



GO GREEN

University of South Florida

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SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

Did you know?

USF is currently planning to design 3 projects to be LEED Certified.

The first USF LEED certified project to be completed will be on the St Petersburg campus. The Science & Technology/General Academic Facility is currently being designed to LEED Silver level and will begin construction in June.

On the Tampa Campus a design team has been selected to begin planning the Patel Center for Global Solutions to LEED standards. The first building on the new USF Polytechnic campus in Lakeland will also be designed to be LEED certified.

GREENING THE CAMPUS TOGETHER

WELCOME to our 1st ever Sustainability Newsletter. This is a joint effort from the Provost's office and our colleagues, students, and staff from across campus. We hope to be able to create a monthly newsletter with contributions from you about what you are doing in the classroom, off-campus, in the community, and wherever you are involved in 'green' and sustainable activities. This first edition highlights some of the activities that we have either participated in, or learned about, in the last six months since the Provost created a position to facilitate the University's continuing movement toward its Strategic Goals in the areas of Sustainability, Global Initiatives, Community Engagement, and Interdisciplinary Integrated Inquiry. On January 15th, 2008 I accepted the job, and Diana Trueman signed on to work on these goals with me. Diana has compiled the Newsletter based on your information, and together we hope that each month you will share with us what you have been doing.

In addition to this newsletter, we have a website, www.usf.edu/sustainability, on which we will make available information about events, courses, conferences that are occurring, those we would like to see occur, ideas to share, and plans for future green activities.

We are very proud of the people at USF whose dedication to a more sustainable future makes possible the activities we highlight in our maiden newsletter, and we look forward to recognizing new campus and community-wide activities in the future. Please send your notices to Diana Trueman (dtrueman@acad.usf.edu) and let us know if you would you like them included in the Sustainability Newsletter and/or posted on our website.

Thank you for your hard work and vision for the future,

Linda Whiteford, Ph.D.,MPH

Associate Vice President for
Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives



COMMITMENT TO GO GREEN MOVES FORWARD

The grass may really be a little greener at USF. According to a two-month progress report, USF has succeeded in planting the seeds of sustainability after joining a growing list of environmentally committed higher education institutions around the nation.

President Judy Genshaft signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) during the Going Green

Tampa Bay Expo at the Sun Dome in April.

The progress report posted on the ACUPCC Web site states that the University has established a Campus Sustainability Steering Committee composed of 30 members. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members are identified as stakeholders in the process of implementing environmental sustainability on campus.

"Several subcommittees are in the process of

(Cont'd Commitment)

being created and these will look into distinct issues such as waste recycling, food, landscaping, water, energy, etc. We intend to ensure a good student representation on these subcommittees," said committee member and Chair of the Department of Geography Robert Brinkmann.

USF has also identified five tangible short-term goals that could reduce greenhouse gases while a more comprehensive plan is developed. These include purchasing ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist, offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions caused by USF-paid air travel, promoting public transportation, supporting eco-friendly shareholder proposals at companies with USF investments and adopting at least three waste-reduction measures.

Noticeably, the University has not mandated that all new campus construction follow the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standard, a popular standard for energy-efficient buildings. Brinkmann, however, said that such a measure requires careful policy and budgetary planning and that not selecting it as one of the short-term goals does not rule out its implementation in the future.

Brinkmann said the tremendous student support and presence of many volunteer organizations across campus are major assets in the quest to make USF more sustainable. However, he also said that all work pertaining to sustainability is thus far being done voluntarily and he strongly advocated the hiring of paid sustainability staff on campus.

The ACUPCC, which places equal emphasis on short-and long-term actions, prescribes a general scheme of implementation with several specific deadlines. Creating institutional implementation structures and choosing two or more of the seven tangible, short-term actions to reduce greenhouse gases is the first step in fulfilling the commitment. USF reached this milestone under the leadership of Linda Whiteford, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives. Sustainability is one of several strategic initiatives she oversees.

Signatories are also required to complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gases with annual updates and create a long-term plan for achieving climate neutrality, including target dates, interim goals and ways of tracking progress. Institutions must make all such progress reports, action plans and inventories publicly available.

Recycling, water conservation and reuse, and energy conservation are other major areas for potential improvement, said Daniel Yeh, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"There are a number of buildings on campus that can be made energy-efficient through upgrading their mechanical systems, and this can potentially save the University a lot of money," Yeh said.

"This climate commitment undertaken by USF is part of a nationwide trend of cam-

pus getting certified based on their sustainability efforts, with a big focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Brinkmann said.

Brinkmann also said that the availability of free and/or subsidized mass transit options to students, staff and faculty is one of the strongest eco-friendly traditions at USF. However, he said there is a need to popularize this mode of transportation among the University community.

