The 2016-17 academic year in PSU’s Living Lab Program included both changes and successful replication of previously-developed processes and collaborations. As always, our focus is to match motivated faculty and students with University staff to work on projects that support PSU’s campus sustainability goals.

>> pdx.edu/sustainability/living-lab<<

**BY THE NUMBERS:**
- Classes: 6
- Students: 77
- Internships: 3
- Projects: 8
- Faculty: 8
- Academic departments involved (7): Honors College, University Studies, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Business Administration, Architecture, Environmental Science and Management

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS**
- Facilities & Property Management (FPM) hired an education coordinator who is now part of the Living Lab management team, further solidifying FPM’s involvement in the program.
- Process development continued, including the addition of post-project debrief meetings. The team also recognized the need to devote increased staff time to develop and scope existing project ideas, and will be devoting time to that each summer.
- A Living Lab Luncheon was held for staff in the Planning, Construction and Real Estate division to raise awareness and engagement with the program as well as solicit project ideas. The team intends to hold a similar event with staff or faculty annually.
- An Ecoroofs task force was created to better manage maintenance and coordinate student/research involvement with campus ecoroofs. The task force collaboration resulted in an Ecoroof student staff position within Facilities + Property Management, whose work is guided in part by the task force.
- The management team has begun work on an evaluation process for all students, staff, and faculty who participate in the program.

**PROJECTS**
*Repeat engagement with civil engineering capstone, 3 projects*
- Plan and design for a rain garden that can capture vehicle wash runoff at the PSU landscape yard (Salmon Safe compliance)
- Plan and design for a structure to cover mulch piles in landscape yard (Salmon Safe compliance)
- Rammed earth wall construction demonstration
  - This project was a student-generated idea that was approved by FPM, possibly providing a model for future student ideas.
New partnership: Mechanical engineering capstone
- Design a stand-alone cooling system for the SRTC building which has unique cooling needs
  - Hoping to partner with ME Capstone course again in the future

New partnership: Business Affairs capstone
- Off-site renewable energy feasibility study for PSU, research that has led to further study in a masters research project
  - The Living Lab Team hopes to partner with BA capstone again next year

Summer Interns
- This was the second year of hiring summer interns. The hiring process was moved to winter term to better align with student schedules and get a larger applicant pool, which proved successful.
- Green building interns (2), a Mechanical Engineering and Architecture student, conducted Indoor Environmental and Air Quality assessments of Parkmill offices, including the impact of HVAC duct and coil cleaning.
- Green leasing intern developed pilot “green lease” language and a program proposal to encourage sustainable practices within commercial real estate tenants on campus.

Waste Audit Living Lab Experience (WALL-E)
- This popular partnership with University Studies was scaled back to partner with 2 instead of 4 FRINQ classes, making it more manageable for the staff partner.
PROGRESS ON GOALS

- **Process For Projects Outside Of Living Lab Scope**: The team continues to discuss how to incorporate student or faculty-generated ideas. One successful example which was approved by FPM is the rammed earth wall. The team will consider these projects on a case-by-case basis.

- **Introduce Assessment Opportunities**: In process with support from ISS Program Manager. Student participants will be assessed after project completion, faculty and staff partners will be assessed once annually, in addition to participating in a project debrief session after each project.

- **Create A Platform For Sharing Work**: Done! An online project archive and form to gain student permission to share work were created.

- **Focusing On Impact**: The annual staff/faculty evaluations will contribute to an understanding of project impacts, and campus impacts are also being recorded in the public archive. The team has discussed the need to assess project impacts 6 months or more after completion.

- **Increase Program Outreach**: The team continues to discuss methods for increased outreach. Examples of progress this year: staff Luncheon, Living Lab half sheet, online archive, [NACUBO article](#), participation in Faculty Orientation, new employee orientation, and presence at Sustainability Celebration. Needs for the future include: Taking more project photos and generating more blogs written by participants, increasing faculty and student outreach and engagement, e.g. emails to ISS faculty and student fellows, engagement events for faculty similar to staff luncheon, etc. New faculty have proven to be some of our best, most engaged partners.

- **Joint Management Strategy** is in development. Management may shift year to year and as ISS grant funding/staff support wanes.