AASHE Conference 2010

Recycling Workshop (College University and Recycling Coalition)

I. Shift in paradigm from waste management to materials management

II. Green purchasing minimizes negative environmental impacts through the use of environmentally friendly products & services
   a. Rutgers built into contract with Dell Computers a requirement that Dell has to pick up old computers and dispose of them properly, thus eliminating e-waste.
   b. Green purchasing considers the economic, ethical, social, and environmental impacts of all purchases
      i. Defining sustainability as more than just protecting the natural environment, but addressing issues of economic inequality and social inclusivity as well

III. Jennifer Battle and Michigan State University Surplus Store/Recycling Center
   a. Compost sold in bags from University agricultural program’s livestock
   b. Sorter/baler for office paper has increased payment for university’s paper
   c. MSU created a public recycling drop-off center and saw an explosion of recycled materials being dropped off by the public
   d. Recycling construction and demolition waste is another area that MSU has begun to get into
   e. MSU sell surplus university equipment, furniture, vehicles, etc. to the public

IV. Engaging Students
   a. Student groups need to be more organized and consistent in terms of the issues they push to be effective. Faculty mentoring can help with this.
   b. Light bulb swap out in which students bring incandescent light bulbs from their lamps and receive CFLs free of charge. Southern Cal Edison is likely to provide the CFL light bulbs for free, according to Michael Carey, the Sustainability Coordinator at Orange Coast College.
c. Run a competition on campus regarding which building has the most water reduction or energy reduction offering prizes to the winner.
d. Identify the people who are sustainability champions on campus and build a community of support for green initiatives
e. Publicize student success stories even if it requires spending a bit of money to do it.

V. Composting
a. Digester to grind up Dining Hall waste.
b. The U.S. compost council is a resource
c. Do a waste audit of your school

Curriculum Convocation (AASHE)

I. Only 26% of employers say that students (college graduates) are well prepared in terms of written and oral communication skills. Only 22% think they are well-prepared when it comes to critical thinking.

II. EPA P3 Program (people, prosperity & the planet) offers grant money for student design projects.
   a. A team of students under faculty supervision can apply for a grant to do research on sustainability (Phase I Grant = $15,000)
   b. Projects can be on campus, in the local community, or they can be overseas (for example: research on safe drinking water in other countries)
   c. Teams apply for the grant at the end of the fall semester, decisions are made by EPA in the spring, and research is carried out during the following year.
   d. The P-3 grant program is for community colleges as well as four-year schools

III. AASHE is working with the Center for Teaching and Learning at San Diego State University to develop a strategy for implementing its report “A Call to Action” about incorporating sustainability into the curriculum across disciplines
a. One way to begin to promote sustainability on campus is to create a learning activity around sustainability on flex day
b. Another way is to create a college-wide sustainability committee of faculty, students, and administration to share ideas for promoting sustainability in the curriculum
c. The Ponderosa Project trains faculty in innovative ways to incorporate sustainability in the curriculum
d. Teaching interdisciplinary courses with sustainability as a major theme
e. Showing how you can use interdisciplinary programs to get external funding is often a good way to motivate departments to move forward
f. Connecting to faculty professional association regarding sustainability or the disciplinary professional association is another way
g. University Sustainability Partnership
h. Increasing student scholarships for work around sustainability
i. Incorporating sustainability into the accreditation process entails challenges, but would have a big impact
j. Using social media to promote sustainability in the curriculum is another approach that was discussed
k. Incorporating sustainability into SLOs can help create a shared conceptual framework about sustainability

**STARS Workshop (AASHE)**

I. STARS is a voluntary, self-reporting framework similar to the LEED certification program, but different in that STARS is a self-reporting system rather than a system of evaluation by outside evaluators

II. The Higher Education Association Sustainability Consortium has endorsed STARS

III. STARS was launched in January 2010 (STARS 1.0)

a. This is the first version of STARS in which schools can participate and receive a rating
b. Any higher education institution in the U.S. and Canada can participate in STARS

c. Schools do not have to be members of AASHE to participate, though AASHE members receive a $500 discount on STARS participation

d. College districts or university systems can also participate

e. STARS evaluates the sustainability of schools in the following categories:
   i. Education & Research
   ii. Operations
   iii. Planning, Administration, & Engagement

f. The STARS rating system is as follows:
   i. STARS Bronze  25 (minimum score)
   ii. STARS Silver  45
   iii. STARS Gold  65
   iv. STARS Platinum  85
   v. STARS Reporter (For institutions that wish to use STARS and submit data publicly, but do not choose to pursue a rating)

g. Register your school for STARS at www.STARS.aashe.org.

h. Everything that is reported on STARS will go public. It an institution is uncomfortable making data public, they will not receive points for that area.

i. Two ways to ensure STARS data are accurate are:
   i. A responsible party is required to sign off on each individual credit
   ii. The president or chancellor ultimately certifies that information is accurate

j. Participating institutions have one year to submit their STARS data, but can receive a six month extension upon request

k. Cost of STARS participation:
   i. AASHE member - $900
   ii. Non-member - $1,400
iii. Fee can be paid once every three years if your school doesn’t want to be rated every year.

I. STARS is a good companion program to the Presidents’ Climate Commitment

Community College Meet-up

I. American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment
II. SEED (Sustainability Education & Economic Development) Co-sponsored by EcoAmerica (www.theseedcenter.org)
   a. The Princeton Review’s Green Honor Roll ranks campuses according to sustainability
   b. There is now a search engine for green careers in Monster Track

The Billion Dollar Green Challenge

I. University and college endowments total $350,000,000,000. Less than 0.01% is presently invested in efficiency upgrades and other sustainability measures on campuses.

II. Investments in energy efficiency upgrades can actually outperform many of the things that universities are currently invested in.

III. The core of the billion dollar green challenge is the green revolving loan fund.
   a. This entails using some part of endowment funds to make loans to the university itself to make energy efficiency upgrades and the like that will eventually pay for themselves and save the school money
   b. There are revolving loan funds currently in operation at more than 30 schools
   c. Harvard university’s revolving loan fund enjoys a median return of 27% per year.
   d. The Billion Dollar Green Challenge will be officially launched on Earth Day 2011.
      i. Goals: Generate a combined $100 billion investment from 300 schools
ii. Partners: Clean Air-Cool Planet
iii. National Association of Environmental Law Societies

IV. John Onderdonk (Cal Tech Manager for Sustainability)
   a. Revolving loan funds to finance energy efficiency at Cal Tech
   b. Requirement for loan fund to pay back funds in 6 years or less
   c. Board of Trustees was very supportive, but regular tracking and accounting to prove profitability of fund was crucial in getting sustained support
   d. Total fund was about $8 million

V. Alumni Green Funds
   a. Green donors tend to be younger and to donate 4-5 times more when development offices make appeals to fund sustainability projects on campus
   b. You can package Green revolving loan fund with Green Alumni fund to make it more attractive because then alumni are not just funding one project, but several