

IMT595 – Capstone  
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### University of Washington – Environmental Sustainability Timeline

February 26, 1970	World's First Trash-In held on University of Washington campus. <sup>1</sup>
January 1973	Campus computer centers begin recycling computer tab cards and printout paper. <sup>1</sup>
January 1975	Recycling program expands to include ledger paper and newsprint. <sup>1</sup>
1980s	Central utilities change from coal to gas. <sup>2</sup>
1988	UW Institute for Environmental Studies and WashPIRG produce comprehensive waste management plan proposed to UW administration. <sup>1</sup>
August 1989	Washington State passes The Waste Not Washington Act, calling for waste reduction and source separation and setting a state goal of fifty percent recycling by 1995. <sup>1</sup>
November 1990	Public Area Recycling Program begins. <sup>1</sup>
1991	U-PASS Program Established between UW, Metro, Community Transit. <sup>3</sup>
January 1991	Washington State creates the Government Options to Landfill Disposal (GOLD) Plan for waste reduction and recycling at state government facilities, making state government facilities a central vehicle of meeting the fifty percent recycling target set forth by the Waste Not Washington Act. <sup>1</sup>
1992	University of Washington receives Recycle Week Outstanding Achievement Award. <sup>1</sup>
1995	Washington State Department of Ecology honors University of Washington for work on its implementation of the GOLD Plan. <sup>1</sup>
1997	University of Washington Program on the Environment launched. <sup>4</sup>
1997	University of Washington begins recycling florescent tubes and diverting hazardous materials associated with florescent lighting. <sup>1</sup>
1999	University begins computer recycling program. <sup>1</sup>
2000	Water conservation efforts begin (target of 33% reduction in use while expanding facilities). <sup>2</sup>
2002-2003	UW SEED – Students Expressing Environmental Dedication student group established. <sup>5</sup>
2003	Prior to State requirement for LEED buildings UW has two LEED Silver and One Certified Building. Currently a LEED Gold Building has been added and 20 additional projects are in process. <sup>2</sup>
2003	Garbage cans across campus replaced with more environmentally friendly garbage cans combining litter and recycling receptacles. <sup>1</sup>
2004	UW Recycling begins compost programs. <sup>1</sup>
2004	Scram: Student Moveout program begins, attempting to divert reusable goods to charity and providing recycling options for unwanted materials when students leave the residence halls. <sup>1</sup>
July 2004	University Policy on Environmental Stewardship established. <sup>6</sup>

August 2004	University Policy on Environmental Stewardship ratified by Mark Emmert; Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee established. <sup>7</sup>
2005	UW Recycling delivers outreach campaign for paper recycling in response to the City of Seattle banning paper from the waste stream. <sup>1</sup>
2005	Single-stream recycling launched in residence halls. <sup>1</sup>
2005	Husky Neighborhood Cleanup established to reduce Greek housing area excess trash buildups as a result of moveouts. <sup>1</sup>
2005	University of Washington is an award winner in the Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow Awards, while also winning the Water Conservation and Mayor's Environmental Leadership Awards. <sup>8</sup>
2006	Staff members begin participating in voluntary self-serve office/kitchen compost programs. <sup>1</sup>
2006	UW Recycling places classroom and conference room recycling and waste bins in all campus buildings. <sup>1</sup>
2006	UW becomes founding partner of Climate Commit Partnership with the City of Seattle. <sup>1</sup>
February 2006	Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels announces that UW will be powered with 100% renewable energy. <sup>1</sup>
2007	Housing and Food Services begins offering biodegradable serviceware and collecting post-consumer food waste and packaging. <sup>1</sup>
2007	SEED assists HFS in replacing showerheads in all residence halls. <sup>1</sup>
March 2007	UW becomes charter member of the Leadership Circle of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. <sup>1</sup>
April 2007	Electronic Media recycling program launched on Seattle campus. <sup>1</sup>
July 2007	UW Copy Centers use 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper. <sup>9</sup>
September 2007	UW becomes signatory to the President's Climate Commitment as founding member. <sup>1</sup>
October 2007	UW receives A- grade on College Sustainability Report Card issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute. <sup>1</sup>
December 2007	UW Recycling and UW Solid Waste reorganize into Recycling and Solid Waste. <sup>1</sup>
2008	New mixed paper stream recycling program initiated. <sup>1</sup>
2008	Housing and Food Service named Institutional Recycler of the Year by the Washington State Recycling Association. <sup>10</sup>
June 2008	Board of Regents approves creation of the College of the Environment. <sup>11</sup>
August 2008	Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability established. <sup>12</sup>
October 2008	Pierce Transit, Everett Transit, and Kitsap Transit become U-PASS partners, expanding U-PASS coverage to all central Puget Sound transit agencies. <sup>13</sup>
January 2009	Compostable Coca-Cola cup launched at University of Washington. <sup>14</sup>
March 2009	Draft of Climate Action Plan expected. <sup>15</sup>
March 2009	Capstone project on sustainability metadata begins.

