

2006 Annual Report

Western Illinois University
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WIU has adopted environmental stewardship and the concept of a sustainable campus as a primary strategic goal. WIU has created a Sustainability Committee inclusive of a broad spectrum of Faculty, students and staff. The Committee is charged with implementing initiatives that will achieve the sustainability objectives of the University. The Committee is pressing forward with numerous ideas and initiatives at both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. Strong support from our Board of Trustees, President, and senior administrative officials for the "greening" of campus will see WIU evolve into a leadership role in sustainability, environmental awareness and energy management. As example of the WIU commitment, the institution has just joined AASHE (Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education), the first Illinois school of higher education to do so.

Green Purchasing:

WIU purchases 100% post-consumer recycled content toilette tissues, 40% post consumer recycled content paper towels, 100% post consumer recycled content roll towels and recycled paper stocks. Specifications are being developed to expand green purchases and new green products are being tested continually. This year WIU purchased 200 gallons of the "green" seal product, Peroxy, a carpet cleaner and 600 gallons of general purpose cleaner which has also earned the "green" seal. WIU has continued to replace standard vacuums with 99% micron filtration which are considered "green" equipment. WIU also purchases low mercury fluorescent lamps.

Reducing Pollution and Waste:

- In addition to our comprehensive recycling efforts, WIU has increased recycling of metals by purchasing a used rolloff container and placing it in a designated spot at Physical Plant. At 119 tons of recycled metal in the past year, we estimate metal recycling has more than doubled because of this change. WIU has recycled over 800 separate electronic items and located an electronics recycler that accepts computer monitors free of charge.
- Recycling containers have been added in specific food oriented locations on the exterior of campus buildings. WIU Ground Department purchased a chipper box to recycle and compost nearly all landscape trimmings, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Facilitating Green Building Practices:

- WIU has committed to at least Silver level LEED certification for the planned remodeling of the former Deere corporate test facility on the WIU Quad Cities Mississippi riverfront campus. Are pursuing grant opportunities for design as well as construction assistance for the LEED certification from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation.
- Have secured two grants from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for separate lighting retrofits at Stipes Hall, completed in FY06 and Morgan Hall currently in design.
- Will be pursuing grant opportunities for restoration and educational use of the immediate Lamoine River watershed and wooded area on campus. In conjunction with the Institute for Environmental Studies, a WIU graduate student in Geography is researching storm water runoff to the Lamoine River on campus to promote sustainable solutions through retention and other more effective storm water management techniques to enhance the quality of the river.

- Have converted 1 1/2 acres on main campus to an authentic short-grass prairie utilizing campus volunteers as part of a twice a year campus-wide program called We-Care. Evaluating another 2 acre site for a campus prairie restoration. Have increased a commitment to use native plant material in the campus landscape by hiring a new position of Campus Planner.

Instituted a student worker "Litter Patrol" to police campus litter and attend Football games and tail gating parties to assist with recycling of aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The Litter Patrol has greatly enhanced campus recycling efforts on the external campus and also serves as an effective peer educational initiative.

- Are implementing group re-lamping in campus buildings to improve lighting levels and reduce maintenance time involved with replacing single burned out lamps. Researching replacement of metal halide lighting fixtures at Western Hall with T5 lamps.

- All new facility designs include low flow plumbing fixture.

- New campus standard trash receptacles and benches are made of nearly all recycled plastic materials. - Have input the entire University landscape into a GIS system including a complete WIU tree inventory. WIU goal is to incorporate at least one of each Illinois native tree in the campus landscape.

Promoting Green-Friendly Policies:

WIU is a 2005 signatory of the Tallories Declaration which promotes sustainability in all aspects of higher education and has just joined AASHE as previously noted. WIU has incorporated sustainability concepts and principals into several newly designed academic courses including Introduction to Environmental Studies. Campus events promoting environmental awareness included Campus Sustainability Day (October 26) and the Campus and Community Environmental Summit (April 18). Each event promoted sustainable choices, both personally and operationally at the University. The summit was attended by over 200 students and community members over a two day period. The summit included external guest speakers such as Chad Pregracke, President of Living Lands and Waters Inc. as well faculty and Physical Plant speakers who discussed operational initiatives and responsibilities of WIU. Sustainability is a major element of the on-going campus master planning initiative with Goody Clancy of Boston MA. WIU will send a large contingent of administrative staff to the Illinois Sustainable University Symposium, June 28. Additionally, WIU plans to send about eight faculty and staff to the AASHE conference at Arizona State University this October.