

**DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS & ACADEMIC SUPPORT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSITY HOUSING**  
**LEARNING CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES**

**BLUEPRINT FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE**

**2010-2011**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the **Learning Center for Sustainable Futures** is to educate and transform the campus by promoting collaborative relationships among students, faculty, staff, and community members for exploring and implementing the changes required to create a sustainable society.

**VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the **Learning Center for Sustainable Futures** is to provide leadership and support for students, faculty, staff, and community members who are part of a campus and community which has adopted sustainability as a core principle.

**STRATEGIC GOALS**

- Goal #1: Promote campus-wide integrative, ecological thinking.
- Goal #2: Build the campus capacity for engagement and transformation.
- Goal #3: Promote sustainable management of campus resources.
- Goal #4: Create a nationally-recognized program.

# GOALS, INITIATIVES, AND ACTION PLANS

## Goal #1: Promote campus-wide integrative, ecological thinking.

### Initiative #1(a): Strengthen and Expand Campus-Wide Curricular Opportunities

1. Collaborate with the Environmental Advisory Committee to expand curricular opportunities; increase the number and diversity of sustainability-related courses taught; organize a faculty workshop on “Sustainability Across the Curriculum.”

*Track the number and diversity of sustainability-related courses taught. Analyze evaluations of workshop.*

2. Offer a broad range of academic courses in the Learning Center.

*Track the number of and diversity of courses taught. Track the number and kind of public events organized through courses (field trips, films, speakers, etc).*

### Initiative #1(b): Build Campus-wide Green Education/Awareness/Community

1. Collaborate with faculty, staff, students, and community members around national educational initiative; coordinate programming for Sustainability Week and Earth Day; coordinate programming for national teach-ins and other events.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

2. Collaborate with faculty, staff, students, and community members to co-sponsor programs and informal events related to sustainability; sponsor sustainability presentations in UNIV 101.

*Track the number of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators. Document student interaction with faculty and visiting scholars. . Track the number of UNIV 101 presentations.*

3. Organize educational events related to a specific theme each semester; sponsor a speaker series related to a current theme; recruit and promote the involvement of visiting faculty-in-residence.

*Track the number of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators. Document student interaction with faculty-in-residence .*

4. Organize a Green Action Film Series to stimulate action on current issues; program a film series of activist documentary films related to sustainability; provide a list of opportunities for action related to each film; maintain the filmmaker-in-residence program.

*Track the number of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators. Document student interaction with filmmaker-in-residence.*

### Initiative #1(c): Promote Green Pedagogy, Green Philosophy, and “Greening the Mind”

1. Organize programs, workshops, and activities to encourage the exploration of green values and green philosophy.

*Track the number of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators. Analyze evaluations of each event.*

2. Organize a Green Pedagogy Series.

*Track the number of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators. Analyze evaluations of each event.*

### **Initiative #1(d): Promote Experiential & Service Learning and Undergraduate Research**

1. Promote internships and service learning linked to sustainability; create a clearinghouse for campus and community internships; coordinate at least one large service learning experience each semester; maintain a liaison with campus and community organizations; develop and implement a training protocol for service learning events.

*Track the number of internship opportunities offered. Track the number of students participating in internships. Track the number of students participating in service learning opportunities.*

2. Encourage student action and engagement by serving as a gateway to local, state, and national organizations; collaborate with the US Green Building Council, Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, Macrobiotic Club, Conservation Voters, and other organizations.

*Track the number of groups and frequency of meetings. Track attendance. Document student interaction with community members.*

3. Encourage students to design and seek funding for research projects related to sustainability; collaborate with the Office of Undergraduate Research to create a workshop on submitting internal and external grant proposals; collaborate with the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs to create a workshop on fellowships and scholarships; support projects initiated through POLI 121/122; create an online archive of multimedia presentations.

