

A Sustainable Learning and Working Environment

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Build understanding of sustainable ecological, social and economic systems and practices among the college communities

Apply principles of sustainable economics, resource use and social institutions to Lane's learning and working environments



Overview

In recent years, a variety of issues related to climate change and energy use have focused a spotlight of interest and action on sustainability. It is becoming increasingly understood that the future health and wellbeing of people around the world will rely on increased understanding of sustainable practices and values such as conservation, better resource utilization, and social equity. Lane's approach to sustainability literacy emphasizes its interdisciplinary nature, encompassing social, environmental, and economic orientations.

Lane is developing policies and procedures that support and encourage students and staff to learn about, understand, and experience the multidimensional significance of sustainability in our lives. Because of its status as a learning college, the college can support sustainability as an interdisciplinary curricular and co-curricular outcome, in which facets of sustainability are infused across the college academic and student affairs areas. All units at Lane promote and practice sustainability in their daily work, applying best practice principles of sustainable economics and resource conservation. Source: [Lane Community College Strategic Plan](#).

To achieve sustainability goals and objectives, work is focused and organized around four strategic initiatives: *sustainability literacy*; *sustainable systems, policies and procedures*; *energy conservation and carbon neutrality*; and *curriculum and operational infusion through professional development*.

In addition to reviewing project level outcomes and results, sustainability leads use institutional data and evidence to assess progress toward strategic goals. For example, the Institute for Sustainable Practices (ISP) annually reports the college's recycling rate (the amount recycled as a percent of all waste material), as well as the total amount recycled and the total amount landfilled. ISP also prepares an annual energy indicator report which provides information about energy use, cost, and more. These annual reports are available online at www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/metrics-and-data. Over the five year period of this strategic direction, Lane's recycling rate has remained fairly flat, at about 54%, and energy use has increased. Plans for increasing the recycling rate and reversing the trend of increased energy use are summarized on the following pages.

Completed Projects

The college has successfully completed several institutional sustainability projects in support of this strategic direction, achieving objectives, shifting focus toward scale and practice and successfully integrating the work into ongoing college programs and services. The following section provides updates on projects completed in the 2013 and 2014 academic years.

Bike Lane

Lead: Mike Sims

Bike Lane, a bike loan program modeled after the library's laptop checkout program, was piloted during spring term 2012 with ten commuter-style bikes and gear available for loan to students who cannot otherwise afford a bike. The program helps students take advantage of the bus-bike network to get to campus and around town, helps lower the college's collective carbon footprint, and encourages health and wellness. The program has expanded to 45 bikes (35 at main campus, 10 at Titan Court), with a 100% check out rate each term. Survey results indicate a positive impact on access to campus and reduced single occupant vehicle traffic. www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/bikelane

Carpool Matching Service

Leads: Brian Kelly, Jennifer Hayward

In 2013-2014, Lane transitioned from using the carpool matching service, Zimride, to using a new regional carpool matching service called Drive less Connect that has the same functionality as Zimride, but charges no annual service fee to the collect. The Institute for Sustainable Practices will be promoting the new carpool matching service during the 2014-15 academic year through a variety of marketing and communication channels to include the Lane Weekly, student and staff myLane portal, and work with student government and student ambassadors.. www.lanecc.edu/facilities/transportation

Energy Program/NWEEI Relocation

Lead: Roger Ebbage

The Energy Programs and the Northwest Water and Energy Education Institute (NWEEI) relocated to the new Downtown Campus in winter 2013. Lane's new building, in the heart of downtown Eugene, is designed with several one-of-a-kind features that allow students to interact with the building as a functioning lab. The project has often been referred to as a 'building that teaches'; it provides a unique opportunity for people locally, nationally and internationally to learn about energy efficiency and building sciences. In the new location, students are learning about and operating state of the art lighting and ventilation systems.

Since moving to the Downtown Campus, the Energy Management Program has been featured nationally as a model program that uses its "campus as a learning lab." For example, the program is prominently highlighted in *The Campus as a Living Laboratory: Using the Built Environment to Revitalize College Education* (www.theseedcenter.org/getattachment/Resources/SEED-Resources/SEED-Toolkits/Campus-as-a-Living-Lab/Campus-as-a-Living-Lab.pdf). In the past year, lead faculty member, Roger Ebbage, has also led several national trainings on the same topic.

