Overview of Portland State University Sustainability Programs

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PSU Motto

Doctrina Urbi Serviat

“Let Knowledge Serve the City”
Our Global Community

- Our planet’s ecological, social, and economic systems are intimately interconnected

- PSU recognizes and embraces an increasingly global community, seeking to be a partner in developing sustainable solutions locally and globally
PSU Sustainability Vision

To be an **internationally** recognized university known for excellence in student learning, innovative research, and community engagement that simultaneously advance economic vitality, environmental health, and quality of life.
PSU Sustainability Mission

Serve as a leading academic laboratory for developing sustainable processes and practices using multi-disciplinary approaches in partnership with business, government, and other organizations.
Integration as Key Sustainability Principle
Sustainability Declaration (2005)

- Infuse sustainability into all colleges, schools and programs.
- Develop a sustainable physical campus that is an example to other institutions.
- Make Portland State University a demonstration model of sustainable processes and practices.
- Develop core multidisciplinary research competencies in key sustainability areas related to pressing real world problems.
Innovate sustainable practices as demonstration models

- Transportation alternatives (2005 Portland BEST Award)
- Green buildings – Epler Hall and Broadway Housing (2005 Portland BEST Award); LEED Gold Northwest Center for Engineering, Science and Technology
- Waste management and recycling
- Sustainable food services (2006 BEST award)
- Solar energy installation on Cramer Hall
- Salmon Safe certification for landscaping and stormwater management
- Others
Infuse sustainability into curriculum

- University Studies
  - Environmental sustainability classes
- Undergraduate minors
  - Sustainability (Environmental Science and Resources)
  - Sustainable Urban Development (Urban Studies and Planning)
- Graduate certificate (university-wide)
  - Four core courses (environmental, social, economic, and systems integration)
  - Two approved electives
Develop core multidisciplinary research competencies

- **Center for Sustainable Processes & Practices (CSP2)**
  - Place for rigorous, cross-disciplinary research with integrated environmental, social and economic components
  - Locus for collaborative research and dialogue with academic and community participants
  - Institutional support for building a resource base
Initial Priority Areas

- **Sustainable Business Models**, e.g., voluntary environmental management systems for ISO certification, green products
- **Environmental Science and Green Technology**, e.g., green building and development, climate change science and technology
- **Sustainable Economic Development**, e.g., sustainable industries, private-public collaborations
Initial Priority Areas, continued

- **Intelligent Transportation Systems**, e.g., efficient mixed public and private systems
- **Integrated Water Resource Management**, e.g., water quality, invasive species, watershed restoration, conflict resolution
Some Examples of International Sustainability Nexus

- Dr. Randy Bluffstone, Economics
  - Thailand: ADB project on economic instruments for environmental management
  - Visiting Professor, National Institute of Development Administration, Bangkok, 2006

- Dr. Yangdong Pan, Environmental Science
  - Partnership with Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences

- Dr. Linda George, Science Education
  - Chiang Mai, Thailand: working with city officials, neighborhood leaders, local university to change attitudes toward urban burning.
  - Hanoi, Vietnam: roadway emissions inventory and health impact assessment

- Dr. Marcus Ingle, Public Administration, community-based environmental management

- And numerous other examples....
What’s on the horizon?

- Development of an Oregon University System Signature Research Center on Sustainability (green buildings/development, renewable energy, bio-products)
- Develop research and education collaboration with international partners (e.g. Tongji University, China; WWF Indochina program)
- Expand implementation of sustainable facilities and operations
Portland State University – Sustainable by Nature