*Track the number of workshops offered. Track the number of students participating in the workshops. Analyze evaluations of workshops. Track the number and results of grant and fellowship applications. Track the number and results of projects funded through POLI 121/122.*

4. Promote study abroad programs linked to sustainability; develop and implement a study abroad Maymester course; collaborate with the Study Abroad Office to host a “Green Study Abroad Night;” provide on the website a list of study abroad opportunities related to sustainability.

*Track the number of programs offered. Track the number of students participating. Analyze evaluations of workshops. Track the number of students participating in sustainability-related study abroad.*

5. Promote green career options; collaborate with the Career Center to provide a Green Career Fair; provide website materials on green careers; model career options through speakers invited to public events.

*Track the number of programs offered. Track the number of students participating. Analyze evaluations of workshops.*

### **Initiative #1(e): Promote Learning Opportunities in the Natural World**

1. Collaborate with campus and community organizations to create opportunities for exploring the natural world; collaborate with the Outdoor Recreation Department on programs and events, including Adventure Week; collaborate with Trout Unlimited.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

2. Promote appreciation of the campus as a natural environment.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

### **Initiative #1(f): Promote Integrative Learning in the Green Quad (Community Education Team)**

1. Build a sense of community and maintain an on-going narrative for those engaged in sustainability issues; organize one large event each semester that engages all Green Quad residents; create an official Green Holidays calendar with details about each one (Spring and Fall Equinox, Summer and Winter Solstice, Earth Day); collaborate with other groups to expand recognition of the holidays; create a regular “green potluck” dinner event open to all residents; recognize students showing excellence, leadership, and/or creativity in work with

sustainability issues.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

2. Collaborate with the Green Quad Hall Government and Resident Mentors on programming to incorporate sustainability-related components; create a sustainability “scorecard” for event planning; conduct training (on green values and organizing strategies) for Hall Government and RMs; collaborate with Hall Government to identify and host monthly “Moon Movies” on the night of the full moon.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program. Document involvement of Resident Mentors and Hall Government.*

3. Empower Green Learning Community students to experiment with sustainability and to be a source for initiatives and programs; organize an orientation retreat for incoming students on empowerment and sustainability; provide support for student projects; promote undergraduate research opportunities (Magellan and mini-grant applications); organize field trips to sites of action projects; document and archive best examples of programs, expert contacts, and library of recommended books/articles/videos.

*Track attendance for orientation retreat and GLC events. Analyze evaluation of retreat and UNIV 290B sessions. Document support for student projects. Track the number of Magellan and mini-grant applications and awards.*

4. Promote specific opportunities for collaborations among students and faculty members, particularly Faculty Associates; recognize faculty members showing excellence, leadership, and/or creativity in work with sustainability issues.

*Record the number of Faculty Associates and track the number of events attended. Document recognition of faculty members.*

## **Goal #2: Build the campus capacity for engagement and transformation.**

### **Initiative #2(a): Coordinate campus sustainability planning.**

1. Collaborate with the Office of Sustainability, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the School of the Environment to facilitate campus-wide sustainability planning; support and host the annual Earth Summit process; analyze progress on STARS criteria; host meetings of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

*Document results of the Earth Summit process. Track progress on STARS criteria.*

### **Initiative #2(b): Train and support campus sustainability leaders.**

1. Empower student leaders by offering training on student organizing, grassroots campaign organizing, social marketing, and green media; host local and national activists to conduct workshops; support student participation in regional and national conferences.

*Track the number and diversity of trainings and workshops. Analyze evaluations of workshops. Track the number and demographics of students sent to regional and national conferences. Document the impact of conference attendance.*

2. Support activist student organizations by housing meetings and providing administrative support; provide office space for student organizations; encourage groups to organize one state-wide peer conference in the Learning Center; encourage groups to maintain an archive of their documents.