Despite these positive developments, enrollment in the Energy Programs is continuing to decline and local employer demand for graduates has waned. In response to this trend, Energy Program leads will be offering an online option for the degree so that this quality curriculum can be disseminated nationally. www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/energy-management-program

Green Office Certification

Lead: Jennifer Hayward

Created by the Sustainability Committee in 2012-13, the Green Office Certification Program is a tool for departments or divisions to use to improve sustainable practices. The idea behind the program is that small actions taken by several departments can add up to large resource and financial savings over a year. In order to receive certification, departments complete an online checklist of the sustainable practices. Five departments have received certification to date. The Institute for Sustainable Practices and the Sustainability Committee will continue promoting this program and encouraging departments to apply. www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/green-office-program

Promoting Sustainable Practices within Departments and Divisions

Lead: Jennifer Hayward

In 2012-13, the Institute for Sustainable Practices began cataloging, celebrating, and promoting the sustainability efforts in various departments at Lane in an effort to deepen engagement and awareness. Departments that have been featured are Facilities Management and Planning, Child and Family Education, Conference and Culinary Services, Mathematics, the Small Business Development Center, and the Professional and Organizational Development/Diversity Office. The President's Office was featured in 2013-2014. Sustainability staff plans to continue featuring departments periodically in 2014-2015 and in future years. www.lanecce.edu/sustainability/sustainable-practices-departments

Recycling Education Center

Lead: Mike Sims

The Recycling Education Center, opened in 2011, continues to provide recycling and waste diversion services, educational opportunities for the campus community, surplus property services, and collaboration with Facilities Management and Planning to develop innovative systems to capture and divert material. Since the Recycling Education Center opened, the college generated approximately 20% less trash through systems improvements and increased diversion. Internal reuse of surplus property increased as well due to the center's centralization of services, saving the college thousands of dollars a year. A notable highlight of the Recycling Education Center's activity is the increasing presence of a new indoor recycling and waste collection system. The Recycling Coordinator works closely with Facilities Management and Planning during the design and construction phases of remodels and new construction to place this system. Studies show that waste generation decreases approximately 30% with a commensurate increase in recycling rates in buildings where this system is present. It also reduces the amount of work and expense for Custodial Services by removing individual trashcans from classrooms. A recent study by the Recycling Education Center shows that it costs the college \$359.21 to handle a ton of recycling versus \$717.11 to handle a ton of garbage.

Education is a central tenet of The Recycling Education Center. The center hosted four classes to perform waste audits. Two interns completed their cooperative education requirements with the Recycling Education Center, gaining experience in administrative, operational, and outreach work. Recycling also employs student workers who would like to learn more about the center's operations. Since the completion of this bond-funded project, all of the Recycling Program's key performance indicators have improved. The Recycling Education Center hopes to continue this momentum with the following future projects:

- **CLASS Outdoor Plaza:** The Recycling Coordinator is working closely with FMP and the CLASS design team to redesign our outdoor collection system. It is hoped that the success of this system in the plaza will allow the college to replace the existing equipment with equipment similar to that in the CLASS Plaza.
- **Outdoor Collection:** One of the barriers to improving our key performance indicators is the dysfunction of the current outdoor collection system campus wide. Replacing the old equipment will improve aesthetics, functionality, and reduce our landfill burden by up to 20%.
- **Surplus Property Sales:** The Recycling Coordinator is working with the college governance system to develop a procedure to hold periodic public sales of obsolete surplus property. This will add another revenue stream to support our operations.

- Composting: Compostable material accounts for approximately 30% of the college's waste stream. Recycling will work to expand the office and break room composting system for faculty and staff and provide composting opportunities to students who are eating in a place other than the cafeteria.
- Education: The Recycling Education Center is working to get into classrooms, staff and faculty meetings, and student group meetings to provide information and answer questions.

www.lanecc.edu/recycle

Sustainability Promotion and Online Resources

Lead: Jennifer Hayward

In a concerted effort to promote awareness and understanding of sustainability issues and opportunities across campus and in our community and world, sustainability staff are improving online reach and effectiveness. With input from the Sustainability Committee and others, Lane's sustainability website was completely redesigned in 2012-2013. The new site provides a comprehensive view of the Institute for Sustainable Practices including sections covering food, energy, water, the built environment, purchasing, departmental practices, and student projects. In addition, sustainability issues and topics are now featured more prominently on the main college website and in the course catalog.

www.lanecc.edu/sustainability

Continuing Projects

The following institutional projects will continue on into the 2014-2015 academic year:

Climate Action Plan

Leads: Jennifer Hayward, Brian Kelly, Mike Sims, Anna Scott

With the Climate Action Plan, the college has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. A team of experts from the college and community has compiled a plan comprised of 61 actions that will put Lane on a solid path toward carbon neutrality. As technologies, perceptions and availability of resources change over the next thirty-five years, and more members of the campus community become engaged in the work, sustainability leads will continuously improve and adapt the plan.

