

UNCG Sustainability Council Annual Report 2015-16

The following items briefly outline the accomplishments related to sustainability, as facilitated actively, undertaken collaboratively, and reported passively by the Chancellor's Sustainability Council.

Major 2015-16 accomplishments in Sustainability at UNCG

- **Green Fund.** This new student-led initiative levies a \$2.22 per student fee which resulted in \$57,200 for use in funding projects in FY2015-16. . The first six competitively-awarded projects were funded in Fall 2015: Mossman Water Refill Station, Two Cisterns are Better Than One, Adopt-a-Stream, Sustainable Local Foodscape, Sustainable Shorts Awards and LED Conversion on McIver Mall. A second round of proposals were received in April 2016 with awards scheduled to be made in May.
- **Sustainability Research Network.** This network was launched with four faculty peer presentation sessions and participation from fifteen faculty members. The effort was spearheaded by Sustainability Faculty Fellow Etsuko Kinefuchi and Academic Sustainability Coordinator Marianne LeGreco.
- **Energy use.** UNCG reached its lowest energy consumption in terms of total energy per square feet in fiscal year 14-15 at 104.8 kbtu/gsf, sixth lowest in the system.

Institutional Accolades

- STARS Gold for 2015 (Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System)
- Inclusion in the 2015 Princeton Review Green Schools Guide
- 2015 Sierra Club "Cool Schools" (62nd out of 153)
- GreenMetric World University Sustainability Ranking, 60th out of 407
- Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA 2015
- League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Campus 2015, Bronze
- National Center for Transit Research's Best Workplace for Commuter 2016, Gold

Sustainability in Academics

- Sustainability Film & Discussion Series (10th annual in 2015-16) organized by Sarah Dorsey
- Sustainable Shorts Film Competition (7th annual in 2016 – prizes funded by the Green Fund)
- Launched Sustainability Faculty Fellows working in three areas including leadership/outreach, teaching, and research
- Environmental and Sustainability Studies enrollment for Spring 2016 included 75 Environmental & Sustainability Study majors, 15 Environmental Studies minors and 25 Sustainability Studies minors.

- Academic Sustainability Coordinator Marianne LeGreco submitted a proposal to the Kresge Foundation titled “Building Local Foodscapes: Using an Arts-Based Planning Process for Neighborhood Revitalization” Total request: \$74,844.40
- Strong College launched a thematic focus on sustainability through hands-on research and fieldwork. With the goal of understanding sustainability and its broader implications, courses are designed to generate a new perspective on both local and global settings.
- First formal sustainability literacy assessment conducted in coordination with Enrollment Management. Freshmen and seniors took the New Student Survey on Engagement (NSSE) sustainability module in Spring 2015.

Sustainability in Operations

- New Sustainability Coordinator for Operations, Dr. Shanna Eller, hired in March 2016.
- As of March 2016, on track to achieve a 1% energy consumption reduction from fiscal year 2014-15. If achieved, UNCG would reach its lowest energy consumption since 2003.
- UNCG continues to invest in energy conservation measures. Replacement of fluorescent lighting with LED lighting in the 1100 West Market Building currently underway.
- Retro-commissioning of several buildings is underway.
- FY14-15 greenhouse gas inventory indicates a reduction of 2.3% in UNCG’s footprint since 2008 even as the university added approximately 450,000 gsf, or 8% of its space footprint and over 30 acres during the same time frame.
- The food pulper system at the dining facility was completed and began operations. It grinds up leftover food waste, extracts the water, and reuses the water for the garbage disposal. This not only saves money on water, but also saves greenhouse gas emissions from the municipal City of Greensboro waste-water treatment plant.
- On schedule for seeking LEED Silver certification for the new Leonard Kaplan Center for Wellness.
- Designed Spartan Village Student Housing Phase II to meet LEED Silver standards.

Sustainability Council Accomplishments

- Council consisted of 23 faculty, staff, student, and alumni members representing all units and held six meetings with regular reports from officers and special reports from the Green Fund.
- Three Sustainability Faculty Fellows appointed: Etsuko Kinefuchi, Sarah Dorsey, and Sarah Cole.
- Climate Action Plan (CAP) Subcommittee updated and submitted the CAP to AASHE on March 24, 2016.
- Communications Subcommittee is developing a new web portal for all things sustainability at UNCG. Expected launch in Fall 2016.

