



**President's Council on Sustainability Annual Report
Academic Year 2012-2013**

Background on the President’s Council on Sustainability (PCS)

The University of Mary Washington’s Strategic Plan committed the University to sustainability, through management of its resources to meet the social, economic, and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. The plan states that sustainability will be a strong component of future endeavors to ensure that UMW takes responsibility for all actions. Sustainability will also be an essential part of our “scholarship in action,” fostering interdisciplinary studies, experiential and service learning, opportunities for research, professional development, and support of our region and its environment. The PCS was formed in the fall of 2009, consisting of faculty, staff, and students, and reports to both the Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Provost. The PCS plays a critical role in shaping administrative goals and objectives relating to campus sustainability.

Mission of the PCS

The council will advise and assist in the development of goals in these four action areas: Administration and Finance, Education and Research, Operation, and Innovation and Awareness. The PCS meets monthly throughout the academic year, and each member also participates in additional action groups that undertake Action Goals in the designated areas:

- **Administration and Finance**
 - The PCS will assess the places in which sustainability efforts can be enhanced within our campus by suggesting modifications to current spending. Additionally, the PCS will look for ways in which the administration can support current and proposed efforts towards creating a more sustainable campus.
- **Education and Research**
 - The PCS will work on developing educational programs and activities for both the community and the Mary Washington campuses. These programs will support, facilitate, and educate the community members on sustainability issues.
- **Operations**
 - The PCS will assess where sustainable actions can be included into the university’s daily functions and what can be done to facilitate these changes. Furthermore, the PCS will examine what infrastructure could feasibly be added to continue our development toward a more sustainable campus.

- **Innovation and Awareness**
 - The PCS will work to further educate Mary Washington students, faculty, and staff on how to live a more sustainable life style and work in a more sustainable environment. Additionally, the PCS will strive to incorporate the community, region, and state into our efforts.

PCS Members (2012-2013)

Below is the list of members, along with their affiliation, who served during the 2012-2013 academic year. The co-chairs of the PCS are indicated with a *.

Faculty

Eric Bonds, Assistant Professor, Sociology

Jeremy Larochelle, Associate Professor, Modern Foreign Languages

Chinthaka Liyanage (Spring semester only), Assistant Professor, Physics

Susan Matts (on leave Fall and Spring), Associate Professor, Physics

Andrea Smith, Assistant Professor, Historic Preservation

Michael Spencer (Fall semester only), Assistant Professor, Historic Preservation

Melanie Szulczewski*, Assistant Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Staff

Erma Baker, Assistant Vice-President, Business Services

Kevin Caffrey, Senior Associate Registrar, Stafford Campus

Christina Eggenberger, Director of Service, Student Affairs

Lori Klopp Izykowski, Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the Vice-President,

Abigail McGhee*, Coordinator of Community Events and Ceremonies, University Events

Maria Schultz, Assistant Director, Design Services

Darryl “Jay” Sullivan, Director of Utilities Management, Facilities Services

Joni Wilson, Director, Landscaping and Grounds, Facilities Services

Students

Kristen Callahan, Class of 2014, Athletics Department

Samantha Corron*, Class of 2013, Sustainability Coordinator, Facilities Services

Graham Givens, Class of 2013, Ecology Club

Evelyn Hartman, Class of 2014, Ecology Club

Emily “Fariss” Hodder, Class of 2014, Faculty Nomination

Drema Khraibani (Fall semester only), Class of 2013, Student Government

Julie Randall, Class of 2014, RA Representative

Emily Sherman*, Class of 2013, Sustainability Coordinator, Facilities Services

Summary of 2012-2013 Accomplishments

- **Establishment of a Composting Program in Seacobeck Dining Hall**
 - PCS student members Evelyn Hartman and Farris Hodder worked with Sodexo Dining Services to research the feasibility for composting waste from Seacobeck Dining Hall. By the end of this academic year, they had found a composting vendor and supported the contract development and signing to establish a pre-consumer waste composting program.
 - They also worked with the Ecology Club, the Sustainability Office, and a group of Psychology students to further food waste education on campus.
- **Continuation of an Environmental Studies Research Colloquium**
 - Dr. Jeremy Larochelle, with help from Dr. Eric Bonds, coordinated a yearlong speaker series on sustainability issues after the successful pilot in Spring 2012.
 - This year there were five high-quality presentations to showcase research from faculty members across campus:
 - “From Burning to Collecting: The Pros and Cons of Electric Cars and My Attempt to Build a Solar Car,” Dr. Chinthaka Liyanage (Physics)
 - “Is Sustainable Adaptation Possible? Determinants of Adaptation on Mount Kilimanjaro,” Dr. Joseph Holler (Geography)
 - "Urban Renewal on Paris’ Industrial Eastern Edge," Dr. Andrea Smith (Historic Preservation)
 - “*Aeschynomene virginica* (sensitive joint-vetch), a Federally Threatened Plant: Love It or Leave It?,” Dr. Alan Griffith (Biology)
 - "The Secret Life of Dirt: Why the Photochemistry of Dissolved Organic Matter Matters," Dr. Charlie Sharpless (Chemistry)
 - A dynamic discussion among students, faculty, and staff followed each presentation. This year, the average attendance (about 15) was higher than past years, in part thanks to increased announcements and visibility of the colloquium.
- **Launch of a Pedestrian Initiative**
 - Dr. Andi Smith and Dr. Eric Bonds started a project to increase the walkability and safety of campus. Encouraging walking reduces driving, improves a sense of

community, and increases public health. Providing pleasant and safe walking options also improves our campus for students, potential students, and visitors.

