

The Honors College: Sustainability Plan
March 2008
(Provisionally updated: December 2010)

Policy:

“The Honors College community affirms its commitment to protect and enhance the environment through our learning, research, service, and administrative operations within the range of its academic mission. We seek to foster a community that sustains ecological systems and promotes learning for environmental awareness, local action, and global thinking. We seek to incorporate environmental principles and environmentally responsible practices as fundamental and integrated components of Honors College operations and programs.”

This sustainability policy should be included on all Honors College course syllabi. A copy of this document is provided to all Honors College faculty and this document is readily available to all students.

Sustainability Ideals and Actions Completed

Below are goals that Honors College faculty and students have committed to work towards in the future. As a community, we will strive to achieve and fulfill all of the following within the next decade (2008 to 2018).

- Responsibility for monitoring and maintaining sustainable initiatives in both academic and non-academic functions in the Honors College is the responsibility of all full-time staff, under the supervision of the Dean and Associate Dean.
- The Honors College will work to foster a community of scholars that have conducted and/or published research on issues of sustainability within their individual discipline and across disciplines by supporting the creation of sustainability-related Honors colloquia (HONRS 390) where possible and by encouraging the incorporation of sustainability-related issues into core courses where appropriate.
 - An Honors colloquium, “Food & Science - The Ultimate Green Frontier,” was taught in Summer 2010. (Ann Blakey, Biology)
 - An Honors colloquium, “Physical and Cultural Sustainability in Science Fiction,” has been taught regularly for several years, including Fall 2010. (Rob Benson, Architecture)
- The Honors College will endeavor to encourage and reward research related to sustainability and sustainable practices through the use of grants and undergraduate fellowships.
- The Honors College will work with the residence halls and Student Honors Council to encourage and enable students to take an active role in sustainability conferences, workshops, and events on and around campus. The Honors College advocates and will support lectures and workshops during the annual international Greening of the Campus conference held on Ball State University’s campus.
- The Honors College will strive to participate as an organizing unit for projects or groups that do not fit easily into departmental boundaries in pursuit of sustainability.

Sustainable Policies Routinely Implemented

Listed below are actions that the Honors College community has committed to addressing. We believe these actions are feasible and necessary to create a sustainable Honors community, university campus, and universal future.

- The Honors College has established policies that encourage sustainability initiatives, including this document.
- The Honors College’s Student Honors Council addresses student issues relating to sustainability and makes recommendations and submits reports to the Dean or Associate Dean periodically.
- The Honors College encourages all students to attend community events that address issues of sustainability, such as workshops, lectures, and philanthropic events.
- Honors College faculty encourages students to address sustainability topics within course discussions and assignments where appropriate to course content.
- The Honors College can usefully address the issues of sustainability within the course sections of HONRS 199, *Honors Symposium in Contemporary Civilization*. Faculty are encouraged to focus class sessions and assignments on sustainability as it relates to modern society and culture when appropriate to course content. Additionally, students within HONRS 199 courses are encouraged to participate in sustainability-oriented conferences, workshops, and related events on campus. A guideline on sustainable themes will be provided to professors to enable this curriculum suggestion.
- All students are provided opportunities to
 - Become literate in the environmental, social and economic interactions of human and biophysical systems.
 - Incorporate environmental concerns as a significant priority in decision making.
 - Seek alternative practices and procedures to minimize negative impacts on the environment.
 - Conserve natural resources and restore environmental quality.
 - Protect the biodiversity of our region and serve as a living laboratory and habitat for local species.
 - Consider the social, economic and environmental impacts of literary works, historical events, and current events.
- The Honors College can provide colloquium credit for approved courses, projects, and independent studies dealing with sustainability-oriented topics or adapted from existing courses within other departments, if these courses also conform to honors colloquium guidelines and standards.
- The Honors College provides appropriate recycling bins throughout its offices.
- The Honors College advocates sustainability-oriented policies restricting paper use, such as the use of email for all correspondence in Honors College courses, including the turning-in of assignments and grading and the use of non-print sources when applicable by both students and faculty. The Honors College urges faculty and students to use paper efficiently with such techniques as narrower margins and double-sided printing, and the use of 11-point fonts; recycled paper will be purchased and used whenever possible.
- The Honors College supports the use of carpooling and multiple-occupant cars whenever feasible.
- The Honors College engages in measures to reduce heating and cooling, such as strategically leaving blinds open or closed facing the sun.

Sustainable Actions Being Taken

The Honors College community has in the past and is currently taking actions to promote a sustainable campus.

- Honors College students, associated faculty, staff, and administrators attend conferences that address issues of sustainability.
 - Honors students have attended the National Collegiate Honors Council for the past two years, where sustainability issues have been topics of discussion in student fora, poster presentations of student research, and in faculty workshops. The NCHC supports an ongoing program, “Partners in

the Parks,” which provides a vehicle for action in sustainability education. In Fall 2010 six students, one Honors faculty member, and two administrators attended NCHC.

- Honors College students, associated faculty, staff and administrators belong to associations and maintain active membership in organizations dedicated to sustainability issues, such as the Council on Environment and Students for a Sustainable Campus.
- Sustainability concerns were an integral part of planning for the renovation of DeHority Hall (Honors residence hall) and the Ball Honors House.
 - DeHority Hall achieved LEED Silver certification (the first official certification on campus)
 - Ball Honors House did not seek certification, but sustainable design principles were used in the design throughout.

Approved and submitted by the Student Honors Council and endorsed by The Honors College, March 19, 2008; updated December, 2010.