich, \$2000): This project will revise an existing course to include a hands-on service learning component in which students will create and operate a “free-cycling” site to reduce waste by collecting and redistributing unwanted items.

MET/MSE 407, “Materials Fabrication” (PI Indrajit Charit, \$1996): This project will revise an existing course by “greening” the course content to incorporate current and emerging green manufacturing concepts/practices in all aspects of materials fabrication.

Integration of sustainability principles with Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACTE) curricula (PIs Laura Holyoke, Michael Kroth, James Gregson, Janel Kerr, \$4000): The project will infuse sustainability into the curriculum of four key courses in the program in order to address issues of social, economic, political and organizational sustainability.

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 are close to completion and final reports are due soon. 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. The team ordered and distributed 41 quart recycling bins to all residence hall rooms, developed marketing materials for single stream recycling, and recruited Residence Hall Sustainable Ambassadors (RHSA). The RHSA members facilitated RecycleMania, a 10-week nationwide competition between universities to see who can collect the most recyclables and reduce the most waste. Marketing materials included campus posters and flyers, and weekly emails to all residence hall students on educational topics related to RecycleMania and single stream recycling. The team also added a “Sustainable

Initiatives” link to the UI Housing website that highlights the Single Stream Recycling program, the recycling bins, resources and other University Housing projects or initiatives.

- 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 developed 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 had collaborated with the UI Family and Consumer Sciences Department to assess the current menu and develop new menu options. In spring they began purchasing local fresh produce where available, including purchasing food from UI Soil Stewards, and 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. Final report due Dec. 1, 2009.
- Dr. Erik Anderson headed 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 expanded 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. In winter, Anderson 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 also developed a survey to assess faculty and staff knowledge and attitudes about recycling and began work on the Coeur d’Alene Campus recycling web site and promotional items. Final report due Aug. 31, 2009.
- The final project, “HOPE Garden: Moscow’s Accessible Community Garden”, received \$1,500. Dr. Matthew Wappett and his team constructed 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. 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 in the spring. Dr. Wappett’s Core Discovery class assisted with fundraising and ground preparation during spring semester. On Saturday, April 18th, volunteers turned out in large numbers to start construction on the site. Final report pending....

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 former President White’s climate change initiatives, he is working with the student staff of the Sustainability Center on projects that increase the sustainability of UI operations and encourage a culture of sustainability on campus and beyond. Recent activities include:

Waste and Recycling

- Waste minimization and recycling Request for Innovation (RFI) proposal selected for implementation. 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.
- UISC collaborated with 23 students from BUS 478 "Business Management" class to develop zero waste program for UISC and recycling and waste management program for Kibbie Dome sports events. Tailgating recycling will begin in fall 2009.
- Starting in fall 2009, UI Sustainability Center staff and volunteers will initiate "green glove" consulting for minimal waste events. For a small fee, event hosts will be able to hire the UISC's "green glove" team to help them create a low- or zero-waste event by reducing packaging and disposable flatware, increasing recycling and composting, providing locally produced food, and other activities.
- Conducted a waste audit of 10 solid waste dumpsters on the UI campus; some 200 students from the EnvS 102 course participated as part of a service learning activity. The audit determined that 38% of items thrown away could be recycled using UI's current recycling system, and another 30% could be composted. Recycling or composting 68% of the UI waste stream has the potential to save tens of thousands of dollars in solid waste disposal costs and reduce our carbon footprint.
- UISC student staff held E-waste collection event to collect old ink cartridges, cell phones, and batteries for recycling.
- UISC student staff provided consulting for the American Cancer Society on how to make their Relay for Life event more sustainable. Staff partnered with Moscow Recycling to supply recycling and composting bins, and helped event coordinators choose environmentally sustainable marketing products.
- Facilitated RecycleMania competition 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.
- 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. Paper towels will also be composted.

Food Systems

- A collaboration between Campus Dining and PREEC (dairy, beef and sheep center), initiated through the UISC food system subcommittee, will result in the following starting in fall 2009:
 - Campus Dining will obtain its milk from the UI Dairy, saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting milk from Spokane.
 - All food waste generated through dining services will be composted at PREEC composting bays rather than added to the waste stream.
 - Oil used in dining services food preparation (fryer oil, etc.) will be donated to the UI Dairy for use as a food supplement for dairy cows rather than being thrown away.
- UI Facilities set aside a parcel of campus land to develop a Soil Stewards organic demonstration garden.
- UI Field Campus began a composting program to reduce food waste, use compost in growing native vegetation on the campus, and educate McCall Outdoor Science School participants about the composting process.
- UI Field campus began sourcing local vegetables, grass-fed beef, and organic milk for the dining services.

Energy/Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Worked 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.
- 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.