- They worked with students on the initial research and assessment of pedestrian problem areas. They have also collected data on campus at problem locations.
- **Organization of the Student Community Garden**
 - Recently some students began a garden near the UMW apartments. Dr. Eric Bonds, with the help of Joni Wilson, has led the establishment of a student club and email list to bring some structure and oversight to sustain the garden and enhance this valuable opportunity.
- **Achievement of Virginia Green Certification for the Fredericksburg Forum**
 - Abbie McGhee and student Turner Sheehan researched and were able to achieve official Virginia Green status for the Fredericksburg Forum event.
 - Virginia Green events must prove that there are high levels of recycling, waste reduction, and efforts to conserve materials, energy and water.
- **Launch of Office Sustainability Tip of the Week in Eagle Eye the UMW Faculty and Staff Newsletter**
 - A PCS Action Group to disseminate sustainability tips was created by PCS staff member Kevin Caffrey and included the following non-PCS members: Elizabeth Sanders, Robert Louzek, and Dre Anthes.
 - Over the course of this year, the action group published 16 articles in EagleEye, with topics including Green Meetings, Charitable Donations, Meatless Mondays, and Social Sustainability. A lot of positive feedback from readers took the form of online comments, emailed responses, and the sharing of the articles through social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook.
- **Development of a Relationship between the Virginia General Assembly and the PCS**
 - PCS student member Graham Givens made recommendations to the Virginia General Assembly on environmental policies on behalf of the PCS members, with a focus on maintaining the state ban on uranium mining.
 - Graham also kept PCS members informed and updated on the policy changes, discussion, and issues regarding the protection of the environment in Virginia.

- **Promotion of Sustainability within the UMW Athletics Department**
 - PCS student member Kristen Callahan worked with the administration and coaches within the UMW Athletics Department to promote and encourage sustainability at their games and practices.
 - Kristen planned a successful Game Day Challenge event during this year's RecycleMania which included a half time speech about the university's recycling program, encouraging fans to recycle their waste after the game, and handed out reusable water bottles as prizes to attendees.
- **Organization of Campus Tree-Planting Events with Community Participation**
 - PCS student member Julie Randle worked with Facilities and the Student Government Association to incorporate tree plantings on campus as part of the Good Neighbor Day which was planned by the SGA.
- **Organization of a National Wildlife Federation Guest Lecture**
 - Dr. Szulczewski organized a guest lecture by Jeremy Symons, Vice President of Conservation and Education, at the NWF in November 2012.
 - The talk, "How Does Corporate Oil, Gas, and Coal Money Influence U.S. Energy Policy?," was attended by approximately 50 people.
- **Development of a Green Fee on Campus (on-going)**
 - PCS student members Drema Khraibani (representing the Student Senate) and Emily Sherman completed a Green Fee Proposal to present to the UMW administration and student body after a motion was passed by the Student Senate to implement a Green Fee on campus. They are in the process of developing a survey for students to gather information on ways to allocate the money.
- **Submission of a UMW Stormwater Drainage Plan to the EPA Campus Rain Works Challenge**
 - PCS student member Drema Khaibani worked with Dr. Melanie Szulczewski and a team of students (Dalton Echard, Philip Wahlman, and Manisha Kumar) to research and develop an innovative stormwater project for the UMW Fredericksburg Campus. The proposal included the restoration of the creek that flows through campus, the introduction of native species around eroded areas, and a new green wall to further mitigate runoff.

- This plan was submitted to the EPA Rain Works Challenge, a national competition across campuses. Although the project did not win, interested students hope to try to implement some of the ideas on campus.
- **Conversion of an Electric UMW Golf Cart to Solar Power (on-going)**
 - Dr. Chin Liyanage, a new UMW and PCS faculty member, started an initiative to convert an existing electric golf cart to run on solar energy.
 - This work will continue over the summer with the involvement of Summer Science Institute research students.
- **Implementation of Numerous Green Events and Programs**
 - The PCS, Ecology Club, and Facilities Department developed many other ongoing programs and interactive events, including the establishment of a Sustainability RA program, a successful proposal for a Green Living Community, and demonstrations on Ball Circle.
 - One of the most important is the annual national Recyclemania competition.
 - This year, UMW finished 12th overall, and 1st place of Virginia schools, for amount of material recycled per capita.

Conclusion

The PCS and other community members achieved many diverse goals this year and established several exciting, ongoing programs. While several active student PCS members have graduated, several will be continuing to serve on the PCS next year, as will most of the faculty and staff members. We hope to continue to enhance our presence on campus and include more UMW community members in our projects.

For more information on sustainability initiatives or to view PCS meeting minutes or other documents, please visit the UMW PCS website: <http://sustainability.umw.edu>.



Waste Challenge at Ball Circle: How many recyclable items are in *your* trash?



SGA Good Neighbor Day with the UMW Eagle and President Hurley



Recyclemania Education and Publicity

Mug Shot

Dean Finkelstein uses a reusable mug, do you?
Help cut down on our waste production by using a
reusable water bottle and coffee mug!

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