

Warren Wilson College Sustainability Recognition Program 2011

Objective

The Sustainability Recognition Award seeks to deepen the College's understanding and fulfillment of its formal sustainability commitments by sharing examples, campus-wide, of projects that demonstrate these principles and engage the Triad of academics, work and service.

Background

Sustainability is a core value at Warren Wilson. We aspire to understand it, live it, and teach it in order to fulfill the challenge of the "enduring institutional objective" stated in the 2010 Strategic Plan: to "engage students in Triad activities that deepen understanding about the environmental, economic, and community bases of sustainability."

In 2007, the President's Advisory Council (PAC) made a commitment to sustainable decision making for its institutional planning. In 2010, the Sustainability Working Group* synthesized elements of this model and other formal College commitments to environmental responsibility and sustainability and formed the College's Sustainability Commitment:

We acknowledge that a complex web of economic, social, cultural, spiritual and environmental factors determine the well-being of our community.

We recognize our power as individuals, and in community, to influence these complex, interdependent relationships.

We strive to make responsible decisions that take into account the multiple dimensions of sustainability in order to ensure quality of life now and for generations to come.

Criteria

The Sustainability Recognition Program recognizes up to three projects per academic year that deepen the understanding and the practice of the College's Sustainability Commitment. An annual award winner will be selected by the Sustainability Working Group, from these three recognized projects, to receive the annual Sustainability Recognition Award.

Projects will be recognized for aspiring to these qualities:

- Awareness of the interconnectedness of economic, social/cultural, and environmental factors in relation to a particular subject.
- Importance of using the sustainability framework to develop positive, long-term solutions to such complex issues as social justice, food systems, paper usage, etc.
- Integration of more than one Triad component in the project.
- Immersion of faculty, staff, students or the greater community in a sustainability examination that may extend beyond the classroom to applied projects. Examples of projects that demonstrate application are the permaculture plantings at the EcoDorm and the Library's paper reduction initiative. Classroom sustainability examinations include such courses as "Follow the Tomato" (from field to table); and "Heart of the Matter" Service studies represent a hybrid of study and application.
- Demonstrate innovation and create changes in perception regarding the possibilities of sustainable living.
- Create positive impact on campus and wherever possible, in the surrounding community.

Process

- Sustainability Working Group manages the Sustainability Recognition Program.
- Projects may either be self-nominating or nominated by others.
- Up to three projects will be recognized per academic year.
- At year end, the Sustainability Working Group will select one of the projects for the annual Sustainability Recognition Award (a plaque).
- The timetable for nominations will be announced throughout the year.
- Nomination:
 - Project must be close to full implementation, or in the case of course curriculum, well-underway, for consideration.
 - Submit up to a 400- word statement about how the project fulfills the objective of the Sustainability Recognition Program and specifically, how it meets or aspires to meet each of the criteria.
 - Submit on-line only to the Chief Sustainability Official (mflood@warren-wilson.edu).
- Recipients will be announced on the Inside Page, via Employee-1, at Staff Forum and at Student Caucus. The project description will be posted at the Sustainability Website.

* The Sustainability Working Group currently has 22 faculty, staff and student members from academics, work, service, student life and facilities.