

Georgia College & State University Sustainability Report

April 2013

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Executive Summary

The Georgia College & State University Sustainability Council was created in April 2009 to help “identify and promote actions and initiatives that will enhance sustainability on campus.”¹ As part of its charge from President Dorothy Leland, the council is required to submit an annual report which assesses campus practices and initiatives and offers recommendations for actions that will move Georgia College toward a more sustainable future.

The GC Sustainability Council is made up of dedicated students, staff, and faculty who work together to assess and promote activities related to sustainability issues. The council consists of three students, five staff, and seven faculty. The council reports to the Vice President of Business and Finance, Pete Shields, who also serves as on the council in an advisory role. The council held monthly meetings of the full committee, as well as monthly meetings of several working groups. The work groups were designed to help the committee of fifteen members divide their attentions to seven different areas of concern, and incorporate additional volunteers into council activities.

This document serves as the 2010 annual report of the Sustainability Council, and offers an opportunity to assess the current situation of sustainability at Georgia College, as well as provide recommendations for directions that the university could move in to achieve a more sustainable future.

GCSU Sustainability Council 2009-10 Council Members

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¹ GC Sustainability Council mission statement.

Sustainability at Georgia College

One of the benefits of working in academe is that we are surrounded by a profusion of intelligent, active people with excellent ideas on how to improve our human condition. The growth of sustainability at Georgia College has been truly remarkable. Our institution has rapidly embraced the principles of sustainability and made enormous progress, yet we are well aware of the need for constant improvement.

At this point, Georgia College has neither adopted or engaged in a comprehensive sustainability ratings available to universities. One such rating system is the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education². The criteria for assessment in this system address education and research; operations; and planning, administration, and engagement. Similar to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process developed by the U. S. Green Building Council³, the system allows institutions to accumulate credits for specific accomplishments toward developing sustainable principles, and a rating can be gained by achieving a minimum number of points (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum). Four schools in Georgia are currently reporting to STARS (Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Emory, and Agnes Scott).

Another rating system, labeled The College Sustainability Report Card, has been developed by the Sustainable Endowments Institute⁴. For the last several years, this rating system has issued letter grades (A-D,F) to over 300 institutions throughout the U. S. and Canada. Twenty-seven schools have achieved a grade of A- or better, but none of those schools include the seven schools from Georgia participating (Agnes Scott- C+, Berry- B, Emory- B, University of Georgia- C, Georgia Tech- B, Mercer- C, Spelman- D). The overall grade is calculated as a weighted average of nine categories: administration, climate change and energy, food and recycling, green building, student involvement, transportation, endowment transparency, investment priorities, and shareholder engagement.

The Princeton Review, a service designed to help students select colleges, has included sustainability questions on its annual survey for the past three years. Developed in conjunction with ecoAmerica⁵, colleges are ranked according to three criteria: " 1) whether students have a campus quality of life that is both healthy and sustainable; 2) how well a school is preparing students not only for employment in the clean energy economy of the 21st century, but also for citizenship in a world now defined by environmental challenges; and 3) how environmentally responsible a school's policies are."⁶ The responses to the survey allowed the Review to develop a list of Green Colleges⁷, including eighteen institutions on the Green Honor Roll, which

² <https://stars.aashe.org/>

³ <http://www.usgbc.org/LEED>

⁴ <http://www.greenreportcard.org/>

⁵ <http://ecoamerica.org/>

⁶ <http://www.princetonreview.com/college/college-ratings.aspx>

⁷ <http://www.princetonreview.com/green.aspx>

include Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia. Georgia College responded to the survey questions for this section of their review, and was issued a score of 71 out of 100 for 2010.

Additional ranking and reporting systems have been developed by the National Wildlife Federation⁸ and the Sierra Club⁹ among others. At this point, Georgia College has not been ranked by either of these organizations. We have participated for the last two years in Recyclemania¹⁰, a nation-wide competition sponsored by Coca-Cola for the promotion of campus recycling initiatives.

