

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees  
Bill Epperly, Chairperson                      Bill Griffin  
Blake Antonides                                      Mike Houston  
Carolyn Ehlert                                         Steve Nelson

From: Joe Rives, Interim Executive Assistant to the President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: July 9, 2008

Re: July 2008 Strategic Plan Update

Through *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018*, the two campuses of Western Illinois University are committed to advancing statewide, regional, and national leadership in environmental sustainability within all aspects of university operations, including the curriculum, community and co-curricular events, new construction, and administrative operations.

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* is a special edition excerpted from the University's *Fiscal Year 2008 Sustainability Report* prepared for the Lieutenant Governor's Office as Western Illinois University documents institutional outcomes of plans (the bullet points below) to achieve the goals of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact.

The primary author of the report is Physical Plant Director and Campus Sustainability Committee Co-Chair, Mr. Charles Darnell, with additional assistance provided the Campus Sustainability Committee that is also co-chaired by Dr. Gordon Rands, Associate Professor of Management.

Goal: Increase Green Purchasing

- Increased usage of Green Seal cleaning products by 400 gallons (a 67-percent increase).
- Purchased 1,200 microfiber towels and discontinued the use of disposable cloth towels.
- Purchased microfiber and rayon dust mops to reduce both airborne chalk dusting and the need to use oils when cleaning blackboards.
- Changed from single-fold paper towels to Green Seal roll towels.
- Changed from traditional soap dispensers in campus restrooms to foam dispensers. Foam dispensers use a bio-renewable cleanser with 85 percent bio-renewable soap. We hope to see an approximate 50-percent reduction in soap use with foam hand soap and significant reductions in soap drippings that require extra cleaning effort.
- Attended "green" cleaning conferences and worked with vendors to test other green cleaning products.

Goal: Reduce Pollution and Waste

- Committed to phase out most incandescent lamps with mini-twist compact florescent lamps (CFLs). To date Physical Plant has stocked 7,000 of CFLs to replace incandescent burnouts in campus buildings.
- Replaced 5,100 incandescent lamps with CFLs at Thompson Hall, generating an estimated annual avoided electrical cost savings of \$58,000.
- Installed approximately 400 additional CFLs in various campus buildings.
- Exchanged 14,000 incandescent bulbs with CFLs in the residence halls under the Programmed Lighting Maintenance (PLM) program. PLM will save as much as 75 percent on lamp replacement labor, while the CFLs are expected to use only 25 percent of the power of the existing bulbs.
- Purchased over 8,000 low mercury Green Seal florescent lamps as the University's standard T-8 and T-12 replacement lamp. While current Illinois Environmental Protection Agency disposal rules do not regulate low mercury lamps, Western Illinois University continues to crush and recycle used florescent lamps.
- Purchased four new Hybrid Toyota Prius vehicles, for a total of eight hybrids in the fleet.
- Heating Plant:
  - Installed variable frequency drives on Heating Plant feed water pumps. The new drives save energy and extend life of the pumps through soft-starting.
  - Installed new T5 and T8 energy-efficient lighting at the Heating Plant.
  - Installed \$4,500 in insulation on Heating Plant boiler and exposed pipes.
- Landscape Maintenance:
  - Planted 2,500 Illinois native perennials as part of a volunteer campus "We Care" program on a ½ acre prairie restoration on the Macomb campus.
  - Purchased in-vessel composter (earth tub) to accelerate decomposition of waste vegetation generated on campus. The composter will largely improve compost quality over previous composting efforts and can process between 40 and 150 pounds of biomass per day.
  - Successfully employed a sugar beet based deicer in winter 2008 as an additive to salt used for deicing. The sugar beet deicer could also be used a liquid pretreatment to help prevent bonding of snow and ice to concrete sidewalks. The sustainable deicer speeds up melting time and hinders adhesion of the ice to concrete surfaces, thus reducing labor costs to scoop or remove snow.
  - Fertilized 10 acres of athletic practice fields with a 100-percent organic product.
  - Planted over an acre of Buffalo grass on the Macomb campus. Buffalo grass is a true native grass that requires little maintenance and no irrigation. Mowing is optional as the plant only stands 3" to 4" tall.
  - Purchased 69 new exterior recycling receptacles for campus.
  - Planted 61 new trees, 42 of which are native to North America.
  - Two Landscape Maintenance personnel attended the Illinois Professional Turf Licensing Cooperative Seminar in Chicago. Conference topics included organic turf programs and integrated pest management (IPM).
- Campus-wide recycling efforts yielded:
  - 829 pallettes (approximately 18.65 tons).
  - 98.94 tons of scrap iron.
  - 10.4 tons of confidential shredded paper items.
  - 51 tons of library books.
- 2008 "Recyclemania" Contest results showed that the University:
  - Recycled 90 tons during 10-week contest.
  - Increased the diversion rate by 1.6 percent from the 2007 contest.
  - Achieved the highest diversion rate in week 10 (25.2 percent).
  - Placed 26<sup>th</sup> out of 56 schools in waste minimization.
  - Placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of 61 schools in the Gorilla Prize category