The Climate Action Plan is a living document that will help us navigate toward a more sustainable world while providing inspiration and information to help Lane's students to do the same. Work on the plan in 2013-2014 focused on five strategies:

1) Improving the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data Collection System

In 2013-2014, sustainability staff worked with stakeholders throughout the college to develop better greenhouse gas inventory data collection and management systems. This collaboration resulted in an easy to follow written procedure for conducting the inventory, which will save time and improve the accuracy of the data. One of the best outcomes of the new system was a transportation survey, which was given to employees and students in May 2014. Survey results are helping Lane to more accurately estimate our emissions from daily commuting. The results will also help in the development of programs to get commuters out of single occupant vehicles and onto the bus and other more climate-friendly modes of transportation.

2) Informing the Campus Community about Climate Change and Lane's Plan

Sustainability leads coordinated several events to inform the campus community about climate change and Lane's Climate Commitment in 2013-2014. These events included:

- A Climate Action and Education Forum
- A Climate Action Plan presentation to the board of education
- A Climate Summit
- Screening of the films *The Island President* and *Chasing Ice*.

In addition to events and presentations, sustainability staff also submitted several Lane Weekly announcements, created a new climate section on the sustainability webpage, and more.

3) Promoting and Supporting Climate-Friendly Transportation Options

Daily commuting is responsible for about 85% of Lane's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to reduce these emissions, Lane needs to develop and promote transportation options that reduce single-occupant vehicle traffic. As mentioned previously, the transportation survey data collected this year will help Lane to develop new systems. In addition to collecting data, Lane also continued its work on promoting climate-friendly transportation options by:

- Hosting a Healthy Transportation Habits table at the annual Health and Wellness Fair
- Holding a "Bike and Walk to Lane" event on Earth Day in which over 40 employees and students participated
- Holding a student competition regarding climate-friendly transportation on Facebook
- Publishing several Lane Weekly announcements encouraging climate-friendly transportation
- Enacting a Transportation Fee Allocation Procedure that provides instructions for funding projects that will help Lane achieve our climate goals.

4) Submitting a Progress Report on the Climate Action Plan to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), the organizing body for Lane's climate commitment.

Sustainability leads submitted Lane's first official progress report to the ACUPCC in December 2013. More information about the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment can be found at: www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org, while Lane's progress report is available at rs.acupcc.org/progress/936/.

5) Developing New Strategies for Saving Energy

Lane's Central Plant design team was charged with including a sustainability and financial plan as part of the Central Plant design process. The sustainability and financial planning process resulted in a recommendation from the design team on a more concrete strategy for achieving Lane's goal of carbon neutrality related to building energy use. This strategy consisted of:

- Ensuring that new buildings use 45% less energy than baseline buildings
- Reducing existing building energy use by 35%
- Reducing the Central Plant energy use by 40%

- Installing on-site renewable energy equivalent to 20% of campus energy use
- Supporting off-site renewable energy equivalent to 19% of campus energy use.

In March 2014, Facilities Management and Planning, the Institute for Sustainable Practices and several engineers met to begin mapping out the strategy for reducing building energy use by 35%. ISP and FMP leads are further developing these plans in 2014-2015 including determining how to reduce Building 3 energy use by 35%. Plans include:

- Working with the Energy Management Program second year students to log energy use in campus buildings
- Tuning the HVAC and lighting systems through a collaboration between Energy Management students and trades staff
- Delivering an occupant education program
- Obtaining quotes for larger expense items like replacing the roof and windows, improving insulation and revamping or replacing the heating, cooling and ventilation system.

In 2014-2015, sustainability staff will also be compiling a new greenhouse gas inventory for 2013-2014, submitting a new progress report to the ACUPCC, continuing to implement the Climate Action Plan. www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/climate

Green Building

Leads: Bob Mention, Russ Pierson, Todd Smith

Lane continues to be a front-runner in green building within higher education. The Health and Wellness Building received LEED Gold certification in 2012. In 2014, Titan Court received LEED Gold certification and the Downtown Campus received LEED Platinum certification. Lane is currently building its first LEED certified remodel, the Center for Learning and Student Success. Lane's Interim Director and Assistant Director of Facilities Management and Planning will be presenting about the Downtown Center project at the upcoming Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education conference. www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/green-building

Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference

Lead: Brian Kelly

Lane is widely recognized as a national leader in sustainability in higher education. As a result, the college was selected to host the next Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference, a biennial conference attended by hundreds of students and higher education professionals including administrators, faculty and classified staff. This conference will take place in February 2016 and planning work is well underway. www.ohesc.org

Revolving Loan Fund

Lead: Anna Scott

Lane's revolving loan fund model was based on the concept of continuously reinvesting utility savings over 2005 baseline levels into new energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. This model worked well for a few years until Lane's square footage started to increase and enrollment started to surge. With additional square footage and higher enrollments, there have not been savings over baseline levels that can be invested into new and needed work. However, the college has been

able to move forward with many planned energy efficiency and renewable energy projects using state, grant and bond funds.