Georgia College Sustainability Council

This is the first year of the Sustainability Council at Georgia College, and our efforts to this point have not been focused on achieving a national ranking. As we approach the end of the 2009-2010 school year, we have identified several accomplishments that highlight our activities and set the stage for future improvements in the state of sustainability at our institution. Following are some of the more important achievements in support of our mission:

- Organization of Sustainability Council, including operating procedures and working group structure
- Creation of a Sustainability Teaching Circle
- Passage and approval of a Student Green Fee
- Formation of a Kill-A-Watt Brigade to deliver and promote energy efficient appliances and education
- Request for proposals for a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management contract, including campus-wide Recycling Facilities
- Design of a LEED-certified Wellness Center
- Completion of a Parking Realignment Plan which encourages walking, biking, and car-pooling, along with improved campus shuttle operation
- Construction of Multi-use Walking and Biking Path at West Campus
- Implementation of Water Conservation strategies beyond those required by statewide drought management guidelines
- Institution of a Shades of Green conference to promote student awareness of jobs in sustainable industries
- Successful competition for a \$2 million U. S. Energy Department Stimulus Grant to refit lighting at Centennial Center and provide electrical power monitors for campus

⁸ <http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Campus-Solutions/Resources/Reports/Campus-Report-Card.aspx>

⁹ <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201009/cool.schools/default.aspx>

¹⁰ <http://recyclemaniacs.org/index.htm>

- Acquisition of equipment and training required to allow Analysis of Campus Energy and Water Usage

The following sections of this report present the activities of the Georgia College Sustainability Council for 2009-2010 school year, including the various working groups, and the recommendations of the Council for the 2010-2011 year.

Sustainability Council Priorities for 2012-2013

At the Council level, we would like to encourage the Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students of Georgia College to pursue the following most critical sustainability goals:

- Direct attention across campus toward participation in a sustainability rating/ranking service
- Participation in a national/international commitment to sustainability such as the American College & University President's Climate Commitment¹¹ or the University Leaders for a Sustainable Future Talloires Declaration¹²
- Promote sustainability education through visible incentives and awards to promote civic responsibility and innovation in environmentally-motivated teaching
- Eliminate energy waste by metering all buildings, improving HVAC temperature controls, and encouraging all campus members to conserve electricity
- Conserve water through the additional use of landscape management, including storm water retention systems, Geoblock paving stones, and centralized irrigation control
- Identify and develop funding opportunities to support environmental sustainability of our institution, including a student Green Fee
- Create a workable recycling program to help reduce waste generation
- Provide alternative sustainable transportation opportunities, including shuttles busses, rental cars, bicycle routes, and carpooling
- Continue the Sustainability Council's ongoing role in developing and promoting sustainable options for Georgia College

¹¹ <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

¹² http://www.ulsf.org/talloires_declaration.html

Sustainability Council Work Groups

Building and Design Work Group

Mission

To identify and implement sustainable practices for building and landscape design on GC campuses.

Goals

1. Explore the use of storm water to irrigate landscaping in four areas of campus. This would be done with storm water collection tanks and a special system designed for this purpose. The four sites are: behind Kilpatrick Hall, front campus, the Irwin Street parking lot, and West Campus.

Education Work Group

Mission

To encourage the attitude, choices and habits that support sustainability at the institutional and personal level in the GC community. To connect civic responsibility to learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom through community service, education and outreach.

Goals

1. Make visible signs of the Green Initiative on campus by creating new programs and educational materials and by promoting programs already in place
2. Encourage the creation and implementation of curricular components that promote sustainability and/or civic responsibility by supporting faculty who choose to add these to their courses.
3. Encourage habits that promote sustainability and provide students, staff and faculty with information that allows them to make informed, responsible decisions concerning sustainable living.
4. Encourage incentives and present awards that promote and reward sustainability

Progress Toward Goals

The initial year of the Education Working Group consisted mostly of determining what initiatives and projects were already in place and what projects could be undertaken in the future.

