



KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

Center for Sustainability
Office of the Provost





History

- Student initiative to create opportunities for student research, education, and involvement in making campus more environmentally responsible
- Developed in Environmental Studies course and presented to University administration



History

- Sustainability Task Force appointed by Provost in Fall 2004
 - 3 faculty, 2 staff, 4 undergraduate students
 - Charged with task of “examining the feasibility and efficacy of organizing an expanded hub at KU for research, data collection and implementation of various actions that will make existing campus operations more friendly to the environment and to guide future campus growth in environmentally responsible directions.”
- Submitted recommendations in Spring 2005



History

- Refined and resubmitted - Spring 2006
- Funding identified for Fall 2006
- Met with new provost to establish performance goals
- Funded for 3 years starting Feb 2007



People

- 1 Full-time staff
- 1 part time faculty (1 month appointment)
- Student staff as available
- Advisory Board
 - Faculty from History, Engineering, Env. Studies
 - Staff from FO and DCM/Space Management
 - Students from Engineering and Env. Studies



Mission

The Center for Sustainability promotes a culture of sustainability on the KU campus. The Center facilitates research, learning opportunities, policies, and practices that address environmental, economic, and social responsibility. We serve as a connection for all members of the campus community - including faculty, staff, and students - to advance policies and projects and participate in processes that lead to a more sustainable future.



Goals

- Secure externally funded research
 - Develop interdisciplinary research teams
 - Establish faculty affiliates
- Facilitate student-based sustainability research projects
 - Faculty advisors for independent study
 - Address campus specific issues



Goals

- Facilitate development of sustainability focused service-learning courses
 - Partnership with KU Center for Service Learning
 - Involve students in hands-on opportunities in the community



Goals

- Establish a campus-wide sustainability ambassador network
 - Key to communication, discussion, action and sustainability of organization
 - Representation of academic departments administrative units, and student organizations



Goals

- Complete research that identifies cost-savings opportunities in campus operations
 - Identify payback, investments, and potential sources of funding
 - Student research projects and student staff incorporated into this effort



Objectives

- Serve as an avenue for students and student organizations to collaborate on sustainable initiatives and provide input to processes that promote sustainability on campus
- Engage faculty in multidisciplinary research, issues forums, and curriculum development focusing on the advancement of sustainable practices and policies
- Involve university staff and administration in discussions leading to new processes and policies that improve environmental, economic, and social responsibility
- Expand the capacity for sustainable initiatives through campus-wide networking, community outreach, and fund development.
- Promote efforts by the campus community to advance sustainability through the center website, media outlets, and other recognition programs.



Projects

- Environmental Studies Capstone course
 - Group projects assessing aspects of campus sustainability
 - Refining projects into pilot proposals
- Stormwater Management Independent Study
 - Students examined campus stormwater and opportunities to capture runoff for irrigation
 - Developed plan for rain garden at City solid waste facility
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Wakarusa Music & Camping Festival Sustainability Audit



Other Efforts at KU

- Natural Playground design for DeVictor Park in Lawrence
- Waste Vegetable Oil to Fuel
 - Susan Williams, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering
 - Alternative Energy Society student organization
- KU Dining Services incorporating local vegan burgers and pursuing opportunities to provide more local & organic produce
- Spencer Art Museum developing exhibits with theme of human impact on the environment
- Numerous efforts of CEBC, CReSIS, and other research centers and individual departments



Upcoming Projects & Events

- Launch of sustainability ambassador network
- Sustainable foods proposal
- Green Purchasing Guide
- Departmental “audit” pilot
- Campus Sustainability Day (October 24)



Contacts

Jeff Severin, Director

jseverin@ku.edu

785-864-5804

Stacey White, Director of Academic Programs

Associate Professor, Urban Planning

sswhite@ku.edu

785-864-3530

www.sustainability.ku.edu