The Business of Sustainability: Students, Sustainability, and Ecodistricts

- PSU Business Educational Goals:
  - Prepare future business leaders
  - Participate: worldwide economy
  - Business decisions:
    - Horizontal impact: across the globe
    - Vertical impact: Intergenerational (present & future)

  - sustainable development: "development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"
  - Understanding: ecological, economic, & social assimilative capacity of business decisions

- Teaching Approach
  - Academic/theoretical
  - Clinical/applied
  - Community based engagement/learning
BA495: Business Strategy/Capstone Program

- Required course (business seniors)
  - Student teams: apply business core competencies
  - Community partner/client
  - Focus on sustainable business practices (private, public, and NPOs)
- Ecodistrict: ideal scale to apply sustainable business practices
  - Private commerce/private decision/private competition
  - Community collaboration
  - Benefit/achieve private & social goals
  - Scalable
- Lloyd Ecodistrict examples
  - Materials Management
  - Food waste composting
Materials Management: Consumer Waste

- challenge: how to reduce waste
  - Social: landfill, unsightly
  - Private: cost to dispose, impact bottom line
- Solution:
  - Collaborative effort to reduce consumer waste
  - Materials collection/sorting recycling
  - Collective purchasing materials
  - Reduce overall waste
  - Reduce overall cost
Food Waste Composting

- Challenge: how can district reduce food waste
  - Social: landfill volume, climate change
  - Private: an expense to manage food waste
- Solution:
  - Collaborative effort to collect/centralize food waste
  - Identify vendors that will haul to composting facility
  - Reduce landfill volume
  - Reduce direct private cost
Thank you

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