1. **Website (green.gcsu.edu).** A website has been established as the contact point for sustainability news and initiatives on campus. The website provides information to the GC community about the activities and accomplishments of the Sustainability Council working groups. The council plans to establish a blog in Fall Semester, 2010. This blog will support dissemination of information from the working groups to the Sustainability Council and the GC community.
2. **Sustainability Teaching Circle.** Supported by money provided by the provost, a group of faculty met during the spring 2010 semester and formed a sustainability teaching circle. The purpose of this teaching circle was to bring together faculty from various disciplines to discuss methods and perspectives on teaching about the issue of sustainability. The goals of the teaching circle 1) were to define and explain what sustainability means to us at GC and to explore how various fields use the word and concept in different ways, 2) bring together ideas and examples of what people at GC and at other campuses are doing to incorporate the issue of sustainability into their classrooms, 3) develop teaching modules that

could be used by any faculty who wanted to include sustainability in their curriculum and 4) finally share these modules with the campus community.

- a. The main product of this teaching circle has been the development of modules focused on sustainability. Currently, we have five sustainability teaching modules that range from single activities that could be done in one class period to activities that students would focus on over multiple class periods. Additionally, we have also started to develop a directory of faculty and classes that teach about sustainability.

3. **Sustainability Suggestions.** Multiple lists of green tips tailored to the different populations were produced and presented for incoming freshmen during Week of Welcome, incoming faculty at the New Faculty Orientation, and for all students at Fall Fest (at the Environmental Club table). A list of tips and facts was submitted to Harry Batson, Director of University Communications, to be posted on the info page as a rotating series of sustainability suggestions.

- a. The Education Working group met with Harry Batson, Pete Shields and Doug Oetter to coordinate a PR effort to promote sustainable habits.

4. **Green Fee Request.** Members of this group were instrumental in revising the Green Fee application at the request of President Leland. The request, submitted to the Board of Regents in early January, requests to initiate a student fee to fund collaborative research projects between students, staff and faculty with the aim of making the campus more sustainable. As a means of supporting sustainability, these funds would provide for research funding, supporting our mission to create a positive teaching and learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse student body, and promotes high levels of student achievement. Furthering the GC tradition of Connecting What Matters, the Green Fee would draw students, faculty, and staff into the process of "greening" our campus by allowing them to submit proposals in the area of sustainability to which they are most committed. This fee will allow students, staff and faculty to use the physical campus as a laboratory for developing effective ways to improve the environmental sustainability of our campus. We are still awaiting a decision from the board of regents but are hopeful the fee will be approved.

5. Educational Project Ideas

- a. Idea #1: provide 1-2 ecohangers in each closet, hanger would provide green tips for students and be used year-round as a reminder
(<http://www.ecohangersexpress.com/default.asp>)
- b. Idea #2: install new light switch cover plates with "turn off the lights" reminders
- c. Idea #3: place "shower timers" in each bathroom to make students more aware of the length of their shower and how much water they're using
(http://www.vitaminshoppe.com/store/en/browse/sku_detail.jsp?id=1E-1017&sourceType=cs&source=FG&cm_mmc=Shopping%20Engines-_-googleproduct-_-Shower%20Timer-Grey%20-%201%20-%20Bath%20Products-1E-1017&ci_src=14110944&ci_sku=1E-1017)

- d. Idea #4: placing static cling reminders on each bathroom mirror reminding students not to brush their teeth with the water running
- e. Idea #5: create a goal of being listed on GreenReportcard.org
- f. Idea #6: placing static clings on windows in halls reminding students that an open window wastes energy
- g.** Idea #7: organizing the grass roots recycling efforts

Energy Working Group

Mission

The GC Sustainability Council Energy & Water Working Group strives to lower GC's carbon footprint through the reduction of energy consumption, to move GC toward greater environmental sustainability in the area of water conservation, and to create an atmosphere at GC where conservation of energy and water is expected and rewarded.

Goals

- Energy
 - To meet the Governor's Energy Challenge, which is to reduce energy consumption per square foot by 15% below the 2007 level, and to do so by 2020.
 - To meter all buildings separately so that employees who work in that building can be encouraged and rewarded to save energy.
 - To continue to improve facilities building automation systems to allow for more flexibility with HVAC controls and temperature range, and to establish protocols which will provide the greatest flexibility and reduce energy consumption.
 - To work with the Transportation and Water Subcommittees with the aim of conserving energy and resources at the institutional level.
- Water
 - To improve methods employed to measure campus water use and provide periodic water use reports.
 - To record and track water conservation related projects.
 - To review best practices in water conservation and cost efficiency.
 - To generate greater awareness of local and global water conservation issues.
 - To recommend actions that reduce water use and promote cost efficiency.