## Current Known University of Washington Sustainability Metrics Efforts

David Hendry, faculty at the Information School, is currently working on a metadata schema for electrical data from campus buildings – the project is called the UW Community Energy Platform:

<http://uwmetering.ischool.washington.edu/~dhendry/power/exp/>

(Note: this link currently does not work, but was a previously posted link for this project.)

## Other Sustainability Data-Gathering Efforts by Academic Institutions

The descriptions below are snapshots of various academic institutions across the nation. This should not be considered a representative sample, nor should it be considered an authoritative list of colleges that are undertaking data-gathering initiatives to measure their environmental impact. Rather, this offers a look at the level of engagement that these specific institutions have in reviewing their environmental footprints.

All of the institutions discussed below do at least have a web site describing their sustainability goals and initiatives (as well as their dedication to them), but not all go beyond that to present data or publicly available assessments of their environmental performance.

*The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA:* In addition to having a Director of Sustainability, Evergreen has also won a number of awards for its sustainable efforts.<sup>16</sup> Interestingly, there appears to be no public tracking of real-time sustainability data, nor is there any mention of such real-time tracking or any indication of metrics that may be in use internally; however, some of the newsletters from the Department of Sustainability do cite hard numbers on greenhouse gas emissions from 2007.<sup>17</sup> These numbers covered the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by on-campus forests, percentages of alternative energy sources used campuswide, and greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>14</sup> The College's Carbon Neutrality page also shows gross emissions of carbon in tons and breaks down sources of each year of emissions (though the graph as shown is a little hard to read).<sup>18</sup>

*Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA:* Another signer of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, Gettysburg College maintains a small portion of their web site showcasing their sustainability efforts.<sup>19</sup> While they have a graph that shows their energy use compared to academic institutions of comparable size<sup>20</sup> and cite some energy efficiency savings in general terms<sup>21</sup>, they also do not appear to have public tracking of real-time sustainability data, nor do they note on that portion of their web site what sort of data they may be tracking internally.

*Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH:* Oberlin is one of the only institutions in this list that offers any sort of live consumption data. Their annual Dorm Energy Competition utilizes an energy dashboard and pits specific dorms on campus against each other to achieve the lowest overall energy usage.<sup>22</sup> The dashboard shows numbers such as kilowatt-hours saved, per student electricity consumption in specific dormitories (in average kW/person), median electricity consumption, and current electricity consumption.<sup>19</sup> They also have an Ecolympics program to

engage the student body in topics surrounding sustainability during the month of April, 2009<sup>23</sup>. The College's Office of Sustainability also has a comprehensive timeline of sustainability efforts Oberlin has undertaken.<sup>24</sup>

*Edmonds Community College, Edmonds, WA:* While Edmonds Community College does have a high-level sustainability assessment completed in 2006<sup>25</sup>, it cites almost no benchmark numbers (except for percentage of post-consumer paper used, ream purchase cost, and some overall paper usage numbers). There is no indication of any follow-up data collection via their sustainability web site<sup>26</sup>, nor is there any indication of any ongoing data collection or the metrics that they would be using in that collection effort.

