

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

1998-99 ANNUAL REPORT

This year the Campus Environmental Issues Committee was involved in many continuing projects, while establishing new directions, which were guided by past year goals and accomplishments. The committee Chairperson this past year was Karyn Kaplan. The committee focused on the work of the sub-committees, which will be reviewed in this report.

Lack of involvement from the student population continues to be an on-going challenge and frustration. There was interest at the beginning of the academic year, with one of the students being elected as a Co-Chair. The student dropped out with no word and no other students were involved.

Overall, the committee has undergone re-evaluation this year in taking things to the next level, as shown here. Once again, it has been an effective year for the Campus Environmental Issues Committee. There are many accomplishments and much more work to be done. In retrospect, the past years have found the committee establishing some basic fundamental directions such as in getting the word out and determining how to develop a foundation for the future. This year was a transition to the next level. The committee has found itself focusing on implementation of the Campus Environmental Policies and education.

Additional things have been happening on campus that are an expansion of the committee work: Transportation alternatives have been getting addressed through the new Bicycle Coordinator position. David Niles, Bike Coordinator, has been regularly participating in the committee. He has been keeping us posted on these issues. It is exciting to see the commitment extend to the campus in the form of providing opportunities for reduced car use. The committee has been impressed to see all the covered and expanded bike parking.

The Facilities Dept. recently formed a Resource Conservation Team to review systems and create awareness in order to reduce the overall resource impact on campus and in the greater community. This is an exciting new venture which will once again, reinforce the efforts of the committee by working as part of the University team to create a conservation oriented campus environment.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This year involved some unique, yet telling, opportunities for the Environmental Issues Committee:

-A team of Administrators from Shasta College came to the UO for a full-day visit on the wide range of environmental practices in progress and already implemented. Several members from the Committee participated in hosting this group: Karyn Kaplan, Recycling Program Manager, organized the day and presented information on the waste reduction and recycling efforts on campus; Dr. John Baldwin, Environmental Studies Professor, spent time presenting an overview of the Environmental Studies Department and the Institute for Sustainable Environment; Teresa Spezio presented the Environmental Audit Class; Kay Coots, Director of EH&S, presented the Environmental Policy and Hazardous material handling and JR Gaddis, Director of Printing and

Mark Dixon, Printing Operations Manager, presented the Recycled Paper Policy along with a tour of the Printing facilities and information on all of the waste reduction and recycling practices that have been implemented in Printing.

This day was a show and tell for all of the hard work that the committee has done and continues to do. All in all, it was a wonderful experience for the committee and re-affirmed that the work we are doing has a far reaching impact. This day presented a reflection on how far we have come and also on how the UO is leading the nation on campus environmental issues. Bringing all of these players together was an outstanding exercise in recognition of the strong committed team we have established on campus and through the Campus Environmental Issues Committee.

-The Committee hosted a small teleconference on "Greening the Campus". This was put on by the Partnership for Environmental Technology in Education.

-The highlight of the year was the Campus Environmental Policy Symposium. This was done as a result of the work of the Environmental Policy sub-committee. Several committee members worked hard to put on a first class event. The symposium presented the campus community with information on the impending implementation process for the environmental policy. This was well-received and several deans and directors attended this training. This was an excellent starting place to begin the implementation and education process. Many departments have been working on this process and have begun to take steps that were presented at the symposium. Thanks to Dan Williams for supporting this process and event and for also taking the time to provide the opening remarks.

-The Environmental Citizen of the Year awards were presented by Dan Williams, at the Campus Environmental Policy Symposium as follows:

The team of Cara Darling (Printing) and Terrie Penfold (Purchasing Support). Cara and Terrie worked together to get 8 truckloads of recycled paper that not only has an increased amount of post consumer and pre-consumer recycled content, but that saved the University over \$12,000 in paper costs from purchasing other recycled paper or virgin paper. Not only does this support the recycling process by creating a demand for recycled paper collected at the university, but it increased the recycled content from other papers we've used in the past AND through their hard work and determination, this was done with a huge financial (and resource) benefit to the University of Oregon.

Mark Dixon (Printing) has worked very hard over the last year to put the University in the forefront of using tree and chlorine-free alternatives in the University letterhead. Due to Mark's hard work and determination in working with manufacturers through product testing, the University is now going to use tree-free farmed bamboo paper for its letterheads and business cards. Mark has worked on the recycled paper policy and has taken it to the next level. Not only has he researched and introduced this wonderful paper to the university, he is currently working with the manufacturer to produce this tree-free paper with recycled content so that it continues to support the paper recycling efforts to which we have committed.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION

The education sub-committee continued to work with a journalism class and put together more advertisements to be used for environmental education purposes. Thanx again to Dan Williams, for funding these ads in the Daily Emerald. This on-going project continues to create opportunities for students to be involved while providing some impressive accomplishments for their resume through the use of these ads in the paper and also as promotional information.

The Environmental Audit class was revived from prior years of work to establish this class. Teresa Spezio has agreed to teach the class and the funding was found through the Environmental Studies Department.

Another sub-committee member has been working with the Campus newsletter, News and Views, to get our meetings and symposium/special events, listed on the campus calendar and expand the opportunity to get the campus involved in environmental awareness. This is an area which is expanding for the committee. With the Campus Environmental policies, there are more opportunities for the committee to do education and promotion.