Accomplishments

- GC Plant Operations received funding to improve campus water metering. GC will be able to reduce the cost of water and improve the tracking of water use once meters are properly located, designated, and labeled.
- Sponsored by the GC Sustainability Council and Georgia Power, the GC Kill-A-Watt Brigade (a volunteer group of students, staff, and faculty committed to reducing energy waste at GC) led an Earth Day project to implement positive change for energy efficiency. The Brigade offered free compact fluorescent light bulbs to members of the campus community who pledged to exchange an incandescent bulb for the free energy efficient one.
- The GC Sustainability Council began the coordination of a campus energy use audit to take place Fall 2010. GC students, faculty, and staff will work together to measure the flow of energy within buildings on campus in an effort to cut utility costs and conserve power. Faculty are able to structure this experience as an Independent Study, Practicum, or Directed Project for participating students.

Began a dialogue with Information Technology to determine how we can conserve energy through an automated shutdown process for computers on campus that are not in use.

Benchmarks for a Greener GC

At present, there are four main areas of energy and resource consumption on campus

- Electricity *lighting, all electronic machines and devices*
- Gas *heat and AC usage*
- Steam *heat and AC usage*
- Water *toilets, sinks, showers, irrigation*

There are four main “zones” in which the consumption is monitored:

- Academic & Administration. *Main Campus (all buildings that are used for teaching, student services, and administrative buildings plus the Library and Russell Auditorium), Bell, Centennial Center, Centennial Blocks A&B, and the Chilled Water Plant.*
- Auxiliary Services. *MSU, Sandella's, Bookstore, Campus Theatre.*
- Residential. *Dorms at Centennial, West Campus.*
- Athletics. *Athletic fields and facilities outside of the Centennial Center.*

In the works:

- GC Plant Operations has requested stimulus funding to install meters on individual buildings on campus to more closely monitor energy and water consumption.
- Plant Operations also has plans to retrofit lighting at the Centennial Center, which would make the biggest difference in energy consumption there.

Target areas for action

The Campus Sustainability Council should focus on the areas where the actions of individual faculty, staff and students would make the most difference in consumption and cost.

Residential

Electricity July 2008 – May 2009

Cost:

Usage

Water July 2008 – May 2009

Cost:

Usage:

