

World Café Report Out

What are the most critical steps to move our colleges toward sustainability?

Instructional Actions

- Replace exams with real activities
 - Application of knowledge
 - Projects that create social change in community instead of exams
 - Issue – used to assessment models of learning
- Meaningful, practical applied education
- Issue with information overload and misinformation about sustainability. Instead of tests, do application projects throughout the community.
- Summer institutes
 - Faculty, staff students
 - Five days strategic plans
 - Washington model
- Place as Text – dropped off in community learn on own then connect with experts
- Sustainability as Text – e.g. waste audit
- Ethical values
- Textless teaching, sustainability in all course materials

General Actions

Celebrate

- Celebrate more – yes magazine
- Start small. Do anything. Celebrate. Move forward.
- Need to look at models we have within our own organization. Bring celebrations together in a meaningful way with the people we network with in our organizations and communities.

Commitment

- Ethical values
- Make commitment. Do what you say you're going to do

Promotion

- Need critical mass. Know sustainability – emotionally
- Develop a critical sense of urgency
- Sense of urgency. Understanding the facts.
- Establish conceptual framework to bring individuals together – include community – develop critical mass.
- Making the case: diversify the rationale. Not just environment or social justice. Accountability, customer service, civic engagement
- Awareness – heighten the level. Shared Vision.
- Promote and publicize. Web site, legislative contacts.

- Raising awareness on campus
- Awareness. People don't know sustainability can be easy, profitable.
- Grab hold of an awareness in a meaningful way. Provide a sense of empowerment.
- Educate staff, faculty and administrators to create paradigm shift that will drive new behaviors
- Orientation sessions

Build Partnerships

- Send chancellor or president a report with your learning from this symposium and recommendations for moving your institution forward.
- Thank you note.
- Find out who to engage with.
- Open dialog between different interest groups – admin, faculty, students, community. Understand what we are supporting
- Go around those that are resistant. Not always practical or possible. Brutal honesty in emotional, intelligent way. Be upfront in addressing people.
- Make it simple for the community to work toward more sustainable behaviors. Work with local businesses e.g. caulking and weatherstripping block parties.
- Committees: Good and bad. Need personal contact and communication. Need to move outside committee into institution at large.
- Juxtaposition of curriculum integration with facilities. Connect to existing expertise, modeling. Share within institution.
- Sustainability Committee – helps bridge.
- What are the underlying issues that drive unsustainable behaviours? Many of the crises are just symptoms of the root cause. We need to OPEN the conversations.
- Move toward solidarity
- Takes all involved
- Empowerment leads to momentum
- Momentum acts as a bridge, minimizes territorialism – we're moving in the same direction
- Goals surface once momentum is started

Governance

- Defining sustainability – what does it really mean
- Understand the process and politics of decision-making. Pyramid/Grass-roots level respond to quality of life issues. Understand who makes decisions and why.
- Understand differences from current model to what we are trying to achieve. Look at reinventing the process altogether rather than trying to make sustainability fit into existing structure.
- Infuse sustainability into the infrastructure. Forms, agendas, job descriptions, evaluations.

Legislative Action

- Legislative action for innovative funding mechanisms. E.g. Energy mortgages and sustainability revenue bonds for colleges and communities. Rewards system for the community and businesses.
- Educate legislators and representatives to support initiatives

General

- Best place to start is in multiple places at once.
- Time as a resource. We give people who are already really busy responsibility for big projects. Need to not overwhelm our human resources. Need to make room for sustainability personnel to be effective.
- Paradigm shift away from old style thinking about education, efficiency in education

Vision

- Visioning – world class vision for making our organization sustainable. Look at European model
- Build vision. Recognize visionaries, bring in visionaries

League Recommendations

Instruction

- League establish curriculum to share e.g. When the Levees Break
- League host an open source creative commons on sustainability. Course content, discussion areas. (Note: Foothill DeAnza is working on this technology for the League)
- Applied education for sustainability
- How to teach futuring skills, change agent skills, assertiveness

Benchmarks

- Establish base standards for all League colleges
- Create benchmarks so we can gauge progress.
- Help with both systems change and human resources for implementation so that we can lead sustainable lives. E.g. requirements for League Board members (sustainability coordinator, mentoring other colleges).
- Encourage member colleges – AASHE star system
- League – base level for Board colleges.
- League Board school mandate, benchmarking

General

- Use League leverage e.g. to connect with companies
- Professional development and trainings
- Fun informational events – educate and celebrate.
- Cinema of the Mind – for campuses and the public
- How to address political barriers
- Media collaborative to educate the public
- League present materials to new staff and administrators

Information Clearinghouse

- Highlight what member colleges are doing
- Clearinghouse for best practices

- Directory organized by sustainability responsibility. E.g. sustainability coordinators, Presidents' Climate Commitment contacts. See what other colleges are doing AND know how and who to connect with. Curriculum directory.
- Post-sustainability primer
- Advertise existing events and opportunities
- Articles in League publications. Include sustainability in environmental scans – feed into strategic plan. E.g. internships, other best practices.
- League disseminate best practices.
- Online resources

Comments/Questions

- Students are systems challenged – don't understand ecological, political systems
- Faculty don't understand how administrative systems work
- American culture – emphasis on individual rights. Less receptive to communal goals.
- Have economic choices. Not willing to make sustainable choices. People of plenty.
- Online education distances students from the environment
- Students are technologically dependent. Live in a virtual world. Disconnect with reality.
- Money can be barrier or asset. Short term investment produces long term gain. Barriers to initial investment. Much of what we do is that which is profitable in the short term.
- Barrier can be bigger than an individual or institution – economic structure. E.g. State economic base determines in large part our relationship with natural resources.
- People can be a resource and liability. Change in ideas, beliefs, norms – adoption curve.
- Challenge – educating stakeholders.
- Departments are moving forward in their own direction. How do we bridge?
- Urgency – how do we get the entire institution to believe this is a critical issue?