RECYCLED PAPER POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Recycled Paper Policy sub-committee worked on education and awareness to compliment the implementation process. The policy was put out to all the campus Recycling Department Contacts, on the EIC web site and also went out to all departments. Additionally, as a compliment to the sub-committee, the Dept. of Printing worked with industry on making tree-free paper a regular part of the University through its use for all University letterhead and business cards and is currently working with industry to expand the tree-free paper to include recycled content.

Other accomplishments include: creation and distribution of "Did you Know?" decals for all campus copy machines. These decals remind folks about steps they can take in adhering to the Recycled Paper Policy including how to make a double-sided copy when photocopying; continued education on this issue through forms of campus communication; the acquisition of a replacement 100% post consumer copy paper for campus use (replacing the defunct 100% unbleached recycled paper) ;posting of the policy at Printing and Campus Copy and finally the acquisition of tree-free copy papers for customer purchase and use.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Campus Environmental Policy sub-committee worked on the documents for reporting and also individual area background information. This was synthesized into the Campus Environmental Policy Symposium and was presented to the Campus on April 20. Additionally, the information was put out on the EIC webpage for department reference. The sub-committee will continue to move forward with education and implementation projects for upcoming year.

COMMUNICATIONS

This sub-committee had a productive year. The EIC web site was re-vamped and still continues to evolve. Some changes include: addition of the minutes and a complete section on the Environmental Policies including implementation forms and subsequent handouts on each area of implementation.

Additionally, this sub-committee is working on a logo for the EIC. The committee is in the process

of reviewing the ideas of the sub-committee.

Here is the latest info. on the EIC webpage and subsequent links on EIC projects:

[Environmental Issues Committee Homepage](#)

[Recycled Paper Policy](#)

[Environmental Policy](#)

[Handouts from Environmental Symposium](#) (Sub-Policy Model also on this page)

[UO Environmental Studies Program](#)

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Subcommittee is working on an agenda to encourage members of the campus community to: walk, bike, bus, and carpool to campus. Work is being done to formulate a list of methods to 1) encourage and 2) measure progress toward these goals. This list includes: incentives through paychecks for purchasing bikes, bikeracks, and raingear (perhaps by bringing in local bike shops), fostering formation of carpools through census-taking and social events at the start of the academic year, and offering flex-time when possible to allow staff to change clothes, cool down, or get to work from outlying car-parking or bike-parking spaces. Additional incentives might include financial discounts or vacation time as rewards. Discussion with the Campus Bicycle Coordinator, has included: setting up a webpage and incentives for walking or biking through credits toward "duck bucks" on faculty and staff ID cards. Toward this end, we suggest making the Bicycle Coordinator an ex-officio member of the EIC next year.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Connie French and Karyn Kaplan were voted to Co-Chair the committee for the upcoming 1999-2000 academic year.

FUTURE GOALS

-Re-evaluate Committee involvement. The attending committee members would like to stimulate more active involvement and participation from committee members. It was noted that several people appointed to the committee do not attend meetings or participate in any sub-committees. The Committee would like to do more public relations to encourage more participation in the committee from the campus community. The biggest concern is the lack of student participation. Here are some ideas the committee has for stimulating this involvement:

- Meet with ASUO President to get input and assistance in recruiting students
- Contact Environmental Studies Department Head regarding a way to integrate committee participation, into an internship.
- In the Fall, committee will make contact and follow-through with Campus Environmental Groups such as: OSPIRG, Survival Center, Land Air and Water and the ASUO.

- Do a press release about the committee, in the Fall as a mechanism to generate campus interest.
- Work on supporting the Bicycle Coordinator in developing bicycle program and promoting alternatives to car use especially for commuting to campus.
- Set-up opportunities for feedback from the campus community. Create places where people can provide feedback to the Committee on campus environmental concerns. This idea involves something like putting "environmental concern" boxes in key locations around campus. Additionally, something will be added to the web site to provide the committee with some input.
- Finish Committee logo.
- Continue Environmental Policy implementation and education.
- Establish a dialogue with people involved (at least Pac 10 schools for a start) on cooperative purchasing of tree-free and 100% recycled papers. Continue work with international manufacturer on creating a tree-free recycled content paper.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue on all committee projects for upcoming year
- The Committee has met to discuss the overuse of paper from the campus printers. Evidently, with the new age of computers on campus, the amount of paper waste being generated has caused tremendous expense and waste. With this in mind, the library began charging for printing and thus, has reduced the amount of printing from student computers by 80%. BUT, there are other computer labs on campus where students can print for free. At the EMU, it is still free to make copies and since the new charge was instituted at the Library, the amount of paper being generated at the EMU lab has skyrocketed. The Committee is very concerned about this and would like to make the following recommendations:
 - Ask Administration to review tech fee policy and integrate mechanisms to keep it in synch with the Campus Recycled Paper Use and Environmental Policies. In lieu of free printing, provide more tech support on formatting so students will not need to print so many copies.
 - Charge for printing. The Student ID is already set-up with a scanner code for charging. Establish a \$25/term allowance for all students for printing. Implement method of charging through student computer labs.
 - Create systems for printers to be able to make double-sided copies.
 - Appoint the Bicycle Coordinator as an ex-officio.
- The committee agreed to continue to meet during the summer in order to be organized and directed when the new committee convenes in the Fall.

The committee would appreciate feedback on these issues. Additionally, if we can be of any assistance on this, or any other issue, please let us know.

Thank you for all of your continued support of the Campus Environmental Issues Committee.