Academic & Administration

Electricity July 2008 – May 2009

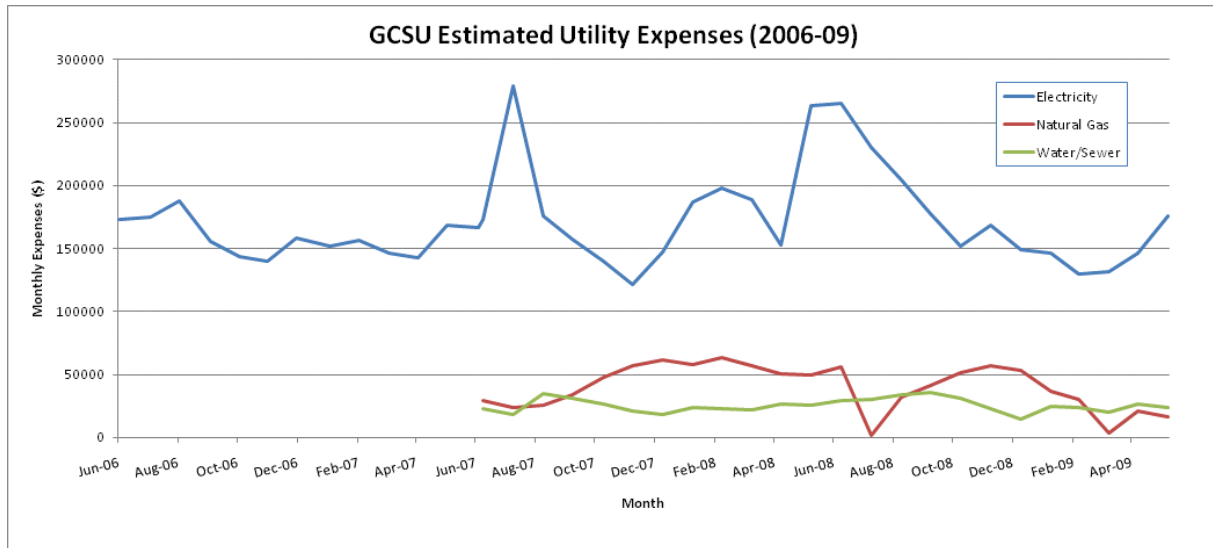
Cost: \$2,183,000.00

Usage 29,501,150 KWH

Water July 2008 – May 2009

Cost: \$270,459

Usage: 47,147,000 gallons



Project Descriptions

Porter Hall Refurbishments

Year-end Funds: This project will be to replace all carpet in entire building, patch & Paint, replace lighting, build cabinets and various electrical upgrades in rooms 227,228,229,230,231,& 234. MRR - FY2010

Remediate Air Quality, Phase II of IV. This project is based on a combination of an air quality report and building HVAC study performed by Connor Engineering. The project is a phased project set to address fresh air intake in an effort to eliminate the mold problem within the facility.

Parks Hall 2nd floor Restrooms

Replace floor, plumbing fixtures and toilet partitions, and repaint walls

Arts & Sciences Building

MRR - FY2010 Replace Windows,

Parks Nursing/Health Sciences

Major Capital project to renovate the Parks Nursing and Health Sciences Facilities for the School of Health Sciences. Renovated classrooms and offices along with state of the art Nursing Skills Labs.

Campus Theatre

Recommendations

- Establish an information sharing agreement between Plant Operations and the Sustainability Council so that the Council has access to energy and water use information.
- Complete a campus energy and water use audit.
- Develop concrete energy and water use reduction goals.
- Secure a grant related to energy and water conservation.
- Host an energy and water conservation awareness event/project each semester.

Water Working Group

Funding Work Group

Mission

To obtain funding from outside sources to facilitate and support the economic and environmental sustainability of our institution.

Goals

- Identify potential sources for funding to support economic and environmental campus initiatives.
- Share grant opportunities with the Sustainability Council and working groups.
- Obtain a clear picture from all Green Initiative/Sustainability Council working groups of projected key initiatives over the next 3-5 years that would benefit from Grant Funding.

The initial year of the Funding Working Group consisted primarily of determining the role that such a group might play in supporting the key initiatives and goals of GC's Sustainability Council and specific projects initiated by other working groups. The goals listed above were some of the preliminary ideas brought forward.

Accomplishments

1. Began to develop procedures that might guide other work groups in their work to pursue public and/or private grants to further their ongoing work.
2. Explored and started a list of a range of funding opportunities from public and private sources
3. Worked on a checklist to support work groups in their pursuit of external funding that would carefully connect the work with our Office of Sponsored Projects (for public project) or GC's Office of University Advancement.
4. Worked to develop a list of ongoing sustainability projects at GC that have current funding.

Recommendations

Due to the nature of the work required by principal investigators of grant funded initiatives, we believe that the nature of the funding working group might potentially change for the upcoming academic year. While a separate committee can assist in identifying potential funding sources and preparing grant proposals to a certain extent, this group cannot serve as principal investigators. That role must be reserved for those who will be managing the grant and ongoing progress reports. Thus, we feel that streamlining the goals of the larger sustainability council to focus on and complete ongoing projects in an exceptional manner may be more beneficial to the long term goals of GC and the council's readiness to continue to seek and manage new grant projects. In addition, it is likely that if GC's Student Green Fee receives approval through the Board of Regents, a working group to focus on allocation of such funds to student and faculty projects may be more essential than a group seeking a range of new external funding sources for the immediate future. Therefore, the funding working group may continue to refine its goals to best meet the needs of the Sustainability Council through addressing issues related to both seeking and allocating funds for ongoing initiatives.

Materials Work Group

Mission

To facilitate an efficient materials management program making GC a more environmentally sustainable campus.