Although Lane's revolving loan fund has not worked perfectly in the past, the college is still considered a leader in this area and was invited to become a charter member of the Billion Dollar Green Challenge (<http://greenbillion.org/>). This challenge encourages colleges, universities and other nonprofit institutions to invest a combined total of one billion dollars in self-managed revolving funds that finance energy efficiency improvements. Lane is among 46 other participating institutions and is included among only 10 schools about which the Challenge has written a case study (greenbillion.org/case-study/lane/).

As a member of the Billion Dollar Green Challenge, Lane has access to and has begun using a web-based tracking system, dubbed "Green Revolving Investment Tracking System," that manages every aspect of a revolving loan fund.

In 2013-2014, Lane's sustainability staff researched revolving loan fund models used by other colleges and universities and developed a presentation to inform college stakeholders about these funds. In 2014-2015, sustainability staff will develop a proposal for a new fund with the goal of implementing it during this year.

<http://www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/sustainable-practices-energy-carryover-fund>

Solar Energy Master Plan

Lead: Anna Scott

The goals of Lane's initial solar energy master plan, created in 2006, have largely been completed. Accomplishments include student solar electric installation projects, installation of a solar thermal (hydronic) system, development of several solar demonstration areas, ensuring solar capacity is integrated into capital project planning, participating in state and local solar energy initiatives and other efforts to attain carbon neutrality by 2050 in concert with the Climate Action Plan. Sustainability leads will develop and begin implementation of a new solar plan in 2014-2015.

Sustainability Professional Development

Leads: Brian Kelly, Julie Sheen, Mike Sims, Anna Scott, Jennifer Hayward, Roger Ebbage

Lane is continuing to make improvements in the area of sustainability professional development including incorporating a 4-hour module into its popular Aspiring Leaders training. The Institute for Sustainable Practices also offered many events and educational opportunities for employees and students during the 2013-2014 academic year, some of which have already been described in this report. One area that has not been highlighted in this report yet is the Learning Garden. The Learning Garden held over twenty workshops throughout 2013-2014 that included topics such as pruning fruit trees and growing vegetables in the winter.

Also in 2013-2014, the Sustainability Committee began having conversations with the Faculty Professional Development Team about ways to provide better professional development opportunities specifically for faculty. The Sustainability Committee is considering forming a "Faculty Interest Group" in 2014-2015 with the outcome being the development of training for instructors that will support them in incorporating sustainability concepts into their classes.

In 2014-2015, Lane will have a significant presence at the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. More than ten Lane employees and several students will be attending the conference, which is taking place in Portland in October. At least eight Lane employees and one student will be presenting at the conference. This conference is attended by thousands of higher education employees and students who are passionate about sustainability. Lane employees and students who attend will not only be sharing what we are doing but also learning about best practices in sustainability from hundreds of other colleges and universities.

Other plans for 2014-2015 include continuing to offer the Aspiring Leaders workshop and other trainings and events. In 2015-2016, a major professional development offering will be the Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference taking place at Lane in February 2016.

www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/

New Projects

New projects undertaken in 2013-2014 are in support of sustainability strategic direction goal #2: creating systems that promote implementation of sustainable purchasing and business practices leading to better resource utilization, conversation and social equity.

Utilities Database

Lead: Anna Scott

Sustainability staff is in the process of setting up a new comprehensive utility database that will help the college more easily track metrics related to energy and water use as well as amounts of garbage and reused and recycled materials. This is a web-based system that students, employees and board of education members will be able to access to track Lane's resource use. This project will also support Goal #3, "Implement, improve, and evaluate progress of the climate action plan" by further simplifying the greenhouse gas inventory data collection system. The goal for 2014-2015 is to have the new system fully set up and campus stakeholders trained on its use.

Systems that Promote Sustainable Purchasing

Leads: Susie Cousar, Jennifer Hayward, Brian Kelly, Pamela McGilvray, Russ Pierson

Toward the end of 2013-2014, the Sustainability Committee began working on Sustainability Strategic Direction Goal #2 Implementation Action Plan items:

- Adopt a sweatshop free procurement policy similar to that of the city of Portland
- Work with Office Max to develop recommended green purchases to highlight on our web interface and an inventory of more sustainable items that are auto-substituted for less sustainable items

This work will continue in 2014-2015 with the goal of having these two items completed by the end of the year.