



Sustainability Report to the Board of Trustees

April 24, 2007

What is sustainability and why does it matter?



“Local, regional, and global air and water pollution; accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of “green house gases” threaten the survival of humans and thousands of other living species, the integrity of the earth and it’s biodiversity, the security of nations and the heritage of future generations. These environmental changes are caused by inequitable and unsustainable production and consumption patterns that aggravate poverty in many regions of the world.”

The 1994 “Talloires Declaration”

Association of University Leaders for a Sustainable Future

Sustainability at the University of Kentucky



Sustainability efforts at UK are focused in three primary areas:

- Business Operations
- Academic/Research Activities
- Outreach/Community Engagement

Business Operations

Highlights 2006-07



Electrical Energy Conservation

- Replacement of energy inefficient lighting across campus.
- Operate a sophisticated 24/7 centralized energy management control room which reduces demand and saves university money.
(night setbacks, centralized control of HVAC system)

Business Operations

Highlights 2006-07



Recycling

- UK recycles about 1/3 of campus generated solid waste
- Fulltime recycling coordinator assigned to housing
- Brought UK apartments into LFUCG program in 06/07
- Special waste recycling programs – batteries, oil, fluorescent bulbs, game day collections at Football Stadium

Business Operations

Highlights 2006-07



New Construction Standards

- Hospital and Pharmacy projects are being designed using significant LEED principles

Business Operations

Highlights 2006-07



Other Efforts

- Bicycle Improvements/Programs
- Use of Bio-Diesel in campus buses and other diesel-run vehicles
- Native species in our landscaping (reduce water needs)
- “Live Where You Work” program
- Use of “Green” certified products for cleaning of buildings
- Use of sustainable products in renovations/small projects

Academic / Research Activities

Highlights 2006-07



Academic

44 Sustainability-oriented courses were offered in 2006-2007 academic year

1,851 Students

- 237 enrolled in fall
- 1,614 enrolled in spring classes

Academic / Research Activities

Highlights 2006-07



Research

Consolidated complete database of sustainable research is not available.

Significant activities in Colleges of:

Agriculture; Engineering; Arts and Sciences; Business and Economics; Design; Center for Applied Energy Research; Kentucky Water Resources Institute; Bio Systems and Agriculture Engineering and others.

Areas of research include:

Green energy/alternative fuels; clean coal fuels and processing; aluminum recycling; capture of paint emissions; reduction of greenhouse gases; capture and handling of carbon dioxide; sustainable agriculture and numerous others.

Outreach / Community Engagement Activities

Highlights 2006-07



Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community
(LFUCG; Fayette Schools; UK)

Sustainable Agriculture Symposium
(Asia Center; College of Agriculture; Gaines Center)

Light Bulb Exchange
(Green Thumb Club; Housing: Student Government; Residence Life)

Earth Days in the Bluegrass
(Residence Life; Green Thumb; UK Environmental Studies)

Sustainable Planning Symposium
(Tracy Farmer Center for the Environment)

Growing Kentucky II: Land, Food and Culture Conference
(College of Agriculture; College of Fine Arts)

Cooperative Extensions Statewide Environmental Task Force
(College of Agriculture)

Bluegrass Restoration Program
(College of Arts and Sciences; Tracy Farmer Center)

Near Term Activities



May 2007

- Presidential Appointment of University Sustainability Committee
- Recommend /Adopt University Statement on Sustainability Policy

Summer 2007

- Establish Campus Sustainability Coordinator Position

Goals / Activities for Upcoming Academic Year



Business Operations

- Energy/Utility Audits (Top 10 Buildings)
- Green Design (Document Current Efforts and Establish Future Goals)
- Housing (Increase Participatory Activities)
- Food Sustainability (Increase Campus Purchases and Other Efforts)
- Sustainability Office
 - Hire Coordinator/Create intern opportunities
 - Expanded and improved Web page

Goals / Activities for Upcoming Academic Year



Academic /Research Activities

- Sustainability Symposia (Fall 2007 and Spring 2008)
- Increased Student Campus Events - Films, Activities, Celebrations
- Documentation/Distribution of Classroom Sustainability Offerings
- Documentation of Research Activities

Goals / Activities for Upcoming Academic Year



Community Engagement

- Continuation of Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community
- Increased involvement with Kentucky higher education institutions

Our Commitment



“The University of Kentucky recognizes that in its mission to improve the lives of Kentuckians, one of its greatest challenges in our time is to engage the University community to create policies and programs that will simultaneously advance economic vitality, ecological integrity, and social equity, now and into the future. As such, it calls upon all levels and constituencies of the university to participate in a continuous and on-going effort to institute the teaching, research and practice of sustainability and to establish an institutional culture of sustainability.”

Draft University of Kentucky Statement
on Sustainability Policy (2007)

Questions?



Further Information and Details Available at:

www.uky.edu/sustainability (*UK Sustainability Web Page*)