Goals

1. Identify current waste reduction efforts
 - a. Inventory recycling on campus
2. Audit campus waste stream
 - a. Suggest as part of the Environmental Science Club activities as part of Recyclemania 2010
3. Implement composting program
 - a. Inventory existing activities
 - b. Evaluate the potential of acquiring a tub composter
 - c. Create a composting educational display
4. Implement institutionalized recycling program
 - a. Include waste reduction
 - b. Engage students (SIFE, Tri-Beta, Env Sci Club, service learning)
 - c. Solve downstream problem
5. Educate campus on waste management
 - a. A management plan must be cost-effective
 - b. Create educational display- waste before and after recycling
 - c. Appeal to ethics

Accomplishments

Inventory of Recycling on GC Campus

- Drink Cans & Bottles
 - Herty Hall- 6 collection boxes emptied by Tri-Beta
 - Depot- 1 collection box emptied by Dave Terrell
 - MSU- collection boxes emptied by someone
 - Others??
- Housing
 - Napier- recycling on every floor (plastic, cans, cardboard)
 - Adams- trying to develop
 - West 600- program in place
 - Others??
- Paper

- Env Sci Club- 24 collection bins across campus
- Beeson- NY Times unread papers
- Printer Cartridges
 - GIVE Center
- Composting
 - Ground Crew
- Batteries

Estimate of Waste Production

Site	Tons per year	
	2008	2009
Cafeteria	305	304
Centennial	302	331
The Village	300	300
GCSU Housing Move in/out	50	30
Front Loader Dumpsters	75	75
	1031	1039 tons/yr
	2062760	2078060 lbs/yr
Typical Week in March	22311	22936 kg/week

Audit campus waste stream

As part of Recyclemania 2010 <
http://recyclemaniacs.org/university_detail08.asp?ID=776> the Environmental Science Club tracked campus-wide recycling efforts and generated the following results for a 10-week period from mid-January to late March:

Targeted Materials Competitions									
Results shown are in Metric Kilograms . To view measurements in US Pounds, view the overall rankings on the Results page .									
Week	Paper		Corrugated Cardboard		Bottles and Cans		Food Service Organics		
	kgs/ person		kgs/ person		kgs/ person		kgs/ person		
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	
1	0.01		0.00		0.00		0.00		
2	0.00		0.00		0.01		0.00		
3	0.03		0.00		0.02		0.00		
4	0.02		0.00		0.00		0.00		
5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	
7	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
8	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		
9	0.03		0.00		0.00		0.00		
10	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

For more information on how these figures were calculated, please refer to the [Recyclemania 2010 Rules](#).

Recommendations

The Materials Work Group of the GC Sustainability Council has studied the current waste management and recycling situation at GC and proposes the following steps to promote recycling:

1. Identify current waste reduction efforts

- a. This effort should be followed up by a comprehensive campus solid waste audit during the 2010-11 academic year.

2. Implement institutionalized recycling program

- a. Include waste reduction
 - i. The Materials Work Group will continue to study efforts to reduce consumption at the institutional level
- b. Solve downstream problem
 - i. GC is working to secure a contract for waste hauling and recycling. As part of this contract GC will construct two separate recycling centers that will collect paper, cardboard, newspaper, plastic #1 & #2, aluminum, sorted glass, and steel. These materials will be sold to the waste hauler.
- c. To make the recycling effort work, a critical current issue is locating collection bins across campus. There will need to be a variety of bins and locations.
 - i. Outdoor mixed drink container bins
 - 1. There are currently almost 200 outdoor waste receptacles on the grounds of GC. Most of these bins are used for casual waste, including paper, drink containers, and compost.
 - 2. Outdoor recycling bins are expensive, due to the need for strong construction and rain protection.
 - a. Dual collection systems such as pictured above accept waste and co-mingled recyclable products (cans, bottles, paper).
 - b. This system costs \$1000.
 - 3. GC should invest in **five bins** such as this and position them very conspicuously in high-traffic areas. The flat space advertises the recycling effort and encourages users to find other more convenient locations. (Cost **\$5000**)
 - 4. The Materials Work Group is studying locations to position these high-traffic outdoor bins.
 - 5. Collection from these bins would be performed by custodial services for the waste (as with trash bins) and by student volunteers for the recycling.
 - ii. Special event drink container bins
 - 1. Several large events, including sports games and concerts, promote beverage consumption. Special use cardboard recycling bins with plastic liners could be used liberally to accept co-mingled drink bottles and cans.
 - 2. The Coca-Cola company offers grants for purchasing special events recycling bins < <http://www.bingrant.org/home.htm>>. In addition, the company has donated 10 cardboard collection bins, and promises to donate more.