"Although a lot of research is going on within various colleges and departments, we as an organization have not done much for the environment and sustainability until now," he said. "However, the president's climate change commitment has provided

us with an opportunity to bring all these people into one team and pursue joint efforts."

The commitment was conceived of by a group of college and university presidents and their representatives at the October 2006 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference at Arizona State University. It is supported by three non-profit organizations: AASHE, ecoAmerica and Second Nature. According to the AASHE Web site, 554 institutions of higher education nationwide have signed the commitment.

By: Naimish Upadhyay



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Following is a list of transportation options and support programs that could help ease the pain at the pump. Using an option only 1 time a week will reduce your gas bill and impact on the environment by 20 percent. Mix and match options to fit your lifestyle.

Emergency Ride Home: All students, faculty and staff at USF are eligible for an Emergency Ride Home if they carpool, bike, walk,

vanpool or take transit a minimum of 2 times per week. You must sign up through Bay Area Commuter Services, and then if you need a ride home due to a qualified emergency or illness you receive up to 8 free taxi rides home per year. It is free, and a great safety net for those who use an option other than driving alone. To sign up go to www.tampabayrideshare.org.

(Cont'd Transportation)

Carpool: Carpool matching is currently provided through Bay Area Commuter Services www.tampabayrideshare.org or try GoLoco interfacing with Facebook www.goloco.org. It may be difficult to find a match at first. As more people sign up, the matching becomes more effective, so don't give up. Also, talk to your coworkers about forming carpools.

Bike: Bicycling is a great way to commute to USF. Go to www.tampabaycycle.com for incentives, maps, and group rides. USF provides bike racks, bike lids, and in some buildings shower facilities are available. Or join the Recreation Center for a quick shower option. I bike from my home in Temple Terrace to USF at least 3 times a week, and it is an easy ride.

Bull Runner Shuttle: The Bull Runner shuttle is available free to students, faculty and staff. Try taking the shuttle to the University Mall for lunch. Jump on the shuttle for short trips around campus instead of moving your car. Short trips during the day will contribute to draining your gas tank. Go to www.usf.edu/bullrunner for route information.

Vanpool: Bay Area Vanpool operates in our area <http://www.tampabayrideshare.org/bavp>.

htm. If you are interested in a vanpool option from your home area to USF, please email bond@cutr.usf.edu.

HART: Faculty and staff ride HART's regular bus service routes for only 25 cents a trip with a valid USF ID. Students ride free. This is a great benefit. Go to www.hartline.org for trip planning and other information.

Bikes on Buses: HART has bike racks on all buses. Try biking to your stop from home and then from your stop to work. http://www.hartline.org/ride_guide/bikes/index.htm

Telework: USF has a telework policy. Go to http://usfweb2.usf.edu/usfgc/gc_pp/genadm/gc612.htm to see if this is an option.

Walk: If you live within 1 mile or less of your workplace, try walking. Even short trips will drain your gas tank, and each engine start creates pollution. <http://www.walkscore.com/>

511: Dial 511 for free transportation and traffic updates. <http://www.511tampabay.com/>

Tips to Go Green:

1. Lower your thermostat. Buy a programmable thermostat.
2. Reuse your water bottle. Avoid buying bottled water. In fact, reuse everything at least once, especially plastics.
3. Check out your bathroom. Use low-flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets.
4. Buy foods locally.
5. Buy in season.
6. Turn off lights and electronics when you leave the room. Unplug your cell phone charger from the wall when not using it. Turn off energy strips and surge protectors when not in use (especially overnight).



GREEN GRADUATES

Now that the thesis is written and the last exams have been graded, all a recent grad has to do is find a job. Fortunately, the increase in green consumerism could mean more options grads who are interested in taking their concern for the planet to work. As you embark on the hunt for a new career, why not look for one that will do the planet some good while beefing up your resume?

To simplify the search, several websites have cropped up recently that specialize in eco-conscious jobs, in just about every industry. At [Green Jobs](#) you can search for positions in the renewable energy field, while [Sustainable Business' Green Dream Jobs](#) service allows you to browse positions in including finance, policy and travel. And at [Environmental Career](#) you'll find postings for openings at great green organizations like the WWF and Rainforest Alliance. Also, don't forget to check out your university's job site, as many have added a green career category.

Finally, if there is an organization you respect, go directly to their website to check for openings. If the positions they list don't seem to fit your interest or experience, it never hurts to reach out anyway. Some companies may not realize they need your help until you let them know you're interested.

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CLIMATE COMMITMENT TASK FORCE

Sharon Hanna-West and Dr. Robert Brinkmann, Co-Chairs

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