Goal: Facilitate Green Building Practices

- Allocated \$202,219 (15 percent) of Fiscal Year 2008 Permanent Improvement funding to advance sustainability in maintenance and operations at Western Illinois University; spent or encumbered a total of \$619,890 for all campus sustainable initiatives.
- Standardized use of “Pro-green” interior latex paint thereby cutting VOCs from traditional latex paints by 50 percent.
- Equipped vacuums with high-efficiency bags capable of filtering 99.75 percent of materials at 0.3 microns or larger.
- Installed 25 LED exit signs as a pilot project in Western hall and 30 occupancy sensors in four campus buildings.
- Installed 17 high-efficiency motors, six variable frequency drives and motor controllers, and four new higher efficiency pumps.
- Replaced \$5,400 in steam traps, \$6,576 in higher efficiency sump pumps and motors and \$6,000 in more efficient water coolers.
- Received an Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) grant for energy-efficient lighting retrofit of Malpass Library.
- Continued construction of Multicultural Center, a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) facility.
- Received ICECF grant funding to support sustainable design costs for the new Multicultural Center.
- Continued design of Building One on the newly developing Western Illinois University- Quad Cities Riverfront Campus as a silver LEED design facility.
- Received ICECF grant funding for geothermal design of the new Quad Cities campus.
- Conducting a comprehensive Utility Infrastructure Master Plan for campus to optimize the priorities of environment, economics and reliability with all future infrastructure replacement and development on campus.
- Installed \$80,000 in Powerlogic monitoring and metering devices to better monitor and manage building energy use.
- Installed a tankless semi-instantaneous domestic hot water heater in Currens Hall. The heater saves energy by only heating water on demand from building occupants.
- Installed new heat exchangers and DDC controls at Currens Hall to employ outside temperature reset control schedules and better monitoring to save energy.
- Purchased Delta “Historian” for saving trend logs to better manage building energy use through monitoring of building DDC systems.
- Removed three obsolete steam absorption chillers and installed higher efficiency electrical centrifugal chillers in Currens, Stipes, and Horrabin Halls.

Goal: Promote Green-Friendly Policies

- Educational efforts included sponsoring:
  - Dr. Robin Rosenberg to speak on “Challenges to Environmental Sustainability in Latin America.”
  - Mr. Chad Pregracke of Living Lands and Waters to speak on the Mississippi River clean-up initiative.
  - Mr. Stephen Hamstra, AEE Midwest Energy Management Professional of the Year to speak on the importance of LEED design.
  - Mr. Thomas Hylton, author of Save Our Land Save Our Towns to speak at the University’s annual Environmental Summit.
  - Ms. Enid Cardinal, sustainability coordinator at Illinois State University to speak on creating sustainable campuses and communities at the University’s annual Environmental Summit.
- Other educational efforts included:
  - Organizing nine Brown bag luncheons focusing on sustainability efforts and plans.

- Focusing the academic year 2007-2008 campus theme on *Global Challenges and Personal Responsibilities in the Area of Environmental Sustainability*, including over 50 different sustainability events.
- Creating the campus sustainability website.
- Participating in the nationwide “Focus the Nation” teach-in on global warming with a full day including over twenty speakers.
- Completing the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Environmental Summit; including three keynote speakers, multiple breakout sessions, student poster displays, and feedback solicitation on “Envisioning a Sustainable Western Illinois University Community,” and the Green Solutions Expo.
- Hosting the annual English Graduate Organization Conference with the theme “The Future of Sustainability: Social Equality, Economy, and Environment” and a keynote speaker on sustainability.
- Offered several courses with a sustainability focus through the efforts of faculty across the two campuses of Western Illinois University.
- Activism and policy efforts included:
  - The Campus Sustainability Committee met monthly to plan, promote, and engage the campus community in heightened sustainable awareness and initiatives.
  - Three Sustainability Committee members attended the American Association of Sustainability in Higher Education conference at Ball State University.
  - Sodexo Campus Services:
    - Implemented Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) recommendations for purchase of fish products. The MSC promotes responsible fishing practices.
    - Sponsored an Earth Day event titled “Picnic in the Park,” celebrating the National Park System. Students participated in “Picnic in the Park Camp Quest” that featured tasks such as making a sustainable selection of fish for a menu, answering a quiz about the National Park System, sorting a bag of refuse, and separating recycling from waste.
    - Encouraged purveyors to find local produce suppliers.
    - Used environmentally friendly cleaning supplies and 100-percent pre- and post-consumer packaging in the residential dining facilities.
  - Proposed the need for a full-time Sustainability Coordinator at the University.
  - The English Graduate Organization participated in a sustainable fundraising campaign by collecting e-waste for Project KOPEG, a program that properly disposes of and recycles e-waste with no waste export and zero-landfill impact.
  - The English Graduate Organization participated in a sustainable social justice philanthropy campaign for Nothing but Nets to raise money to buy mosquito netting for families in malaria-prone areas, reducing the risk of malaria and need for toxic pesticides.
  - The College of Arts and Sciences funded an undergraduate student and faculty mentor to work with faculty, staff, and community members to produce the Macomb Green Guide, a guide to sustainable living in the university greater community.
  - The Executive Assistant to the President funded a graduate assistant to assist the Sustainability Committee and to construct the sustainability webpage.
  - Western Illinois University and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Rock Island District signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the shared goals of protecting natural resources and enhancing environmental sustainability in the region.
  - Western Illinois University students and faculty who are involved in research along the Mississippi River and its tributaries will have an important venue to present their river-related work during the inaugural Upper Mississippi River Conference Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 21-23 at the i wireless Center in Moline.

The conference, "Weaving Multiple Uses into Sustainable River Communities," is sponsored by River Action ([www.riveraction.org](http://www.riveraction.org)) – a nonprofit organization that fosters the environmental, economic and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad Cities region, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

If you have any questions about the content in this Update, please contact Mr. Darnell or Dr. Rands. Please contact me if you have questions about or feedback regarding the continued successful implementation of Higher Values in Higher Education.

cc:      President Goldfarb              CSEC President Lavin              Alumni Council Chair Hoffman  
          Provost Thomas                  COAP President Spelman            Associate Provosts Baily and Clerc  
          Vice President Hendricks      Faculty Council Chair Bailey        Planning, Budget, and IR Staff  
          Vice President Johnson        Faculty Senate Chair Devolder      President's Office Support Staff  
          Vice President Thompson      SGA Presidents Dulski and Garrison