Ball State University Unit-level Sustainability Planning

[as mandated in Goal IV_F of the 2007-2012 Ball State University Strategic Plan]

A Sustainability Plan

for

The Department of Economics

Submitted to
Dr. Terry King
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

31 January, 2008

[on or before]

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Achievements to Date

The following are our short-form question responses within the categories of Governance and Administration, Operations, Curriculum and Research, and Community Service and Outreach. In developing these short-form responses, we are pleased to report significant achievements in these areas and have identified opportunities for further development/transformation.

[Provide brief descriptions for each affirmative or goal response]

Governance and Administration	
Y N Goal X 1. The unit has standing committees to address issues of sustainability.	
Y N Goal ☐ X ☐ 2. The unit gives assigned load and/or a staff position dedicated to sustainability initiatives.	
Y N Goal X 3. The unit has established policies that encourage sustainability initiatives.	
 Y N Goal X 1 4. The unit has sustainability integrated into its mission statement. 	
Y N Goal ☐ X ☐ 5. The unit maintains active membership in organizations engaged in promoting sustainability.	
Y N Goal X Goal The unit encourages and rewards research related to sustainability. The department encourages and recognizes economics research related to sustainability.	
Y N Goal X 7. The unit encourages and rewards the integration of sustainability issues into course material. Several faculty members in the department currently include sustainability issues in their economics courses. The department will continue encourage faculty to integrate sustainabilities in the economics courses.	у

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Operations Y N Goal X □ □ 1. The unit purchases/uses Energy Star Office and Telecommunications Equipment. The computer monitors, copiers, and fax machines are Energy Star compliant.
Y N Goal X 2. The unit has policies to restrict paper use. The department encourages faculty and staffs to use duplex printing for both photocopier and laser printer. Documents are kept in computer files, such as Word or PDF, instead of paper if possible.
Y N Goal X □ □ 3. The unit uses recycled paper. The department purchases and uses the recycled paper through the University Purchasing.
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 Y N Goal X
Y N Goal X 6. The unit has policies that encourage the use of teleconferencing capabilities to limit travel. The department does not have a policy to encourage the use of teleconferencing capabilities to limit travel. However, faculty members understand that the teleconferencing is an option for meeting because of the limit of their time and the budget for travel.
Y N Goal X 7. The unit specifies hybrid electric vehicles for travel. The department does not specify hybrid electric vehicles for travel. The department will inform faculty about the option of using hybrid electric vehicles for travel and encourage faculty using this option.
Y N Goal X 8. The unit shows preference for sustainable lodging for professional travel. The department will inform faculty about the option of sustainable lodging for professional travel and encourage faculty using this option.
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Y N Goal X 9. The unit uses washable dinner/service ware for its meetings/receptions. The department has only about two parties each year in the department. It may not be cost saving to buy silver ware and dishwasher for rare occasions.
Y N Goal X 10. The unit purchases/uses remanufactured office furniture. Most current office furniture has been used for many years. The department may consider purchasing remanufactured office furniture when they are replaced in the future.
Y N Goal X 11. The unit purchases/uses sustainable materials for office furnishings. The department may consider purchasing and using sustainable materials for office furnishings.
Y N Goal X 12. The unit discourages the use of single-occupant automobile travel. The department inform faculty about the budget limit for their travel. While choosing travel method, both budget and convenience are their consideration.
Y N Goal X 13. Classroom, Office and/or Restroom lighting for the unit is controlled by occupancy sensors. The lighting equipments in the building are managed by the Dean's Office. The department will follow the Dean's Office energy saving plan.
Y N Goal X 14. The unit's thermostats are set to minimize energy use for heating and cooling. The thermostats cannot be adjusted by faculty or staff in individual offices.
Curriculum Y N Goal X □ □ 1. The unit has courses dedicated to issues related to sustainability. Econ 311 – Environment Economics is a course on the applications of economic principles to environmental problems. Sustainability is a major issue in environment problems.
Y N Goal X □ □ 2. The unit has courses with sustainability content. The principle economics courses, including Econ 116 – Survey of Economic Ideas, Econ 201 – Elementary Microeconomics, and Econ 202 – Elementary Macroeconomics, can relate economics to sustainability issues. The instructors in these courses determine the extent of the coverage of sustainability issues in their courses. Econ 345 – Economics of Government Budget can cover government policies on environmental and sustainability issues.

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 Y N Goal X
Y N Goal X 4. The unit recognizes sustainability courses from other departments as legitimate electives for credit in its programs. The department is concerned about the lack of interest in applying economics to sustainability issues. This concern is more important than considering sustainability courses from other department as electives for credit in our programs.
 Y N Goal X

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Research Research
Y N Goal X 1. Members of the unit have conducted research on issues of sustainability in their discipline.
One of the research areas for Dr. Stan Keil is environmental energy economics. He has done research on issues of sustainability.
Y N Goal X 2. Members of the unit have published on issues of sustainability in their discipline.
 Y N Goal X
Dr. Stan Keil attends and participates conferences that address issues of sustainability.
Y N Goal X
Y N Goal X 5. The unit has hosted workshops on issues of sustainability.
 Y N Goal X 6. The unit has hosted conferences on issues of sustainability.

