Campus Sustainability Office Annual Report, 2016-2017

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“The Campus Sustainability Office fosters partnerships across departments and disciplines that nourish institutional stewardship of our environment and support a growing culture of sustainability within PSU. We aim to align operations, policies, and planning with University conservation and sustainability goals.”

http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability/campus-sustainability-office
STAFF

- Campus Sustainability Director
- Waste Management Coordinator
- Education & Outreach Coordinator
- Program Development Coordinator

Graduate Assistants

- Food Diversion Coordinator

Student positions

- Reuse Coordinator
- Waste Reduction Specialist (2)
- CRUX Intern

FY17 BY THE NUMBERS

23,689 pounds donated during Chuck it for Charity

455 bottles and mugs diverted from landfill by Mug Runners

77 students engaged in the Living Lab Program

$32,156 saved through reuse of materials in PSU Reuse Room

294 people reached at 23 New Employee Briefing sustainability presentations

Over $11,000 invested in the Green Revolving Fund from departmental travel offsets

EDUCATION, OUTREACH, & FACILITATION

Living Lab Program

Classes: 6; Students: 77; Internships: 3; Projects: 8; Faculty: 8; Academic departments involved: 6 (Honors college, University Studies, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Business Administration, Architecture, Environmental Systems Management)

- Hosted a Living Lab brainstorming event with Planning, Construction, and Real Estate staff
- Developed formal proposal and project process, and began work for evaluation process
- Published online project [archive](#)
- Formalized collaborations with Facilities & Property Management
- Established EcoRoof Task Force to better manage maintenance and coordinate student/research involvement with campus ecoroofs.
• Supported multiple projects including: Waste Audit Living Lab Experience (WALL-E), campus apiary, offsite renewable energy feasibility, landscape yard improvements, green Building + leasing interns, and rammed earth wall. See https://www.pdx.edu/sustainability/living-lab to learn more.

Outreach
• Climate champions participation grew to 21 departments— Campus Sustainability Office and Office of Information Technology achieved Gold Ratings
• Numerous class, departmental, and conference presentations, tours, posters, and articles
• Worked with Housing and Residence Life to engage and educate student residents about sustainable living through opportunities such as “Knock & Talks”, floor meetings, etc.
• Worked with Contracting and Procurement Services to produce new resources including an updated website and a sustainable procurement toolkit
• Updated the New Employee Briefing presentation to highlight climate champions, procurement policy, and more.
• Assisted the development and launch of the Healthy Campus Certification program

Events
• Party in the Park
• Portland State of Mind
• 4 pop up swaps
• 10 days of No Scrap Left Behind food waste buffets
• 2 Campus Beautification events
• Earth Day
• Sustainability Celebration
• Chuck it for Charity

Benchmarking & Recognition

Waste Reduction Metrics

Reuse Room
• $32,156: estimated cost avoided through reuse
• 4,749 lbs. (over 2 tons) of material reused

Mug Runners
• 455 beverage containers diverted from landfill
• Added a pick-up location in UCB Testing Center

Solid Waste
• 31% of solid waste diverted from landfill through recycling or composting
• 126.5 pounds of bagels donated by Olé Bagels food cart to the PSU Food Pantry through Food Runners program (began in April 2017)
Chuck-it for Charity

• 23,689 pounds of household items, clothing, school supplies, and food donated!

Sustainable Food Sourcing

• 38.9% Local (Oregon + Washington)
• 25.5% regional (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California)
• 6.6% organic
• 22.8% 3rd party certified or community based

Green Cleaning

• 94% of all cleaning chemicals and 96% of janitorial paper products purchased were Green Seal or EcoLogo certified
Recognition

- 3rd Tree Campus USA recertification
- 4th STARS Gold ranking with a score of 70.59
- Sierra Cool Schools ranking: 30th
- Princeton’s Guide to Green Schools ranking: 20th (2016, most recent available)
- Bee Campus USA
- Platinum-level Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists of only five platinum-rated universities in the country

POLICY, PRACTICE, & PLANNING

- Established tree team work plan and goals, worked with Facilities and Property Management + Campus Planning Office to implement new tracking procedures
- Began LEED O+M project: achieved campus credit certification and began process to certify Joseph C. Blumel Residence Hall and Urban Center Building
- Adopted Solid Waste Management Policy + Container Standards
- Updated IPM Plan to meet LEED standards and include indoor pest management
- Adopted green cleaning, site management, IAQ policies to meet LEED standards
- Developed campus Water Conservation Plan
- Worked with the Campus Planning Office to develop first draft of Open Space Plan, helped facilitate open space charrette, and continue to co-lead efforts to completion and adoption
- Upgraded waste stations in several buildings and campus areas, including Science Research and Teaching Center, Urban Center Building, and Karl Miller Center
- Expanded compost locations to Shattuck Hall and Smith Memorial Student Union
- Established resource saving standard for hand dryers instead of paper towels in restroom design specs
- Installed new sensor technology on waste containers to improve data accuracy, program efficiency, benchmarking, and to help achieve our waste minimization goals

Open spaces have educational value

Open spaces reinforce both campus and personal identity, creating context and a connection to place

Open spaces in the urban context enable community engagement

Open spaces play an important role in addressing food insecurity

Sustainability

Open Space Plan Guiding Principles
BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

• Received Climate Resilience in Urban Campuses + Communities (CRUX) grant, and led efforts to begin resiliency plan
• Worked with Oregon and Washington colleges and universities to establish regional conference and network
• Over $11k invested in Green Revolving Fund (GRF) from travel offset (currently 20 departments participating)
• Worked with Healthy Campus Initiative sub-committee (Healthy Eating) to produce campus survey on access to healthy options
• Integrated sustainability requirements into two new campus contracts: Dining Services and Beverage
• Worked with Campus Recreation and Student Health and Counseling to develop and launch Healthy Department Certification program
• Worked with the Queer Resource Center and Campus Planning Office to submit a student building fee request to bring all “gender neutral” and “unisex” restroom signs to the University’s standard, “all gender” (request approved).

ON THE HORIZON

• Integrate stewardship statement into all PSU job postings
• Host Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) in 2018!
• Complete Open Space Plan
• Complete Climate Change Resiliency Plan
• Complete Storm Water Management Plan
• Complete LEED O+M certification for 4 buildings
• Continue to improve waste operations - infrastructure, logistics, and data collection
• Work with surplus to improve reuse opportunities and data tracking
• Increase access to and awareness of utility and Green Revolving Fund data
• Continue work with Facilities and Property Management to implement tree team work-plan: tracking, preferred species list, inventory of failing or nuisance trees, map of potential planting sites, and revisions to Tree Care Plan and tree design standards
• Work with Chartwells on food sourcing, food systems education and outreach, and waste reduction
• Work with Contracting and Procurement Services to increase sustainable procurement through campus outreach and collaborations with university vendors
• District Loop Sign installation

OUR PARTNERS

• Campus Recreation (CREC)
• Capital Projects & Construction (CPC)
• Campus Planning Office (CPO)
• Chartwells (PSU Eats)
• Contracting & Procurement Services (CAPS)
• Facilities & Property Management (FPM)

• Housing & Residence Life (HRL)
• Institute for Sustainable Solutions (ISS)
• Queer Resource Center (QRC)
• Student Sustainability Center (SSC)
• Transportation & Parking Services (TAPS)
• Student Health and Counseling (SHAC)