Wartburg College

WWW.WARTBURG.EDU

The purpose of this presentation is to summarize the feedback which was gathered during the Sustainability Forums on October 1 & 2, 2012.

Full responses can be requested from sustainability@wartburg.edu.

CURRICULUM

Where do you already see sustainability in the curriculum?

◆ IS101

◆ Sciences (Bio, enviro, etc.)

◆ Peace and Justice

◆ Classes going paperless

What ideas do you have for ways to infuse sustainability across the curriculum?

- ID courses
- Non-major courses
- Technology utilization to reduce waste
  - Educator training to utilize
  - Student training to embrace
  - Cost sharing to make affordable
  - Enhancement to Wartburg resources to make them easier to use

How can Wartburg College's curriculum be improved to prepare students for a more sustainable lifestyle, professionally and personally?

- Sustainability Major

- Incorporate across curriculum

- Cross discipline courses, ex. Bible & environment

- Exit course about sustainable living post-grad

- Educate on how to utilize technology post-grad

- Sustainability as it applies to professional world

How can we better utilize the vision of leaving a smaller footprint in recruiting and retaining prospective students, faculty, and staff at Wartburg College?

- Paperless – it is the expectation of gen Z
- "Toot your own horn"
- Include in Admissions and Recruitment
  - Water bottles instead of tees to prospectives

Our Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions Goal is a 50% cutback from 2005 emissions by 2050, with interim goals of 1% by 2012 and 11% by 2020.

We have already reached 18%, more than our 2020 goal!

FACILITIES

What obstacles do you see hindering individuals and departments from taking actions to help reach GHG goals?

- Education on the issues
- Emphasize individual actions
- Motivate participation, incentivize
- Lack of awareness
- Campus Ethos
- Self-centeredness of some students

What suggestions do you have to help individuals and departments take actions to help reach GHG goals?

Department or College

◆ Overnight oversight
◆ Concentrate on 1st Years
◆ Follow-up on complaints
◆ Programmable thermostats
◆ Continuing Ed
◆ Provide usage reports
◆ Motion/light/audio sensors
◆ Energy conserving devices
◆ More recycling in athletics
◆ IS or ID course

Individuals

◆ Start with turning off lights
◆ Shut off public TV's
◆ Ride a bicycle
◆ Computer shutdowns
◆ Carpooling
◆ Printing controls
◆ Registry for shared travel
  • Staff or conferences, airports
  • Students to get home

Should future construction projects, including new construction and remodeling, follow LEED?

◆ Follow standards, but don't pay for certification

◆ Ideally yes, but look into variables

◆ Yes

What living-learning variables need to be considered in new design?

◆ Individual and consistent climate control

◆ Furniture build sustainably

◆ Available technology, consistent internet

◆ Natural elements: light, furniture

◆ Room layout and bathrooms like home

◆ Developers might not consider it because it is expensive, but see results in long run

"Doing things which are sustainable while people are young helps them learn and develop behaviors which can pass up and down the generations."

- Forum participant

DINING SERVICES

How important is going green in dining to the Wartburg mission? Do students notice the difference?

◆ Important, saving environment and good PR

◆ Students noticed changes on front side, unaware of back of house improvements

Should sustainable dining measures be done only if it is cost-saving or cost-neutral?

◆ Have to start somewhere, even if costs more

◆ Use full environmental accounting when figuring costs, not just money

◆ Clear explanation of decision would help understand full costs

◆ Willing to support increased costs if explained

How much more are you willing to spend, if any, to increase sustainable dining measures?

◆ If doing a *real* good, worth 20%

◆ Important to know why if costs change

◆ Consider hidden freight costs to compare local purchases or compost management

◆ Waste reduction should be first

◆ Cost reduction should be first

Do you feel the opinion about costs of sustainable dining are different for faculty/staff than those of students?

◆ Yes

◆ Students don't see the connection between waste, cost and long term and wise spread impacts

◆ Students may not care

How should composting be weighed against other things?

◆ More important to work on removing non-perishable items from operations

◆ A move in the right direction

◆ Cost acceptable in reflection of long term savings

If composting was available to you as a diner would you sort your waste?

◆ May be a disconnect between verbal support and follow-through

◆ Should be well labeled with list of included items and people training

◆ More compost would make it worth costs

How important is the garden to the Wartburg mission?

◆ Very important

◆ Mostly for looks

◆ Mentoring opportunity

◆ Possible work study positions

◆ Part of summer school

What suggestions do you have to make it possible to continue the garden?

- Mentoring opportunity
- Possible work study positions
- Part of summer school
- Create Wartburg farmers market
- Benefits to students who work in summer

Do you have other questions and/or ideas regarding sustainability in dining?

◆ Can the greenhouse be used to raise food?

◆ Reinstate silverware return amnesty

◆ Communicate what is happening already

◆ Changing board plans could impact retention

NATURAL RESOURCES

Is the up front cost of watershed management techniques worth the environmental and educational benefits?