*Track the number of student organizations using office space and the number of meetings. Document support for student organizations.*

3. Collaborate on programs with the campus Sustainability-Reps and the Residence Hall Association; support the Sustainability-Rep program with training on green values, organizing strategies, and social marketing.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track the number of workshops and meetings. Analyze evaluation of workshops.*

### **Initiative #2(c): Assess projects, staff, and campus community.**

1. Support the development of campus-wide surveys and assessment of sustainability programs and attitudes.

*Analyze assessment results for guidance in programming.*

2. Implement comprehensive pre-post assessment plans for the Green Quad and the Green Learning Community to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior, including the quality of the community and intentions to continue a green lifestyle; conduct several formative assessments (including focus groups) of the Green Learning Community.

*Analyze assessment results for guidance in programming.*

3. Develop assessment strategies for all Learning Center staff and project teams; evaluate project teams based on project goals.

*Track labor credits for all staff members. Document evaluation of project teams.*

### **Initiative #2(d): Research and Action on Global Sustainability**

1. Support programming, research, and action on issues related to global sustainability; support a series on "Putting a Face on Global Sustainability;" promote awareness of on-going student and faculty research.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

### **Initiative #2(e): Research and Action on Environmental/Social Justice and Community Participation**

1. Support programming, research, and action on issues related to environmental justice; support a series on environmental and social justice; promote awareness of on-going student and faculty research.

*Track the number and diversity of programs. Track attendance and number of collaborators for each program.*

### **Initiative #2(f): Coordinate Public Relations**

1. Promote all sustainability programs through a wide range of media outlets (including Green Quad website, facebook, email, press releases, radio public service announcements, USC calendar of events, departmental listservs, student group listservs); maintain a comprehensive, easily navigable website with content and links that educate visitors and connect them to others working on sustainability; publish a weekly newsletter about events and activities on campus and in the community.

*Track the number of press release and newsletters. Track news stories and articles about programming.*

2. Support a master calendar as a reference for Green Quad and campus sustainability programs.

*Document the size and diversity of master calendar.*

3. Facilitate internal and external communication of the results of the Green Learning Community; facilitate the creation and distribution of a regular newsletter; involve students in GLC promotion and recruitment using their own publicity & presentations.

*Track the number of GLC newsletter and level of group listserv communication. Document promotion and recruitment materials developed by GLC students.*

### **Initiative #2(g): Coordinate Outreach at Campus and Community Events**

1. Develop outreach materials, including brochures, displays, and other print materials.

*Document outreach materials.*

2. Maintain a presence at all campus events related to sustainability; identify outreach opportunities at local, regional, and national programs, conferences, and events; involve faculty, staff, and students in outreach.

*Track the number of outreach exhibits and presentations. Track the number and diversity of participants in outreach.*

3. Provide tours of the Green Quad for interested students and community members.

*Track the number of tours and the diversity of tour groups. Track the number of students trained to give tours.*

### **Initiative #2(h): Train and Motivate Learning Center Staff**

1. Develop and maintain an extensive staff development program, including training, workshops, presentations, community-Building, and evaluation; create a leadership training program; develop a dynamic online handbook for all projects and staff responsibilities; encourage staff to attend university professional development workshops; publicize internal and external staff awards; maintain a narrative of the Green Quad's employee history.

*Track the number and diversity of staff development programs and events. Document the online handbook. Document staff awards.*

2. Empower students with opportunities to participate in a wide range of administrative and programming responsibilities; create a structure so that staff members all students have leadership responsibilities and develop multiple proficiencies.

*Document student opportunity structure. Track the number of leadership roles for students.*

3. Create a model organization for incorporate “green values” into the organizational structure and personnel practice; conduct ongoing workshops to create a “green culture” within the organization; develop “green” personnel policies.

*Analyze evaluations of each workshop. Document personnel policies.*

## **Goal #3: Promote sustainable management of campus resources.**

### **Initiative #3(a): Promote and Support Campus “Green Teams”**

1. Identify two interested academic departments and two operational departments and support “Green Team” pilot projects in them; develop a “green certificate” for campus offices and departments.