*Hamilton College, Clinton, NY:* Hamilton is another institution that allows for live energy statistics and also allows for downloading raw data from the energy dashboard. This dashboard, however, also shows water and natural gas usage in selected buildings.<sup>27</sup> Hamilton's sustainability web site<sup>28</sup>, however, does not appear to provide for any baseline assessment of other resources used across campus.

Other institutions for which web sites could be found (note that this is also not an exhaustive list):

- Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA:  
<http://www.wellesley.edu/AdminandPlanning/Sustainability/>
- Lane Community College, Eugene, OR:  
<http://www.lanecol.edu/sustainability/index.html>
- Pomona College (part of the Claremont Colleges), Claremont, CA:  
<http://www.pomona.edu/sustainability/>
- Claremont Colleges Sustainability Initiatives, Claremont, CA:  
<http://sustainability.claremont.edu/index.html>
- Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO:  
<http://sustainability.coloradocollege.edu/>
- University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH:  
<http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/>
- Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY:  
<http://www.ithaca.edu/sustainability/>
- Emory University, Atlanta, GA:  
<http://sustainability.emory.edu/index.html>

Other useful academic resources for sustainability include:

- The College Sustainability Report Card:  
<http://www.greenreportcard.org/>
- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education:  
<http://www.aashe.org/>

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- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.washington.edu/facilities/transportation/recyclingandsolidwaste/about/history>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>2</sup> Personal e-mail from J.R. Fulton, HFS, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>3</sup> [http://www.washington.edu/commuterservices/programs/upass/reports/96report/1995\\_1996\\_report.html](http://www.washington.edu/commuterservices/programs/upass/reports/96report/1995_1996_report.html), April 7, 2009.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://depts.washington.edu/poeweb/about/index.html>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>5</sup> <http://students.washington.edu/uwseed/about.php>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>6</sup> <http://f2.washington.edu/oess/about-us>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>7</sup> <http://f2.washington.edu/oess/esac>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>8</sup> <http://depts.washington.edu/poeweb/news/susuw.html>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>9</sup> <http://uwnews.org/uweek/uweekarticle.asp?articleID=34854>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>10</sup> Personal e-mail from J.R. Fulton, HFS, April 8, 2009.
- <sup>11</sup> <http://coenv.washington.edu/aboutus.shtml>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>12</sup> Personal e-mail from Ruth A. Johnston, March 31, 2009.
- <sup>13</sup> <http://www.washington.edu/commuterservices/news/story.php?id=166>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>14</sup> <http://uwnews.org/article.asp?articleid=46255>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>15</sup> <http://uwnews.org/uweek/article.aspx?id=46996>, April 7, 2009.
- <sup>16</sup> <http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/awards.htm>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/docs/STF%20Newsletter%20-%20Spring%20Quarter%202007%20-%20Final.pdf>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>18</sup> <http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/carbonneutrality.htm>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>19</sup> <http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/sustainability/>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>20</sup> [http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/sustainability/energy\\_efficiency/energy\\_use\\_compared\\_to\\_equivalent\\_institutions.dot?host\\_id=1](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/sustainability/energy_efficiency/energy_use_compared_to_equivalent_institutions.dot?host_id=1), April 9, 2009.
- <sup>21</sup> [http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/sustainability/energy\\_efficiency/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/sustainability/energy_efficiency/), April 9, 2009.
- <sup>22</sup> <http://www.oberlin.edu/dormenergy/>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>23</sup> <http://new.oberlin.edu/calendar/index.dot?id=861320>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>24</sup> <http://www2.oberlin.edu/sustainability/about/history.html>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>25</sup> <http://www.edcc.edu/sustain/documents/AssessmentReport062408.pdf>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>26</sup> <http://www.edcc.edu/sustain/default.php>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>27</sup> <http://buildingdashboard.com/clients/hamilton/>, April 9, 2009.
- <sup>28</sup> <http://www.hamilton.edu/sustainability/>, April 9, 2009