

## Sustainability Discussion

### Western Oregon University - Statement of Initiatives

WOU's sustainability initiatives and activities include the following:

#### New Construction Projects

- New construction will be targeted to meet or exceed the LEED Silver Certification.
- We utilize variable speed motors and drives.
- Flooring is scrutinized for materials - "clean-ability" and indoor air quality.
- "Green" sheet flooring is one alternative but bare concrete, terrazzo or recycled glass are others.
- Solar power will be a portion of all new construction along with day lighting and sun shading as needed.
- Future demolition will include reduced amounts hauled to the landfill and increased recycling.
- Low VOC paints, carpets and glues will be used.
- Convenient, covered bicycle parking will be included to encourage alternate transportation.

#### Deferred Maintenance Projects

- Lighting is continually upgraded for improved light quality, reduced energy consumption, and maintenance.
- Heating and cooling usage is regulated centrally with an Energy Management Control System (EMCS) utilizing night setbacks and other energy saving practices.
- Irrigation usage is regulated through a central computer system that in the future will be assisted by software developed to monitor weather, soil moisture and evaporation rates.
- All buildings are scheduled to be metered for electrical and steam usage to help target high energy users for upgrades and other repairs in a timely manner.
- Maintenance and repair operations will continue to look at HVAC system upgrades and other energy efficient measures such as:
  - o lighting upgrades (T-12 to T-8 or T-5 and magnetic ballasts to electronic),
  - o lighting sensors,
  - o automated lavatory faucets,
  - o low-flow and automatic water closet flushometers,
  - o low-flow shower heads and low-flow and automatic urinal flushometers.
- Windows are replaced with higher efficient units.
- Old steam absorber chillers have been replaced with efficient modular units.
- Inefficient electric chillers have also been replaced with modular units.
- Where possible, buildings have been combined to utilize one modular chiller.
- Domestic water heat exchangers in facilities with low water use are being replaced with small electric water heaters.

All of these programs have helped lower our utility consumption.

#### Physical Plant Activities

- Used parts are closely monitored for re-use, salvage or recycling.
- Furniture and equipment that is no longer needed is shipped to DAS for sale.
- Five gasoline powered maintenance vehicles have been replaced with electric vehicles. More will be replaced this year.
- Old, gasoline powered landscape utility vehicles have been replaced with more efficient, longer-lived diesel vehicles.
- WOU is discussing with Monmouth Power and Light, the option of purchasing a block of “clean” power.
- Recycling efforts have been increasing but a student driven program is necessary to carry the program to the next level.
- Fluorescent lighting tubes are being recycled which reduces the amount of mercury in our landfills.
- Wood waste is being recycled into bedding mulch instead of into the landfill.
- Additional outdoor receptacles are being purchased and strategically located near high foot traffic areas to increase the recycling effort.
- Landscaping utilizes mulching mowers and naturally composts leaves, branches and any bagged grass clippings.
- Organic fertilizer is used as well as some slow release synthetic fertilizers with application times closely monitored for suitable weather conditions to minimize runoff.
- Natural products such as fish fertilizer, bark-dust, compost, insecticidal soap and wood chips are used where possible.
- Trees and shrubs are maintained for long lives. Continual planting of additional or replacements are accomplished at appropriate times annually. Some areas have been planted in native species to reduce water requirements.

### Educational Program

#### Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Forestry

WOU is an active partner in the Luckiamute Watershed Council supplying office support, faculty and student participation in Watershed Council outreach programming. The Council’s mission is to foster good stewardship of natural resources and develop an improved understanding of the area’s biological diversity. Much of this work centers on assisting land owners in restoring habitat for fish and wildlife on land owners’ properties.

### University Computing Services Activities

- WOU has replaced 90% of CRT monitors with LCD monitors. This results in a 200-250W savings per workstation.
- Several computer labs were converted to thin-client labs resulting in significantly reduced electronic equipment. Thin-clients use 200% less power. The Sun 4100 terminal servers use 1/3 the power of an equivalent Dell server.
- Our new emergency communication system fully utilizes solar power (our first solar power on campus).

## Residence Hall Activities

- Incandescent lighting has been changed to CFL bulbs.
- Recycling areas have been established in three areas in the residence halls.
- Efforts are underway with the Residence Hall Association and student government to establish an interior recycling program for all residence halls –  
    We are considering hiring student employees next year to serve as recycling coordinators in residence hall communities.
- Low-flow shower heads are used in all buildings.
- Low flow flush mechanisms for all remaining toilets are under consideration.

## Food Service Activities

- Food Service provides old cooking oil to a local farmer for fuel.
- (Additional initiatives are underway but not available at this time).