Transportation

- UI Steam Plant installed a free air station on 6th street to encourage people to bike to campus, and plans to install another station at the Commons.
- Partnered with the Village Bicycle Project to host multiple free bicycle repair clinics through the 2008-09 academic year.
- Collaborated with other campus and community organizations to promote Bike to Work Day and the Environmentally Friendly Car Show

Biodiversity

- Initiated substantial native habitats restoration program involving several faculty, staff and community partners. Identified 8 sections of campus land and 40 off-campus acres for native planting projects as part of the “Get Rooted” program.
- Helped the Shoshone-Bannock tribe coordinate a stream restoration project in southern Idaho.

Service Learning and Student Projects

- Worked with close to 500 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
 - 160 students from ENVS 102 and two CORE courses planted 700 native plants and trees on campus as part of the UISC’s “Get Rooted” native planting project.
- Funded eight student sustainability mini-grants totaling approximately \$13,000. Projects included:
 - Installing solar-powered fans and ventilation pieces on the Soil Stewards’ hoop house to increase the growing season
 - Collection and composting of coffee/tea grounds produced by UI Dining Services and local coffee sellers.
 - Investigating the carbon footprints of campus diners based on emissions from transportation and production, and developing awareness-raising campaign using newspaper, digital ads, and clothing.
 - Production and distribution of informational, educational and fictional videos that communicate the University of Idaho's commitment to creating an economic, environmental and socially sustainable future.
 - Comparing two different cover crops, Winter Triticale and Austrian Winter Peas, to determine which crop improves overall soil quality and long-term sustainability of the farm.
 - Creating green space through the development of two native vegetation gardens.
 - Installing recycling bins in the College of Law Library and providing educational materials to Law students about the value of recycling
 - Using Kill-O-Watt meters to measure energy consumption differences of different models of computers and changing built-in power setting.
- The UISC partnered with several organizations to put on events during Earth Week. Collaborators included the university’s Environmental Club, Campus Dining, the College of Natural Resources Student Affairs Council, the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, the Associated Students of the University of Idaho (ASUI) Center for Volunteerism and Social Action, Facilities Services, and the University of Idaho chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students.

General

- 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 February and June 2009. The series will be reinstated for the 2009/2010 academic year, and will feature the following activities for fall:

- A tour of the green roof at the Students Union Building
- A tour of campus vegetation
- A presentation on campus food systems across the U.S. (and how they compare to the UI system)
- A presentation and tour on the Paradise Creek Restoration project
- A presentation on the Kibbie Dome parking lot recycling program implemented in fall 2009 by Tracie Lee's Business students
- A tour of the steam plant

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.
- Improve the recycling program on the UI campus by continuing to work toward single stream co-mingled recycling system across campus.
- Continue work to activate the UI President's Climate Commitments.
- Continue working with Sodexo on improving sustainability of food service operations at UI.
 - Localize purchasing as much as possible and host "Eat Local" day at Commons and Bob's (Wallace)
 - Increase healthy food options available through Catering, Bob's (Wallace), and the Commons
 - Provide improved nutrition information through e-Display at Bob's (Wallace), better ingredient labeling, and list of gluten-free foods
 - Continue food waste reduction education at Bob's (Wallace) and collaborate to make zero waste events the standard at UI
- Coordinate with students at the Sustainability Center to hold awareness-creating events at New Student Orientation, Palousafest, and monthly throughout the Fall & Spring Semesters.
- 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 6/30/09	% of Proposed
1. Personnel					
	Coordinator	Hired	\$40,170	\$35,490	88.35%
	EnvS Admin	Clerical	\$5,000		0.00%
	Grad Student		\$5,000	\$3,427	68.54%
	Faculty Stipend	\$1,000 x20	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
		Total personnel	\$70,170	\$38,917	55.46%
2. Fringe benefits					
	Coordinator	35%	\$15,468	\$14,014	90.60%
	EnvS Admin		\$178		
	Grad Student	1%	\$50	\$195	
	Faculty Stipend	22%	\$4,370	\$0	0.00%
		Total fringe	\$20,066	\$14,210	70.81%
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	\$1,051	24.37%
	b. Publications/documents		\$0	\$59	
	c. Consultant services			\$158	
	d. Computer services				
	e. Subawards		\$15,000	\$15,000	100.00%
	f. Other		\$5,895	\$20,856	353.81%
		Total other directs	\$25,207	\$37,124	147.28%
		Total budget	\$115,943	\$90,251	77.84%

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Personnel:

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

Other direct costs:

Telephone services: \$327.46

Sustainability webinar: \$980

Greening Curriculum Grants: Given in lieu of faculty stipend. \$18534.12*

*An additional \$6,000 in Greening Curriculum Grants have been awarded, but not yet expensed from the budget.

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

Tree planting seedling purchase: \$1014.75

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____ 6/30/09____
Name Date

____Christine Dixon/cd____ 6/30/09____
Name Date