*Track the number of “Green Teams.”*

### **Initiative #3(b): Research and Action on Sustainable Food Systems**

1. Engage students, faculty, staff, and the community in the Green Quad Community Garden Project; organize garden-based programs and workshops (including local foods and composting); collaborate with Dining Services to create a campus sustainability plan; promote student research incorporating garden projects; provide a listserv for communicating about work and experiences in the garden.

*Track the number of student gardeners & cumulative volunteer hours. Track the number of garden-based programs and workshops. Analyze evaluations of programs and workshops. Record courses and groups offering credit for volunteer hours in garden.*

### **Initiative #3(c): Research and Action on Recycling/Freecycling**

1. Maintain the Green Quad recycling system as a model for the campus; collaborate with the Recycling Office to support campus-wide recycling efforts; conduct an annual bin/label inventory; provide an online guide to the Green Quad recycling system; conduct a two-stage trash audit (spring/fall); expand the composting system and add labels to kitchen areas; develop a freecycling program; support Recyclemania

*Document the Green Quad recycling system. Track the number of programs and workshops about recycling. Track the number of two-stage trash audits.*

### **Initiative #3(d): Research and Action on Sustainable Energy & Transportation Systems**

1. Collaborate with other campus departments to promote sustainable energy and transportation systems; develop the Green Quad as a model for the campus; make the Learning Center carbon-neutral; develop a “green certificate” for residence hall rooms; co-sponsor events on alternative energy with SC Energy Office, SC Solar Council, and other organizations.

*Track the number of new programs.*

### **Initiative #3(e): Research and Action on Sustainable Land Use and Landscaping**

1. Collaborate with the Landscaping Department and other campus departments to promote sustainable landscaping; maintain the Green Quad as a model for the campus; continue watershed projects related to Rocky Branch Creek, develop strategy to end the use of leaf blowers.

*Track the number of new projects.*

### **Initiative #3(f): Research and Action on Creating a Bicycle-Friendly Campus**

1. Collaborate with Campus Planning, the Transportation Office, and USCycle to promote a bicycle-friendly campus; maintain the Green Quad as a model for the campus; promote Campus Bicycle Day.

*Track the number of new projects.*

### **Initiative #3(g): Research and Action on Sustainable Building Technology**

1. Collaborate with Green Building Council, the American Institute of Architects, and other community organizations to co-sponsor programs on green building; collaborate with the Green Building Council to provide community short-courses and workshops on LEED standards and green building.

*Track the number of events. Track the number and diversity of participants.*

2. Provide tours related to green building and design; publicize the availability of presentations and tours for courses and events.

*Track the number of tours. Track the number and diversity of participants.*

## **Goal #4: Create a nationally-recognized program.**

### **Initiative #4(a): Organize the Green Quad and Learning Center according to green principles, as a model for other campus sustainability organizations.**

1. Create an organizational structure and personnel policies in accord with green values; support student and faculty research on the effects of green structure; disseminate research results.

*Document organizational structure. Document results of student and faculty research.*

### **Initiative #4(b): Promote and support systematic research on Green Quad programs and students.**

1. Encourage faculty research on Green Quad programs and residents; promote research possibilities with faculty interested in sustainability-related research; provide support and funding for projects that engage student researchers; evaluate the results of research for possible application to the Green Quad.

*Track the number and amount of support for research projects.*

2. Disseminate academic research; facilitate faculty, staff, and student travel for presentations at local, regional, and national conferences; promote research publications in a broad range of academic journals (environmental communication, housing and student affairs, environmental studies).

*Track the number and amount of support for faculty, staff, and student presentations at conferences. Track the number of publications.*

### **Initiative #4(c): Seek external support for research and programming.**

1. Seek internal and external funding for research on Green Quad programs and residents; apply for grants for basic research on environmental communication; apply for grants to support innovative programming and curricular innovations.

*Track the number of applications, funders, and success.*

2. Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy for research and programming; develop a list of possible donors and future projects.

*Track the number of funding requests made to potential donors. Track the total support.*