



UNCW Sustainability Committee

Annual Report 2013-2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chancellor Miller defined one of UNCW's greatest strengths as its value in "Love of Place". He has emphasized the significance of embracing the University's coastal location and taking advantage of the learning opportunities that it provides. "In this way, we may serve the world even as we serve this region," – Chancellor Miller

UNCW defines sustainability as individual efforts made by the community to ensure that the beauty and benefits of today's world – **economically, environmentally and socially** – will be available for future generations. Consequently, sustainability involves awareness and understanding of the complex interdependence between the social, economic and ecological systems. The choices we, as Seahawks, make in our daily lives affect the intricate interconnections between these systems, whether tangible or invisible.

ACADEMICS & CULTURE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bluethenthal Wildflower Reserve, built in 1974 as a tool for teaching ecology, now accommodates seating for classes overlooking the lake. Improved stewardship of campus's forested areas includes a large native planting in the Ev Henwood Preserve. UNCW's community garden has served as a firsthand educational resource to students while providing produce to the local Food Bank. Collaborative efforts between UNCW, North Carolina State University and the City of Wilmington at Oleander Park have improved the health of Hewletts Creek. English classes integrated sustainability into writing after visiting the UNCW Recycling Department. Classes dedicated to sustainability include *Topics and Issues in Sustainability*, *Environmental Justice Ethnography* and *Tourism and the Environment*. The organic chemistry department practices "green" chemistry, reducing the amount of chemical waste.

IN PROGRESS

Implementation of sustainability into the curriculum of broader, non-science related courses. Research for the Stormwater Management Plan will be integrated into academic classes and student research. Sustainability workshops for faculty providing guidance for assimilating sustainability into a variety of subjects.

CAMPUS DINING

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wagoner Dining Hall's water consumption has been reduced by a third in four years. Locally purchased produce has increased over 18% in the past three years, and can now be found in Dub's Café. Plastic bags served only where required by franchise, eliminating the use of over 20,000 bags since. Styrofoam replaced in Hawk's Nest, Wag Out and Dub's Café with compostable and biodegradable options. The plastic items used in Campus Dining are recyclable and/or made from recycled materials. Napkins are made from 100% recycled materials. 100% of dining service's fryer oil is recycled as biodiesel fuel. Dub's Café began using blue cleaning to sanitize their tables, using ionized water instead of chemicals. Feast Down East, a local, non-profit organization was co-founded at UNCW, supports local limited resource farmers by bringing their foods to market via an online buying club. The Green Spot provides all local and organic meal options made possible by Feast Down East. Wagoner Dining Hall and Dub's Cafe participate in Meatless Monday (an international campaign to reduce meat consumption) by offering nutritious meat-free entrée options once a week. Each Wednesday in Wagoner Dining Hall there is a Locally Inspired Chef's station providing meals and education.

IN PROGRESS

Wagoner Dining Hall plans to implement composting of all of biodegradable waste. Through Feast Down East, UNCW intends to increase the percentage of locally purchased foods.

GREEN BUILDING AND ENERGY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNCW leads the UNC System in 2015 energy reduction timeline goals, surpassing the 30% reduction requirement. Phase I of performance contracting has been completed, installing energy conservation measures on nine buildings. The new Student Recreation Center expansion includes solar panels, providing renewable energy to heat the pool. Of the 3,908,201 gross square feet of buildings on campus 25% are either Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified or built to LEED standards. New solar powered crosswalk signs can be found along the Cross City Trail. A full time energy manager was hired.

IN PROGRESS

A Stormwater Master Plan focusing on alternatives for water usage, water reduction, and stream restoration. A second Greenhouse Gas Inventory will be analyzed and compared to the 2011 Inventory to create a baseline for the Strategic Action Plan. The plan will include ways reduce carbon emissions and guide the University in the UNC-GA goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Phase II of Performance Contracting plans to involve two central plants and providing improvements to twenty additional buildings with day lightings, motion sensors, improved lighting fixture and HVAC systems.

TRANSPORTATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Seahawk Shuttle ridership has increase 12% in the past two years. Total ridership of the shuttle increased by 16,784 riders during the 2012-2013 school year. Three-fourth of the enforcement vehicles on campus have been replaced with electric options. A multimodal transportation study provides recommendations to create a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly campus. The university has installed three bicycle repair stations at Fisher Student Center, Randall Library and Wagoner Hall. This allows our students easy access to fix and maintain their bikes. Completion of the Cross City trail connects Wrightsville Beach, UNCW and Historic Downtown Wilmington. The state motor fleet was eliminated. ***Nick troutment – changes in vehicles and ken kiser

IN PROGRESS

Incentives to promote carpooling will increase in the upcoming year. A Zipcar program will be implemented for students and staff that only need to use a vehicle on rare occasions. Parking meters will be replaced with solar powered alternatives. A transit hub with live shuttle times and routes will be installed at the University Union. The shuttle to the Center for Marine Science will be self-operating with a low emission bus.

OUTREACH AND STUDENT INITIATIVES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Housing and Residence Life's (HRL) Move-In 2013 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. The Coastal Health Initiative (CHI) was initiated by UNCW School of Health and Applied Human Sciences is dedicated to exploring the interrelationship between the coastal environment and human health. The Sustainability Committee promoted sustainability at Wagsgiving through a performance by Physical Graffiti, giving out "swag", promoting energy saving and recycling, and gathering signatures for the Sustainability Pledge. Faculty and staff from UNCW collaborate with the Cape Fear Arch. Students and staff attended the Appalachian Energy Summit. UNCW Surfrider Foundation reached out to the community with a cigarette butt clean-up and education on ocean friendly gardens and lawns. The Environmental Concerns Organization attended Power Shift in Washington D.C to collaborate with other students. Aquaculture at WB ????

IN PROGRESS

UNCW Surfrider Foundation is striving towards eliminating as much plastic as possible from campus. A Sustainable Art Initiative??? Sustainability week included???

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UNCW is paid by recycling collection companies for all of the recyclable material, except for glass. New compactors with teeth allows for more efficient bailing by crushing plastic bottles with tops. Storm debris from the 2013 winter storm waste was mulched to be used on campus. Recyclemania results totaled 233,239 pounds of materials in the eight week competition, or 16.32 pounds per student. For the Gorilla category (overall weight) UNCW finished 78th which was 4th in the state, and 1st in the CAA!

IN PROGRESS

New, portable recycling receptacles at the Recycling Center will provide the ability to take the receptacles into the community. A new Recycling and Education Center is being designed. Waste Audits???