3. These bins should be made available for special events. They will need to be kept clean and dry, using plastic liners.
4. GC should contact the Macon Coca-Cola bottling company and ask for as many as **50 bins** for no cost. (Cost **\$0**)
5. Collection from these bins at special events would be entirely done by volunteers

iii. Indoor sorted bins for paper and drink containers

1. Indoor locations can be targeted more aggressively for sorted paper and beverage containers, taking advantage of the willingness of faculty, staff, and students to sort their materials at a recycling station.
2. The typical Rubbermaid recycling center allows for four different materials to be collected (e.g., white office paper, mixed paper, beverage containers, waste). Inside the two large containers are four 23-gallon rectangular storage units, which could be lined with plastic bags.
 - a. This facility costs about \$500
3. GC should invest in **ten** recycling stations to be distributed inside classroom and office buildings. (Cost **\$5,000**)
4. Faculty, staff, and students could contribute materials, and either volunteers or work-study students could be responsible for moving the materials to outside roll-off containers.



iv. Building roll-off collection bins

1. Outside GC buildings there is usually a waste receptacle (green roll-off) that temporarily stores refuse until the collection service comes to move it to the compactors or open-top dumpsters. Additional blue recycling roll-off containers should be located adjacent to these bins. There are over 100 waste roll-offs currently on campus; these will be replaced under the new waste management contract.
2. These containers would be primarily for the transfer of paper and beverage bottles from within the adjacent building to the waste transfer locations.
 - a. This bin costs about \$100.
3. GC should purchase **50** of the 68-gallon blue roll-off containers to accept recyclable materials from within buildings. (Cost **\$5000**)



v. Transportation system

1. The success of the proposed recycling program relies on volunteer efforts to transport paper, containers, and other recyclable materials from their sources (classrooms, offices, residence halls) to one of the

two transfer stations, where the materials can be sorted and packaged for delivery to the waste hauling company.

2. Because there are limitations on the amount of involvement existing facilities crews and custodians will be able to contribute, the student staff and volunteers will need reliable transportation for the 68-gallon roll-off containers. Students are not allowed by GC to drive pickup trucks, so the best available option is a golf cart.
3. GC should purchase **one** Club Car XRT 1550 diesel 4-wheel drive golf cart with a towing package < http://www.utvguide.net/club_car_xrt1550_le.htm> and a trailer to allow student staff and volunteers to collect up to eight roll-off containers in a single trip. (Cost **\$15,000**)
- d. Engage students in service learning and work-study
 - i. The recycling program will depend on volunteer and paid students
 1. Service Learning could be used to encourage volunteer participation
 - a. SIFE, Tri-Beta, Env Sci Club
 2. Work Study
- e. Dedicate a director
 - i. The recycling program needs to hire a dedicated director who will oversee all operations and ensure the success of the program

3. Implement composting program

- a. Inventory existing activities
- b. Evaluate the potential of acquiring a tub composter
- c. Create a composting educational display

4. Educate campus on waste management

- a. A management plan must be cost-effective
- b. Create educational display- waste before and after recycling

5. Appeal to ethics

- a. The campus feeling should be one of recycling because it is the 'right thing to do' in order to take advantage of the willing potential recyclers first. Down the road, we can institute more comprehensive methods to encourage those who do not support recycling to comply with waste minimization efforts.

Transportation Work Group

Mission

To provide and facilitate alternative sustainable transportation opportunities for GC students, faculty, and staff.

