

Facilities Services Sustainability Work Group



University of Oregon
Campus Operations, Growing Sustainability

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F. S. Sustainability Team Introduces Newsletter

The Facilities Services Sustainability Team would like to introduce its new newsletter. This forum will be used to keep F.S. employees and others around campus apprised of the many sustainability efforts, projects, and campaigns undertaken over the next few years; as well as to alert the campus community to important campus and nation-wide events and activities.

Feedback, Please

The Sustainability Work Group needs your help. Keep us informed of your thoughts, ideas, and feedback as you read these newsletters. And feel free to send in ideas for stories. Forward all comments to: knowaste@uoregon.edu

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Introducing the F.S. Sustainability Work Group

The following F.S. employees have generously agreed to membership on the Sustainability Work Group. In addition to taking time from their busy work schedules, these individuals are applying knowledge, employing creativity, and drawing upon expertise in an effort to formulate, plan, and implement sustainability projects at the University.

Team members include:

Bill Kasper – Chair, F.S. Purchasing

Karyn Kaplan – Campus Recycling

Jim Fleck – Campus Recycling

Christine Thompson – University Planning

Jeff Madsen – Central Power Station

Kay Coots – Environmental Health & Safety

Linda Miller – Custodial Services

Roger Kerrigan – Campus & Grounds

Vince Babkirk – Campus & Grounds

Ernie Svensson – Maintenance

Diana Preston – F.S. Administration

The team would also like to thank George Hecht and Frances Dyke for their direction and leadership in these efforts to make the University a model of sustainability.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability: [to meet] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability is a concept that can be worked into every aspect of a person's life- a question with each task: "What are the impacts of this on the future and on those around me?"

Sustainability Tips

Each newsletter issue will include tips for making the University and the planet more sustainable. Since we're a paper-intensive organization, it seemed only appropriate that this inaugural issue contain tips for reducing paper usage.

Feel free to send us ideas for future "Tips of the Month"

Tips for Reducing Paper Usage

- Make double-sided copies
- Replace hardcopy memos, mailings, and newsletters with digital/electronic versions
- Use old single-sided paper for draft copies and scratch/note paper
- Read the online versions of newspapers and magazines, and cancel hardcopy subscriptions
- Get off of junk mail mailing lists:
<https://www.dmachoice.org/dma/member/home.action>

Finally, follow the University's recycled paper policy when purchasing and using paper. The full policy is available at: <http://policies.uoregon.edu/ch4k.html>

Monthly Facts

- Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution!
- The 17 trees saved can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide from the air each year. Burning that same ton of paper would *create* 1500 pounds of CO₂.
- At UO, from 1992-2007, the UO recycled 18,422 tons or 3.6 million pounds of materials. This amounts to savings of: 313,174 trees, 129 million gallons of water, 8.5 million gallons of oil, 11 million pounds of air pollution, and 75 million KWhr of energy.



F.S. Greens Fleet: Biodiesel and Electric Vehicles



Facilities Services is proud to announce the addition of the new electric utility vehicles to the operations fleet. F.S. now has 11 dedicated electric vehicles: 4 utility vehicles and 7 golf carts. Electric vehicles are much cleaner than typical gasoline-powered cars, even considering the costs of producing the electricity that powers them. Vehicles running on electricity are also much cheaper to run.

This summer, the long-awaited Biodiesel vans arrived. Five vans were purchased for the Campus Recycling Program with funding from the ASUO and Facilities Services. A sixth van is being used in Zone A by Art Corliss. In addition to the Step-Vans, F.S. uses 2 garbage trucks, 1 forklift, 1 backhoe, 1 bobcat, 3 tractors and 5 riding lawnmowers that all run on bio-diesel. The purchase of these biodiesel vans was a rewarding culmination to months of work researching and securing funding, as well as step towards making F.S. operations more sustainable.

By running the vans on the B20 bio-diesel blend, a renewable resource, already used by F.S., there have been significant emissions savings.

The biodiesel used comes from local cooking grease reclaimed from Kettle Chips through Sequential Biofuels.

For more on how F.S. is making use of Biodiesel, see CPS Purchases Biodiesel in Changeover Project.

Bio-diesel Facts

B20 vs. Petro-Diesel: reduces 30% hydrocarbon emissions, 20% carbon monoxide, 15% particulates.

Controversy: Does biodiesel contribute to global hunger? Is it unethical to grow food crops to use as fuel? Not when it's made from food waste, as Sequential is.

Biodiesel is non-toxic and biodegradable.

CPS Purchases Biodiesel in Changeover Project

In keeping with the Governor's priority for the use of bio-fuels in energy cogeneration, Facilities Services recently purchased 10,000 gallons of B20 biodiesel as backup fuel for the Central Power Station.

The preparation for this change started last summer when the CPS burned down the 30,000-gallon capacity Tank #1. Once cleaning and prep work was completed, the tank was refilled with 10,000 gallons of Ultra Low Sulphur #2 Diesel purchased from Tyree Oil (Tyree purchases B100 from Sequential Biofuels and produces the B20 used for diesel fuel at F.S.). Purchasing is monitoring biodiesel prices and will add another 10,000 gallons when the price warrants.

Those interested in learning more about biodiesel are encouraged to watch the documentary film ***“Revolution Green: A True Story of Biodiesel in America.”*** F.S. has purchased a copy of this documentary film and has made it available for individual viewing in the F.S. video library at the main office reception desk.

Sustainability Superstar of the Month:

Harold Learned

Harold Learned, a custodian in the Moss Street Child Care Center, provided valuable feedback on waste reduction and recovery at the child care centers that led to improvements in the recycling system at Moss Street. He also worked with Kelly Zillmann, Composting Coordinator for Campus Recycling to start composting at child care centers. Harold's suggestions and work with the staff helped Moss Street to reduce their dumpster size by half! This work is an inspiring example of the impact those dedicated to sustainability can have within their daily work routine.

Congratulations Harold!

Thank you to the UO Bookstore, UO Merchandising and Holy Cow for Superstar Award donations.



Composting

Composting is the process of turning biodegradable products, food waste, and plant matter into fertile soil through natural aerobic decomposition. This diverts waste that otherwise would end up in a landfill.

The soil produced by composting, humus, is rich in nutrients and can be used to cleanup contaminated soils and enrich those low in nutrients.

This year, Campus Recycling began the Composting Pilot Project on campus thanks to funding from F.S. and last year's ASUO surplus funds. Compost is collected from pre-consumer sites in the kitchens of the EMU food vendors and coffee grounds are picked up as pre-consumer compost at campus cafes.

Compost is also collected from post-consumer sites in the EMU, Hamilton food court, and campus cafes that collect compostable coffee cups, plates and food waste. The compost program plans to begin a Paper Towel Composting pilot around campus and facilities. If funding from the ASUO is granted, the program will become a regular part of sustainability on campus.

This is an exciting new frontier that colleges around the country are embracing. Participation and recovery is growing daily. Hopefully the program will be institutionalized and expanded in years to come.



Self-Audit

Wondering how sustainable your office is? Performing a self-audit can answer that question. Stay tuned for the Green Office Guide, coming soon.

<http://www.epa.gov/solidwaste/partnerships/wastewisecarboncalc.htm>

How about your life outside of work? Both of these environmental footprint calculators are easy, fun and informative.

<http://www.earthday.net/footprint/flash.html>

http://www.conservation.org/act/live_green/Pages/ecofootprint.aspx

Self-audits provide insight into which areas need improvement, along with tips on how to do so!