◆ Yes, as long as tuition not increased

◆ Living lab, service opportunities

◆ Be a good example

◆ Any long run benefits need to be considered

◆ IS class dedicated to issues

◆ Graywater collection

Reducing mowing and changing areas to sustainable landscaping which does not require manicuring could, reduce fuel consumption and maintenance demands.

Acceptable at Wartburg?

- Some no, some yes
- If doesn't distract image
- Need alumni acceptance
- Education and signage
- Most people wont' notice
- Listen to grounds staff
- Look to specific space, specific need

Suggested Locations?

- D-lot area
- Shady areas of Old Main
- Rain and rock gardens around drains
- Around the W
- West side of Science Center
- Dry Run Creek
- North of Manors

How could we change service level perceptions to accomplish cost reductions and reduce environmental impacts?

- Engage students
  - Mensa marble poll
  - Planning and implementation
- Experiment with mowing frequency in correlation with feedback
- Consistency across campus
- Announce plan at community event like homecoming so changes explained

WASTE MANAGEMENT

How can we decrease material coming into the college to avoid having waste later?

◆ Going paperless - lots of opportunities

◆ Promote personal use of non disposables (silverware, cups, and mugs)

◆ Consolidate dept. material orders

◆ Work with incoming students to be mindful

What are obstacles to reducing waste?

◆ Product packaging

◆ Minimum orders

◆ Lack of control over vendors (perceived)

◆ Lack of awareness of waste disposal options

What are obstacles to recycling?

◆ Lack of awareness of options

◆ Lack of widespread knowledge

◆ Sabotage/laziness

◆ Responsibility and accountability

How do we increase participation by students?

◆ Increase education/awareness

◆ Incentives
  • Return recycling revenue to students
  • "Get caught"
  • Prizes
  • Competitions

◆ Peer pressure

◆ Integrate into curriculum

How do we increase participation by faculty & staff ?

◆ Help them learn how to use less in their teaching methods
  • Figure out why they are not already using methods; help overcome challenges
◆ Encourage to set an example
◆ Discourage students from printing PPT's
◆ Tests on computer
◆ Greater use of technology (my.wartburg, e-books)
◆ Research validity of newer text editions or if full text is necessary.

How can we make the transition from printed to electronic resources work more efficiently and effectively?

◆ Reliable internet access

◆ Better technology support
- Improve my.wartburg
- Server capacities

◆ Help educators transition to web based

We asked participants to openly provide their ideas. This is a summary of the most feasible ideas, not yet mentioned elsewhere, categorized into faculty, student, operations, and miscellaneous.

OTHER IDEAS

Other ideas…(for people)

◆ Reuse scan-tron test packets for multiple sections.

◆ Constant reminders of sustainability

◆ Bigger event for move out

• Help with summer storage to promote reuse

Other ideas…(for operations)

- Harness energy from The W machines
- Remove TV's from W locker rooms
- Return to serving baskets in the Den

Other ideas…(for facilities)

◆ High efficiency washer and dryers

◆ Hand dryers with better effectiveness

◆ Installation of solar arrays and geo-thermal

◆ More bike racks

Other ideas…(miscellaneous)

- Reduce number of Trumpets being printed
- Reduce readership papers ordered (done)
- Connect housing costs to utility usage
- Improve visibility of Sustainability office programs and impacts
- Sustainability convocation

What are you willing to do as an individual to reduce the footprint of the college? (this is the complete list!)

- Be more efficient, do more….
- Get in classes as part of curriculum
- Service trips – buy carbon footprint offsets.
- E-books and options.
- Reusable water bottles
- Unplugging when we leave for the weekend
- Recycle more, use a reusable water bottle, buy used books, terracycle more, use Reuse(d), be more involved in sustainable organizations
- Turn off lights, unplug electronics, and clean up recyclable containers.
- Get involved in activities from Sustainability on Campus. Constantly remind people about recycling. Encourage an ethics of being responsible for your own garbage.
- Ride bikes

Note from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Thank you to all the participants who took time to provide feedback. It was great to see the ideas individuals generated through group discussions.

There was a theme which flowed throughout the comments that I want to address because it is most effective way we can make a BIG change in our sustainability efforts. There were recommendations for the installation of control devices (lighting motion sensors, shower timer controls, providing "real" table service, etc).

What if choose to live in a more sustainable manner in lieu of asking the college to spend already limited resources on these control measures?

What if you shut off the lights, even if you didn't leave them on? Reminded your roommates to keep the showers short? Called out a peer when you saw them throw away a recyclable? Brought your own cup and silverware to the den? The final question we asked was "what are you willing to do as an individual to reduce the college footprint?" and we had the least amount of applicable feedback on this point. Living sustainably is everyone's individual choice and should not be forced. We re in the position we are because of personal decisions and that is the most effective way for us to create change.

The ideas which were brought up at the sustainability forum will be shared with the people who control the elements. At next years forum we will provide an update on progress. In the meantime please contact me with any thoughts or concerns you have at anne.duncan@wartburg.edu.

Sincerely,

Anne Duncan

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator