



Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability (JCES)

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

JCES Charge from Chancellor Joe Gow

Included at the end of this document is the charge letter from Chancellor Gow for the 2009-2010 academic year. The charge was quite broad as illustrated by this excerpt:

"I look forward to hearing more about the committee members' ideas about how JCES can best work to help our campus to continue to move forward in our sustainability efforts."

JCES Initiated and/or Supported Accomplishments: 2009-2010

During the 2008-2009 academic year, JCES formed three working groups: ecological literacy, institutional ecology, and outreach and partnerships. These working groups, consisting of committee members and other interested individuals, were maintained during the 2009-2010 academic year. Below is a list of JCES initiatives and projects. For several of these projects, JCES collaborated extensively with other organizations within our region.

- JCES coordinated a UW System-wide effort to encourage all UW campuses to request that the President of the UW System establish a **President's Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability (PAHCS)**. If created, PAHCS likely would be charged with developing a unified vision statement for the System and the formation of a standing committee to determine the future course of sustainability within the UW System.
- JCES is working towards development of an **environmentally preferable purchasing policy**. A draft policy has been developed, and the next phase of this project is committee review. Products and services covered by this policy would have a reduced negative effect on human health and the environment.
- JCES, in collaboration with University Centers, received **Environmental Sustainability Reserve (Green Fund) support to purchase an electric vehicle**. The vehicle will be used by University Centers to transport compostable food waste, distribute student newspapers, move Event Support Services equipment, and transport staff between Whitney, Cartwright, and Facilities Maintenance buildings.
- JCES worked closely with the Student Association and the La Crosse Municipal Transit Utility (MTU) to **explore possibilities for a new MTU bus circulator route** to target heavily student populated

neighborhoods in the City of La Crosse. The goal of the route is to bring students to the academic core of campus via a more frequent pick-up and departure schedule.

- For a second year, **UW-L participated in RecycleMania during spring semester 2010**. RecycleMania is a friendly, annual competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Over a 10-week period, UW-L reported recycling and trash data that was then ranked according to which campus collected the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, and the highest recycling rate. During this year's RecycleMania, UW-L increased its recycling rate from 23.53% to 29.74%.
- Updated **UW-L's recycling website** (<http://www.uwlax.edu/fpm/recycling>). The new site provides recycling data and an enhanced description on what, how, and where to recycle depending on your location either on or off campus.
- **University Centers expanded the UW-L composting program** to include post-consumer compostable vegetable and fruit waste from Whitney Center.
- Analyzed and implemented a plan to **enhance recycling container availability and signage in campus facilities**. Several exterior recycling containers will be placed in various locations on campus during the summer of 2010. These containers will be purchased through a Green Fund approved funding request.
- Facilities Planning and Management worked with Residence Life to submit a proposal and receive **Green Fund approval to replace all Residence Life showerheads** with units that have a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute instead of the current flow rate of 4.9 gallons per minute. This initiative will save Residence Life approximately \$150,000 per year, reduce steam demand by approximately 9 million pounds per year, reduce annual water consumption by approximately 14 million gallons and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 1.7 million pounds per year. These new showerheads will be installed during the summer of 2010.
- University Centers submitted and received Green Fund approval to **replace 50W halogen incandescent flood bulbs and 60W incandescent bulbs in Cartwright Center during the summer of 2010. The LED replacement bulbs will be 3W and 5.5W respectively**.
- Facilities Planning and Management worked with the Recreational Eagle Center (REC) building management staff to submit a proposal and receive **Green Fund approval to replace at least 70% of the lighting in the REC**. This initiative will reduce electrical demand by approximately 230,000 kilowatt hours/year and result in savings of approximately \$19,000 per year. The upgrade will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 400,000 pounds per year. This project has been initiated with a tentative completion date of January 2011.
- JCES outreach to the WI Department of Administration, with the help of Environmental Council, opened communication about the **future of burning coal at UW-La Crosse**. On April 23 JCES hosted

David Helbach from the Division of State Facilities for an open discussion about sustainability, buildings, and the future of state heating plants.

- **Estimated UW-L's travel-related carbon emission footprint** resulting from (1) campus sources, (2) purchased electricity, and (3) transportation, e.g., university vehicles, personal vehicles (including commuting by staff and students), air travel, etc. Completed pilot studies to analyze travel expense report (TER) data and evaluate possible carbon offset options. There was an undergraduate research poster presentation by Turner et al. during spring 2010.
- **JCES was represented on the planning committee of the La Crosse Earth Week Coalition (LEWC)**, a local organization that planned events, performances, and lectures, primarily during the month of April, to coincide with Earth Day. Events this year featuring UW-L involvement included:
 - **Will Allen**, urban farmer, founder, and CEO of Growing Power, Inc., spoke at UW-L on April 13, 2010. Mr. Allen is a 2008 MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant Award winner. He was also named one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people for 2010.
 - UW-L was represented at both the **Earth Fair and Green Expo** on April 24 in La Crosse. The Earth Fair was a family-oriented event held at the Three Rivers Waldorf School. The Green Expo at Western Technical College's Lunda Center was an opportunity for earth-friendly businesses and organizations to connect with the community.
 - JCES and Environmental Council helped organize **Green Rock Fest** April 23 at Concordia Ballroom, featuring the FurLow Riders.
 - The film **Fresh** promoting the benefits of local, sustainable agriculture was shown at UW-L.
 - JCES coordinated the presentation of Coulee Region landscape photographs by Robert J. Hurt during a **lecture and performance by three-time Grammy award winner Bill Miller**.
 - **A representative from JCES presented to curriculum coordinators at CESA 4** about teaching and learning resources related to sustainability and environmental education for K-12 schools. A "K-12 Educational Resources" web page (<http://www.uwlax.edu/sustainability/html/educational-resources.htm>) was created on the www.uwlax.edu/sustainability website.

Committee Recommendations to Chancellor Gow

1. Make sustainability a campus and administrative priority for UW-L.

- UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Milwaukee have been named to Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. UW-River Falls has the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development. UW-Green Bay has the following in its mission statement: *Environmental research and applied ecological sciences were the focus of the institution's educational philosophy at its inception. UW-Green Bay continues to market a tradition of*

being an environmentally-focused campus with a strong commitment to ecological research. The Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability feels it is very important that UW-L administration makes sustainability a priority during all aspects of campus planning and decision making. This should include, but not be limited to, our campus master plan, building projects, curricular and academic development, purchasing, dining, heating and cooling, transportation, grounds maintenance, and energy and water conservation. JCES believes embracing sustainability is the right thing to do economically, socially, and environmentally. It is also a powerful recruiting tool to attract students, faculty, and staff to our campus.

2. Develop a comprehensive campus sustainability plan.

- The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Princeton University, the University of California-Berkeley, and many more university campuses have developed comprehensive sustainability plans. As stated in the UW-Oshkosh sustainability plan, their campus will **“conduct all aspects of campus operations in a fashion that is ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable. The campus will assume a leadership role in the effort to create a truly sustainable campus with the goal to have a net zero impact upon the climate and environment.”**
- For UW-La Crosse to continue as a highly regarded institution of higher education, leadership in sustainability is essential. A sustainability plan for our campus will act as a guide to move UW-La Crosse forward in an economically, socially, and environmentally responsible manner.

3. Committees evaluating campus building projects and the campus master plan should include student and faculty/staff representation, with at least one of those representatives being a current member of JCES.

- The current Campus Master Plan includes the text below (section three, page 42). JCES representation on campus building and master plan committees would be an asset to these efforts.

“The university should strive to achieve integrative and collaborative design and construction practices that significantly reduce the consumption of resources wherever feasible. To do this, UW-L will initiate an audit of current sustainability practices on campus and develop policies for future facilities and that outline ways to enhance the sustainability of day-to-day maintenance and the delivery of services. The guidelines and policies that result from this process will become an amendment to this plan and should be consulted in conjunction with all new campus development. **The ultimate goal is to create structures and spaces that promote both environmental and human health on campus.”**


Committee Membership

Member Name	Campus Affiliation
Wayne "Buzz" Bocher	Faculty
Jean Bonde	Classified Staff
Kay Dailey	Instructional Academic Staff
Jeremy Gragert	Graduate Student
Rob Hamann	Classified Staff
Bob Hetzel	Administration
Heather Hulett	Faculty
Matt Landi	Student
Missy Ruplinger	Student
Liana Skibbie	Student
Larry Sleznikow	Academic Staff (Committee Chair)
Dan Sweetman	Manager of UW-L Environmental Health, Occupational Safety and Sustainability Program
Meredith Thomsen	Faculty
Robert Turner	Student
Guy Wolf	Academic Staff

LA CROSSE

October 30, 2009

TO: Larry Sleznikow, Chair
Joint Committee on Environmental Sustainability

FROM: Joe Gow, Chancellor 

RE: Committee Charge for 2009-2010 Academic Year

Thank you for allowing me to join your meeting on October 9, 2009. I found the dialogue about the American College and University presidents Climate Commitment illuminating. I look forward to hearing more about the committee members' ideas about how JCES can best work to help our campus to continue to move forward in our sustainability efforts.

As chair, your primary responsibilities of the chairperson include:

- o promptly informing the Chancellor's Office of the results of the election of officers and any changes in committee membership.
- o organizing and conducting meetings.
- o completing a year end report on the committee's activities to be submitted to the Chancellor's Office no later than April 30, 2010.

If you have not already done so, please elect a recorder. Primary responsibilities of the recorder include:

- o recording minutes of each meeting.
- o Sending meeting agendas, minutes and other materials to the UJC blog at post@ujccommittees.posterous.com so the materials can be posted on the Joint Committees website. (Please see attached document for specific instructions.)

As in the past, recommendations from JCES should be forwarded directly to the Chancellor's Office. Throughout the process I expect individual committee members to consult with their respective governance groups for input and agreement to issues. If we determine that a particular committee recommendation requires further deliberation and comment, we may elect to forward it to one or more of the three governance groups for further analysis and recommendation.

If I or anyone on the leadership team can assist your committee in any way during the year, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes on your committee's work over the course of the coming year!

cc: JCES Members
Becky Ledocq, Faculty Senate
Terry Wirkus & Catherin Kolkmeier, Academic Staff Council
Erik Kahl, Student Association
Chancellor's Staff
Academic Deans
Matt Lewis

Office of the Chancellor

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 135 Graff Main Hall, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: (608) 785-8004, Fax: (608) 785-6907, <http://www.uwlax.edu>

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