



cau•se•rie

Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support

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Winter 2011 - 12 | Garnet, Black and Green: Sustainable Carolina

Since the opening of West (Green) Quad in 2004, the University of South Carolina has been a catalyst for green building and sustainable practices in South Carolina and across the nation. Now, the university's role as a leader in sustainability education has been strengthened even further. The Office of Sustainability and the Green Quad Learning Center have merged their efforts into Sustainable Carolina, an umbrella organization that coordinates efforts devoted to sustainability and encourages a multi-disciplinary approach to solving to complex, real-world problems.

Students want sustainability education

73%

of students are interested in sustainability-related courses, and most of them (68 percent) would prefer sustainability were incorporated in existing courses rather than new, distinct courses. More than half of students surveyed said sustainability is related to their careers, and 68% agreed it's related to their majors. A list of sustainability-related courses is at www.sc.edu/green.

Sustainable Carolina addresses four primary goals

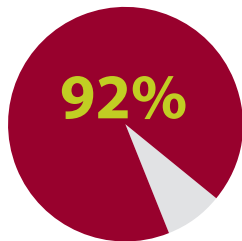
- 1 promote campus-wide integrative, ecological thinking
- 2 build campus capacity for transportation
- 3 promote sustainable management of campus resources
- 4 build a green organization.

To learn more, go to:

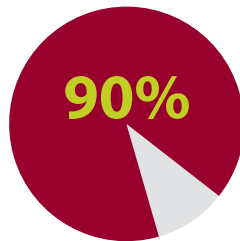
www.sc.edu/green

Faculty seminar identifies ways to integrate sustainability into work

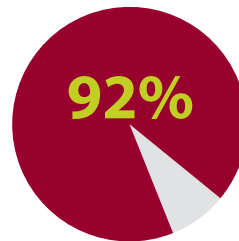
Each spring, Sustainable Carolina offers a seminar to help faculty begin to incorporate sustainability into their teaching, research and other work. The seminar is modeled on successful workshops that led to new research interests, publications, presentations, interdisciplinary work and external funding for faculty at other colleges and universities. Last spring's seminar, which hosted faculty from 15 academic departments and three USC campuses, was enormously successful. To apply for the next seminar, visit www.sc.edu/green.



would recommend the seminar to their colleagues



found new resources for integrating sustainability into their teaching/work



got new information for integrating sustainability into their teaching/work



met faculty who were potential collaborators

"One of the most important efforts of Sustainable Carolina is complementing classroom education by providing opportunities for leadership and application."

Michael Koman, university director of sustainability

Source: Sustainable Carolina

“We have shaped a world that cannot sustain our current standard of living. Future solutions will require specialized knowledge but also practical problem-solving skills, including the ability to work within teams that represent multiple disciplines.”

Michael Koman, university director of sustainability

In teams, it's easy being green

To achieve its four primary goals and associated initiatives, Sustainable Carolina coordinates 16 project teams led by students and composed of faculty and staff from various disciplines and departments, as well as community members who are committed to sustainability. Teams develop their own objectives that reflect the needs of the campus sustainability plan, current issues and student interests. Each member of the teams has collaborative and individual responsibilities, and though there's plenty of opportunity for individual leadership, teamwork is required.

Teams develop action plans, maintain budgets, develop formal procedures, cultivate partnerships, recruit participants, promote their efforts and evaluate the results for future improvement. Allowing students to not only advise the campus but also to apply their ideas is an unusual and remarkably effective method.

In the last semester, students in Sustainable Carolina project teams:

- Developed and successfully lobbied for the Student Sustainability Fund, which will be implemented in the next budget
- Sponsored two faculty mentors, who attended a national faculty development event in Atlanta. Organized a day-long faculty seminar whose participants will return to design the next seminar
- Competed for and were awarded 30% of the university's available Leadership Scholar grants
- Won the Great Power Race, beating out more than 900 teams from colleges and universities on three continents, including the University of California, Berkeley; Harvard; and Yale.

Online issues

For pdf files of current and past issues of *Causerie*, go to www.sa.sc.edu/publications.

Comments

Your comments and suggestions for future issues of *Causerie* are welcome. Please e-mail saas@mailbox.sc.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

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