



UNCW Sustainability Report

2014-2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While advancement of the university's objectives in regards to sustainability is obvious, the momentum behind projects in motion is even greater. The UNCW Sustainability Committee, relevant student organizations, and the Office of Environmental Health & Safety are charged with excitement, passion, and knowledge.

OUTREACH & CAMPUS CULTURE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created a Sustainability Action Plan, encompassing many facets of campus to navigate future projects • Incorporated sustainability information into Freshman Orientation in addition to various expos and carnivals • S.W.I.M (See What Information Matters) conference emphasized sustainability in its theme • Created the Annual Charlie Maimone Sustainability Award recognizing a faculty or staff member that practices environmental stewardship, economic responsibility and upholds social justice on a yearly basis • Created the Annual Carolyn Elizabeth Duffy Student Sustainability Award recognizing a student that practices environmental stewardship, economic responsibility and upholds social justice on a yearly basis • Attended the Appalachian State Energy Summit where the UNC System Sustainability Council was able to meet and discuss state-wide projects and policy • Collaborated with the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County in various groups, projects and programs, closing the gap between the university and community including collecting data from students to help develop multifamily housing recycling in the community • Established the Green Seal of Approval to promote programs, initiatives, policies and projects that support sustainable values • Implementation of sustainability aspects of buildings and natural areas on the interactive campus map • Randall Library was honored by the NC Coastal Federation with a 2014 Pelican Award, recognizing demonstration of an exemplary commitment to protect and improve environment quality on the NC Coast •

IN PROGRESS

Sustainability continued learning workshops through "Dare to Learn" for faculty and staff, providing guidance for assimilating sustainability into a variety of subjects • Drafted a UNCW Sustainability Policy that reflects the policy created by the UNC-GA, while adhering to the specific values of our institution • Committed to complete the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®) by July 2016. STARS® is a nationally recognized assessment tool developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) of which UNCW and the UNC system are members. The UNC system recognizes STARS® as the benchmarking tool that member institutions should use in regards to sustainability •

CAMPUS DINING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Developed a living, educational aquaponics garden in the main Wagoner Dining Hall where students can explore the interworking of farm raised fish and hydroponics • All venues are 100% free of plastic bags where not required by franchise • Worked with over 20 farms and businesses in NC and averaged 16% local (NC) purchases • Supported student initiatives by providing a "farm to fork" catered dinner for the winners of the Turn Off for What? competition • Created a Sustainability Wall inside of Wagoner informs consumers about the farms that provide the food served, as well as other sustainability initiatives •

IN PROGRESS

Transition all disposable products to those made with recycled content or compostable materials and/or replaced with a reusable product whenever possible • Wagoner Dining Hall plans to implement composting of all of biodegradable waste • Increase the percentage of locally purchased foods to 18% • Architectural team has conceptualized plans for the Hub, a facility that will offer a student friendly space that is highly sustainable and environmentally friendly • Perform a preliminary energy and water assessment of all residential, catering and dining venues to identify low- and no-cost opportunities to conserve energy and water •

GREEN BUILDING & ENERGY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Second Greenhouse Gas Inventory completed. This inventory is a tool in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as mandated by the UNC General Administration Sustainability Policy • A list of energy saving pilot projects list was created by Facilities •

IN PROGRESS

MARBIONC building to receive LEED Silver certification • Summer Internship for Energy Management • Research for the expansion of the use solar •

TRANSPORTATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Teal Terminal, located outside of the Fisher Student Union and beside the bus loop, is equipped with screens that provide riders with the estimated time of arrival for the shuttles and to inform them of any maintenance or safety issues • UNCW shuttle bus to CMS/CREST Research Park service expanded from three to four days per week • Bus size has been adjusted according to ridership • Dock expansion project started. This will allow up to 10 boats to have direct access to the Intracoastal Waterway without having to be trailered to a boat launch, a trip up to 12 miles away, each way • Convenience Solar Powered Pay Stations at Price Drive and FF Lot • As of November 1st Enterprise joined UNCW's Travel Office to provide car rentals for UNCW employee travel • Shuttle ridership has increased 19 percent since 2012 •

IN PROGRESS

Creation of the position Transportation Sustainability Coordinator •

ACADEMICS & STUDENT INITIATIVES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Housing and Residence Life's (HRL) Move-In 2014 eliminated the use of 8,400 disposable, plastic water bottles by distributing reusable, stainless steel bottles instead and providing twelve "hydration stations" with potable water for refilling • UNCW was represented by a graduate student who presented research the potential of solar energy in residential communities in North Carolina at the Appalachian State Energy Summit • Created and participated in programs that educate and involve students in sustainability including the Post Beach Blast clean-up, Plastic art project, Turn Down for What? Water conservation competition, Sustainable Pumpkin Carving Competition, and Recyclemania • Advised a student group as they prepared to present The Green Initiative Fund to the UNCW Tuition and Fees Committee • Collaborate with City to survey recycling to expand curbside pick up to multifamily homes • Alumni, Matthew Collogan, gave a presentation on Permaculture for UNI 101 classes • A combined effort from several classes grew and planted grass (the state rare *Aristida condensata*) and a few long leaf pines at the New Hanover County Landfill • Trail clean-up at Ev-Henwood • CESTEM hosted a Recycling Workshop for teachers • CESTEM hosts Science Olympiad with 850-1000 middle school & high school students • The UNCW Community Sustainability Garden refurbishment •

Speakers include: "Regional Issues and Long Term Planning" session with OLLI UNCW Adult Scholars Leadership Program, Adrienne Cox with FOCUS of Southeastern North Carolina, Roger Shew with the UNCW Dept. of Geography and Geology, Jennifer Rigby with NHC Dept. of Development Services and Planning, Christine Hughes with Wilmington Dept. of Planning, Development, and Transportation and Mike Hargett with Brunswick County Planning Dept. •

IN PROGRESS

Sustainability Month hosted by Housing and Residence Life includes many programs that promote education and awareness such as: Don't Waste it Wednesdays, a clothes swap, Mind Games, Seahawk Cycle, Meatless Mondays, Sustain Bingo, Cigarette Butt Clean-Up, and Meatless Mondays • A Sustainability Cluster application to be reviewed • Enhancement of the Zero Waste Tealgates sponsored by the Student Government Association •

RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collaboration with Cynthia Hartmann, Campus Life Facilities and Operations to order more recycling tops to replace traditional garbage tops • New containers were purchased for the Recycling Center that can be moved for large events •

IN PROGRESS

Different methods of composting being researched • Pepsi Dream Machine to be ordered that provides incentives to recycle and supports an organization that teaches veterans business skills and entrepreneurship • A new Recycling and Education Center is being designed • Big Belly Solar Compactor purchased by the Student Government Association and Business Affairs •

LANDSCAPING & NATURAL AREAS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Monitored blue line stream flow and water quality and discussed stormwater management plans • Cleaned bog area, continued trail maintenance and replant carnivorous plants that have been poached and/or died at Bluethenthal • Monitored stream quality, cleared remaining trails, mowed areas for longleaf and performed prescribed burn for old field succession at Ev-Henwood • Added a retrofit to Tidal Creek Rain Garden to improve infiltration and refurbish beds/native plants and cleanup • Participated in Groundwater Resources and Planning, Northern New Hanover County: Avenel Subdivision and Public •

IN PROGRESS

Expand the community garden • Design and begin an educational exhibit on longleaf pine and naval stores • Participation in discussion "Water Sources, Quality, and Issues in NHC, Brunswick and Pender Counties" with the Sierra Club •