

# PACS Recommendations for Implementation, Spring 2010

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Humboldt State University (HSU), as part of an effort to institutionalize its wide and varied sustainability efforts, established the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS, Committee) in the Fall Semester of 2009. The PACS was charged with making recommendations to the President that would advance sustainability efforts on campus and at the same time, eventually, fully integrate sustainability into the administrative, physical, and curricular operations of the university. The Committee adopted a draft sustainability plan (Plan) and assessment, produced by an NRPI 475 class in Spring Semester 2009, as the working document to generate recommendations for implementation and guide activities.

The Plan outlines objective statements in nine focus areas (built environment, campus landscape, education, energy, food services, procurement, transportation, waste, water), with associated action items. The following constitutes the initial recommendations of the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) for objectives to be implemented after Spring Semester, 2010. Rough estimates of the resources needed to implement the objectives also accompany each recommendation.

## *RECOMMENDATIONS*

### *Focus Area: Education*

1. Work with existing campus entities to document and promote activities (both short and long-term). Resources estimate: 120 person hrs.  
Action 1. Contact student clubs and faculty and document their sustainability activities.  
Action 2. Put this information on line (e.g., campus sustainability website).  
Action 3. Work to create a reliable mechanism to further club/faculty outreach, potentially using the sustainability website.  
Action 4. Work to create a useful mechanism for sustainability communication.  
Action 5. Create sustainability orientation document for staff/faculty/clubs.
2. Create an incoming student sustainability outreach program (short-term). Resources estimate: 80 person hrs. and \$500 in printing costs.  
Action 1. Work with HOP and the Office of Admissions to implement a green tour of campus. Create pamphlet that can also be a self guided tour.  
Action 2. Work with campus clubs and programs to develop orientation workshops in campus sustainability.  
Action 3. Devise a system in which the HOP program, aided by the sustainability committee, can monitor, update, and perpetuate the incorporation of a focus on sustainability into student orientation.
3. Work with HSU faculty to develop a standard of determination for environmental and social sustainability content and to promote its infusion into regular course syllabi (long-term). Resources estimate: 2040 person hrs. over a period of at least two years.

Action 1. Catalogue the classes and programs that have already incorporated sustainability principles.

Action 2. Develop standard criteria to determine what constitutes a class that contains sustainability.

Action 3. Identify impediments to interdisciplinary incorporation of sustainability themes.

Action 4. Identify and provide resources that would allow faculty to bring sustainability concepts into their curriculum, including new faculty sustainability orientation (see #1, A5).

Action 5. Do research into the feasibility of incorporating sustainability coursework into general education requirements.

Action 6. Create a list of sustainability related classes and programs to be displayed on the sustainability website (and in the catalogue), monitored and updated frequently.

Action 7. Provide monitoring for sustainability within academics.

Action 8. Consider ways in which to expose faculty to sustainability concepts. Develop resources for faculty to use when incorporating sustainability principles into their syllabi.

#### *Focus Area: Transportation*

1. Reduce parking demand. Promote the use of carpooling and mass transit systems as a means of travel to and from campus (long-term). Resources estimate: 80 person hrs. and \$1,000 for signs.

Action 3. Assess the feasibility providing carpoolers with discounted parking pass fees.

Action 4. Assess the feasibility of providing more carpool spaces.

2. Assess the feasibility of improving infrastructures for non-motorized traffic and design of campus roads, sidewalks and paths to allow and promote the use of bicycles, provide access to campus by foot, and create safe places to bike and walk (short-term). Resources estimate: 200 person hrs.

Action 1. Assess feasibility of providing class II bikeways on all outer streets of campus and class I bikeways on inner streets of campus.

Action 2. Assess feasibility of installing and updating more U style bike racks at essential locations.

Action 3. Assess feasibility of upgrading sidewalks, crosswalks and walk paths to increase safety and provide more campus access for pedestrians

#### *Focus Area: Waste*

1. Quantify the current waste stream, its composition and its sources (Waste, short-term). Resources estimate: 80 person hrs. and \$30,000.

Action 1. Examine waste reduction methods employed by other campuses that also have a zero waste target.

Action 2. Identify current methods for quantification of waste stream and develop approaches to address gaps in quantification

Action 3. Develop an ongoing waste stream monitoring approach

Action 4. Quantify waste stream as a whole