Goals

- Facilitate the bike path construction project
- Explore opportunities regarding alternative fuels for campus shuttles
- Develop and implement programs which reduce GC required travel
- Investigate new parking options

Accomplishments

The initial year of the Transportation Working Group consisted mostly of determining what initiatives and projects could be undertaken. The goals listed above were some of the preliminary ideas brought forward.

1. Bike path construction is a long-term project with coordination among several local, state, and federal agencies. Some money was received to enhance the current bike trails along the Greenway and around the lake at Baldwin High School. Federal funds were allocated for the initial development of the bike paths associated with the Rails-to-Trails program, the starting point will be in the Macon district.
2. Exploring alternative fuels was limited to discussion on the types of fuels which may be incorporated. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Bio-diesel alternatives were the only two viable candidates given the current infrastructure in the Milledgeville area. CNG was ruled out as the delivery, storage and dispersal issues were extremely costly. Bio-diesel is not yet commercially available in adequate quantities to satisfy the current demand of the GC Transportation Dept. However the bid specifications and ultimate awarding of the GC bus contract did specify that the new buses would have a bio-diesel compatible engine to take advantage of the product when it does become more readily available.
3. Exploring ways to reduce transportation by the GC community were discussed and it was learned that many of these initiatives were already in place.
 - a. Teleconferencing instead of attending conferences and education programs
 - b. Telecommuting offered by HR and worked within the individual departments
4. Investigating new parking options is an ongoing process. One area considered was to have GC operate a rental car program whereby students could have access to a vehicle but not require them to bring their own vehicles to campus. This initiative has some merits but further study of the viability is needed before putting in the capital investment.
5. One area not listed was the potential construction of a solar powered charging station coupled with the current construction on Herty Hall. The station would potentially develop enough energy to charge 2-3 golf carts. This goal is still under investigation to determine if this site would be effective enough to warrant the additional cost.

Recommendations

The transportation working group will continue to work towards its original goals in the next year.

Georgia College Sustainability Council

Council Mission

Georgia College is committed to the stewardship of its resources, including the campus physical environment. With greater awareness of the environmental challenges that affect us locally and globally, Georgia College has renewed its commitment to taking stock of its own environmental impact and exploring ways in which the university community can enhance the environmental sustainability of our campus.

Council Charge

The Campus Sustainability Council at Georgia College is responsible for helping to identify and promote actions and initiatives that will enhance sustainability on campus. Sustainability includes energy/resource management conservation and stewardship as affected by system, campus culture, transportation, the built environment, individual actions/behaviors, etc., for the long-term benefit of the environment. The Council provides periodic assessments of campus sustainability initiatives or practices, recommends actions that will move Georgia College towards greater environmental sustainability, and promotes awareness of sustainability issues on campus. If revenue from student or other fees indexed to campus sustainability should become available, the Campus Sustainability Council will make recommendations regarding the use of such funds. On an annual basis, the Council will prepare a Campus Sustainability Report to be presented to the university community as part of its Earth Day activities

Council Structure

The Sustainability Council reports to the University President through the Vice President for Business and Finance, who also serves as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Council. The Office of the Vice President for Business and Finance will provide administrative support to the Council, including maintaining an informative website and recording and posting meeting minutes.

Members of the Campus Sustainability Council are Appointed by the University President and include the following representation:

1. Two representatives from Physical Plant including grounds (nominated by the Vice President for Business & Finance)
2. One representative from Auxiliary Services (nominated by the Vice President for Business & Finance)
3. One representative from University Housing (nominated by the Vice President for Student Affairs)
4. One representative from Staff Council (or designee) (nominated by Staff Council chair)
5. One representative from the University Senate's Resources, Planning & Institutional Policy Committee (nominated by RPIPC chair)
6. One representative from the Residence Student Association (nominated by the RSA president)

7. One representative from the Environmental Science Club (nominated by club members)
8. Two representatives from the student body at large (nominated by SGA president)
9. Four representatives from the faculty at large (nominated by faculty)

All appointments will be made following a call for nominations that includes information regarding the work of the Council and desired qualifications of Council members (for instance, commitment of campus sustainability and, as warranted appropriate expertise). Members of the Campus Sustainability Council will elect their own chair and can form subgroups as needed to carry out the charge of the Council.