- Communications Subcommittee and ASC Marianne LeGreco are developing a sustainability dashboard.
- Executive Committee assisted in national search for new Sustainability Coordinator for Operations – welcome to Dr. Shanna Eller, who is serving in that capacity.
- Executive Committee served on Green Fund Advisory Board as needed.
- Vice Chancellor Maimone will provide funding for two Sustainability Faculty Fellows for AY 2016-17.
- Provost Dunn will continue to support the Academic Sustainability Coordinator for AY 2016-17.
- Outreach to campus vendors – Marianne LeGreco and John Gale met with vendors, including Recycling and Waste Management, Staples and Chartwells. The Council hopes to partner with them and achieve greater sustainability outcomes related to the services those companies provide.

Sustainability Events

- Sept 20-Oct 24: Love Food Not Waste Campaign at Moran Commons
- Sept 24 – Mar 17: Sustainability Film Screening and Discussion Series : Films included *Who Killed the Electric Car* (2006), *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* (2014), *King Corn* (2007), *Waste Land* (2010), *Living Downstream* (2010), *Overburden* (2015), and *Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story* (2015)
- October 20: First Glenwood Farmer's Market (now meets every Tuesday from 6-8 pm)
- November 19: "Rachel Carson & Her Legacy for North Carolina" Robert K. Musil, PhD, MPH, President of the Rachel Carson Council. Co-Sponsored by Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Women's and Gender Studies.
- April 21: "Jazz and Ecomusicology: New Questions for Old Jazz Histories" Dr. William Bares, University of North Carolina Asheville. Co-Sponsored by Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Music Studies.
- January 1-2: Housing and Residence Life Pop-up Thrift Shop
- April 8: Spring Ivy Pull @ Peabody Park
- April 21: Sustainability Shorts Contest
- April 22: Earth Day Celebration on College Ave (co-sponsored by UNCGreen and paid for with funds from Green Fund)

Major Staff or Faculty Accomplishments & Accolades in Sustainability

- Marianne LeGreco (Academic Sustainability Coordinator and Communication Studies) was named by 1808 Magazine as one of "10 women who make a difference." Luck Davidson from Triad Local First and Chris Poulos nominated her for the recognition. (December 1, 2015 Campus Weekly)

- Jorge Quintal (Chief Sustainability Officer & AVC for Facilities) received an inaugural HUB Advocate Award for his work promoting and advocating for historically underutilized businesses. (Sept 2015 Campus Weekly)
- Jorge Quintal received the 2016 Frank B. Turner award. This North Carolina award recognizes a state employee who has made an outstanding professional contribution to the built environment. (April 5, 2016 Campus Weekly)
- Aaron Allen was co-editor and contributing author of the new book "Current Directions in Ecomusicology: Music, Culture, Nature" (Feb 9 2016 Campus Weekly)
- Aaron Allen's lecture featured in SONICBernheim, a site-specific lecture/performance series exploring the relationships between sound, music, and nature at the Bernheim Arboreteum in Louisville, KY. (Sept 27, 2015)
- Aaron Allen's keynote lecture, "Why Ecomusicology?" Udall Alumni Association 20th Anniversary, Washington, D.C., April 30. [The Udall Foundation is a federally sponsored program that awards scholarships to students in environmental studies.]

Notable Sustainability Activities on the Horizon

- Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness slated to open in Fall 2016 will showcase sustainable design features and support physical and, in turn, mental health.
- Fall Farm to Table Dinner on campus scheduled for Fall 2016 that may serve as new, signature event moving forward.
- Sustainability Office slated to move from Mossman to the Moran Commons in December 2016.
- Wetland Development Project led by faculty has received substantial support for developing two initial, outdoor wetland land features on campus grounds. Construction targeted for March 2017.

The members of the Sustainability Council give a special thanks to Trey McDonald and Chad Carwein for all they did to further the cause of a Sustainable UNCG. We wish them the best in their work furthering sustainability in California and at Eastern Carolina University.