

# Overview of Portland State University's Sustainability Programs



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# Our Sustainability Goals



- Portland State as “**university of choice**” for sustainability education and research
- Graduates known for “**sustainability literacy**”
- Graduates are **leaders** in developing and implementing sustainable practices
- Portland State recognized **nationally and globally** as top-tier university around **Sustainable Urban Communities**
- Portland State linked with region through **living laboratories of sustainable practices**

# Core Principles

- Integration across Disciplines
- Becoming a “Living Laboratory”
- Community Partnerships
- Campus Operations  
as Model



## Recognition of PSU's Leadership

- \$25 million challenge gift from James and Marion Miller Foundation
- Largest gift to academic sustainability programs in history
- 10 year investment
  - Enhancing Student experience
  - Strengthening Research and Curricular programs
  - Community engagement

# Enhancing Student Experience

## Fiscal Year 08-09

- Idea Generator Event
- 15 student projects were funded
- Student Sustainability Leadership Position
- Graduate Certificate in Sustainability

## Fiscal Year 09-10

- GRAs
- Undergrad Fellowships
- Internships
- Travel

# Sustainability Leadership Center

## Our Mission:

- Enhance student success by fostering sustainability engagement and leadership opportunities
- Encourage collaboration between students, staff and faculty in the organization, planning and creation of our University through hands-on learning and civic ecology
- Ensure that students develop the appropriate knowledge, skills, and values to act as leaders in their future careers, lifestyle choices and local and global communities

# Outreach and Communication

- [Ecowiki.pdx.edu](http://Ecowiki.pdx.edu)
- Weekly Bulletin
- Campus Sustainability Pledge
- Tabling and events
- Campus sustainability tours
- New student orientations
- Sustainability ambassadors program



# Active Student Initiatives

- Take Back the Tap
- Campus Learning Garden
- GreenSpace
- Earth Week Festival
- The Green Initiative Fund
- Student Sustainability Council
- Go Green Video Campaign



# Student Sustainability Staff

- Sustainability Leadership Center
- Campus Sustainability Office
- Center for Sustainable Processes and Practices
- Campus Recreation
- PSU Recycles!
- Women's Resource Center Sustainability Task Force
- Residence Life
- Transportation Options



# Student Groups

- Environmental Club
- Bicycle Advocacy Committee
- Students for Leadership, Ecology, Culture and Learning (SLECL)
- Permaculture Guild
- Look Up See Green
- Food for Thought Cafe



# Sustainability Events

- Sustainability Resume Workshop
- Careers in Sustainability panel series
- EcoDistrict Civic Engagement Breakfasts
- Student leadership forums
- Social sustainability and diversity forums
- Zero-waste workshops and composting
- National Sustainability Education Week
- Earth Week Festival

# Learn More:

- Sustainability Directory:  
<http://ecowiki.pdx.edu/contact-us.html>
- Email: [psueco@pdx.edu](mailto:psueco@pdx.edu)
- Twitter: “PSU EcoWiki”
- Facebook: “Portland State Sustainability Leadership Center”

# Faculty Research & Curriculum

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

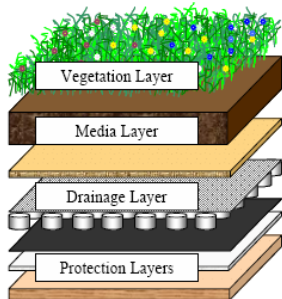
- RFP 1 – 21 proposals funded
- RFP 2 – 10 proposals funded

Other

- Hired 3 new faculty
- 3 Post-Docs
- 2 Distinguished Visiting Scholars

# Examples of Sustainability Research

- Ecosystem Services
- Green Buildings
- Leadership for Sustainable Development
- International Programs (China, Vietnam)



# Additional \$6 Million in “Challenge” Funding - 2008-09

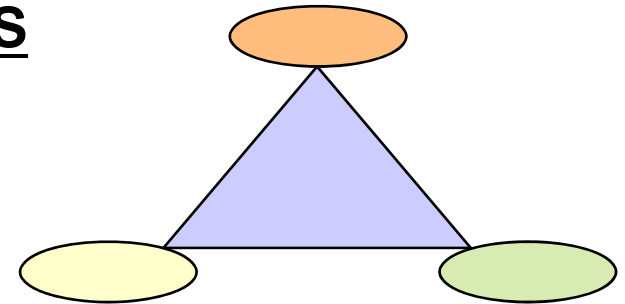
Examples:

- National Science Foundation
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - Ford Foundation
  - U.S. Green Building Council
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- + other private and public sources.

## Sustainability Curricula - Examples

- Graduate Certificate in Sustainability
- MBA program internationally ranked for sustainability
- Undergraduate Sustainability and Global Environmental Change Clusters, Minors in Environment and Urban Design
- BS/BA degrees in Environmental Studies
- Many graduate/undergrad courses across disciplines:  
Examples:

- Sustainable Enterprise Management
- Sustainable Development Implementation
- Sustainability Policies and Practices
- Sustainable Community Development
- Public Leadership for Sustainability



# Community Partnerships

- EcoDistricts
- Oregon Sustainability Center
- TriMet Transit Hub

**Learn more**

**[www.pdx.edu/sustainability](http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability)**

# Context: American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)

- Requirements
  - Track Emissions
  - Write a plan to reduce the emissions
- 663 Signatories,  
including all members  
of OUS

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Context: Climate Legislation

- Oregon
  - Federal Cap and Trade
  - State Renewable Portfolio Standards (OR 25% by 2025)
  - City's Climate Action Plan



# Aligning with other Efforts

- PSU Framework Plan
- City's Climate Action Plan
- EcoDistricts
- BPS Bike Master Plan
- TriMet's Transit Expansion Plans

# Emission Category: Buildings

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
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## Goal:

- *Reduce square foot energy use of conditioned space 20% below 2000 levels by 2015*

## Initial Steps:

- Complete metering system for Buildings
- Hire a certified energy manager

## 11 Strategies for this Category

- Example Strategy: Replace Boilers with a Cogeneration Plant
  - Actions:
    - 1) Seek other grants or ongoing loan programs to support construction
    - 2) Assess the total carbon reduction potential
    - 3) Review contractual commitments for utilities

# Growth and Emissions

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

- PSU Plans to Reach Carbon Neutrality by 2050
- Challenges:
  - Costs
  - Institutional Learning Curve
  - Growth
  - Retrofitting buildings