Cor	nm	unity Service and Outreach
Y		Goal 1. The unit engages in public and/or outreach activities that address issues of sustainability.
Y		Goal 2. The unit is in partnership with others in the community in the pursuit of sustainability.
		Goal 3. The unit participates in community events that address issues of sustainability.
Y	N X	Goal 4. The unit has initiated community endeavors in pursuit of sustainability.

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Existing conditions as baseline (data as available)

In preparing our short-form responses to the questions in the previous section, we accumulated the following data sets. These comprise the numerical underpinnings specific to our Department.

A List of Academic Offerings

Topical Sustainability Lectures
None
Topical Sustainability Modules
None
Sustainability Courses
One, Econ 311 which is jointly offered with NREM 303
Sustainability Programs
None
Sustainability Concentrations
Econ 311/NREM 303 is a foundation course for the sustainability minors (clustered minors) in business, technology and landscape architecture
Sustainability Degree Offerings
None
None
Sustainability Immersive On-and Off-Campus Experiences
None
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Existing conditions as baseline (data as available)

A List of Faculty, Staff and Student Activities

Professional Academic Organizations
None
Professional Staff Organizations
None
Student Associations and Clubs
None
Hybrid Fleet Vehicle Use
None
Hybrid Electric Shuttle Bus Use
Hybrid Electric Shuttle Bus Ose
None
Bicycling
Jeff Green and Stan Keil ride bicycle to campus depending on weather conditions.
Carpooling
None. (Cecil Bohanon, Phil Coelho, John Horowitz, and Jim McClure walk to school as they live nearby the campus.)
MITS Bio-Diesel Bus Use
Used by students as needed
Conference Travel; Carbon Offset Purchases (and others)
None
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Existing conditions as baseline (data as available) A List of Operational Commitments in the Building(s) We Occupy

	Building Use: Lamp	s, Occupancy Sensors,	Waterless	Urinals
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Not applicable; these items are managed by the Dean's Office.

Material Use/Recycling: Paper, Water, Cartridges, Cans, Glass, Wet Garbage

The department disposes used paper, cartridge, cans, and glass into recycling bins.

Food Use/Recycling: Local Sourcing, Washable Dinnerware

None

Goals

Given our assessment of where things stand, we have identified the following goals for our unit.

Governance and Administration

The department will follow University Strategic Plan and participate in the meetings associated with the sustainability plan.

Increase the faculty and staffs' awareness of the university's strategic plan on sustainability. Encourage faculty to conduct research on sustainability.

Encourage faculty to integrating sustainability issues into course material.

Operations

Continue, improve and encourage the current practices for sustainability: (1) purchase and use recycled paper; (2) use recycling bins appropriately; (2) use the Energy Star compliant equipments; (3) use duplex printing; (4) use copier instead of laser printer for printing duplicates; (5) encourage the use of teleconferencing to limit travel; (6) encourage the use of car-pool for short-distance travel.

Identify and consider new practices for sustainability: (1) use hybrid electric vehicles for travel; (2) purchase and use remanufactured office furniture; (3) purchase and use sustainable materials for office furnishings.

Curriculum

- (1) Encourage faculty to relate economics to sustainability issues in Econ 116, 201, and 202.
- (2) Econ 311 and 345 may include more contents on sustainability issues and the students in these courses can be involved with assignments or projects related to sustainability.
- (3) Promote Econ 311 to our majors and the minor in natural resources.

Research

- (1) Host a departmental seminar on sustainability
- (2) Expand the number of faculty attending economics conferences that address issues of sustainability.
- (3) Encourage faculty to conduct the research that relating economics to sustainability issues.

Community Service and Outreach

Encourage participation by faculty in the Business Fellows Program.	
Encourage faculty and staffs to participate in the community activities on sustainability	ity.

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Implementation

We have aligned specific action items with the 5-year cycling of the Strategic Plan and anticipate being able to move forward in the respective categorical areas, as described below.

Action Items	Resource needs (2008-2012)
Governance and Administration	Immediate implementation, no resource needs are anticipated
Operations	Immediate implementation, no resources needs are anticipated
Curriculum	A total of \$3,000 in five years to reward faculty to develop and implement the course plan integrating sustainability. Each faculty member will receive \$500 for developing and implementing the plan.
Research	\$2,000 per year to encourage faculty to attend economics conferences that address issues of sustainability. A total of \$3,000 in five years to invite guest speakers to present papers relating economics to sustainability in the department seminars. A total of \$5,000 in five years to reward faculty with referred publications relating economics to sustainability. Each article will be rewarded \$1,000.
Community Service and Outreach	To encourage faculty to participate community programs on sustainability, a total of \$1,000 in five years will be used for travel support.