



University Sustainability Committee

Progress Report • March 2008

The University Sustainability Committee was formed in fall 2007 to improve the coordination between ongoing sustainability efforts around the University. The Committee is chaired by Pattie Orr, Vice President for Information Technology and Dean of Libraries, and its members include Baylor faculty; staff from Campus Facilities, Housekeeping, Information Technology, and Staff Council; and students from Student Government and Environmental Concern Organization. Four working groups have defined the work of the Committee in its early stages: Policy & Contracts, Education & Communication; Recycling & Sustainability Projects, and Research. The University Sustainability Committee helps the University fulfill its calling as stewards of creation by encouraging the Baylor family to reduce consumption, reuse resources, and recycle.

Campus Recycling Program

The Committee trained its initial focus on “low-hanging fruit,” that is, coordinating and expanding ongoing sustainability efforts. The campus recycling program that was in place had a large grassroots presence, but was not pervasive enough to incorporate our entire community. Our working groups devised a three phase plan to make recycling more available across campus.

Phase I was completed in January 2008 with the deployment of 420 single-stream recycling containers throughout the on-campus residence halls. This program has been enthusiastically received by both hall directors and students. Our housekeeping staff readily and easily incorporated these additional containers into their routines, and we are now talking about reducing the number of standard trash containers in our residence hall facilities.

Phase II, which is currently in progress, will expand the presence of recycling containers in indoor public areas such as the Bill Daniel Student Center, the Student Life Center, and the Moody & Jones Libraries. Our current proposal suggests maintaining paper-only recycling near public printers and copiers, and placing containers for single-stream recycling in other, high-traffic areas.

Phase III of the plan will implement a sustainable recycling program in all of our campus offices. Our committee will work with building managers and department representatives to develop the best strategies in each area to make recycling opportunities accessible to



Example of recycling container placed in on-campus residence facilities

See **RECYCLING** on reverse

Reduce Paper Consumption

The propagation and production of knowledge has always required publication. However, the means of publication can be tailored, in many instances, in ways that can reduce the amount of paper consumed in the process. To help reduce our paper use on campus, we implemented defaulted duplex printing on many of the public printers on our PawPrints network during the fall 2007 semester. To date, our efforts have already saved over half a million sheets of paper when compared to printing totals from last year.

During the current term we installed several new duplex units on existing printers and are in the process of replacing non-duplex printing

See **PAWPRINTS** on reverse

RecycleMania 2008

Recyclemania is an annual, “friendly” competition among colleges and universities to see who can recycle the most material in a ten-week period. The Recyclemania competition is designed to inspire colleges and universities to infuse the practice of recycling throughout their campuses. Baylor participated in Recyclemania last year, placing 136th overall in the recycling per capita competition. This year, the Committee felt it imperative to make a strong showing. With our recycling efforts newly underway, we have been publicizing Recyclemania throughout our community, encouraging faculty, staff, and students to recycle. After four weeks, Baylor University

See **RECYCLEMANIA** on reverse



Renewable and Recycled Products

The policy and contracts working group of the Committee negotiated with our vendors to arrive at a price point on 30% recycled paper that is very nearly equal to the price we have been paying for new 20 lb. white paper. Prior to negotiating, we tested paper with 30% recycled content, 50% recycled content, and 70% recycled content and found that the 30% paper performed as well as new paper. The University Libraries, Information Technologies, and several other departments have already switched to recycled paper and have had a good experience with it.

In addition to recycled paper, Office Max has worked to put together a list of green office products to assist University departments with ordering. Copies of this list are available from Candy Bradley in Procurement Services.



Baylor's New Sustainability Website



The centerpiece of our Committee's communication efforts is our new Sustainability website, which is located at <http://www.baylor.edu/sustainability/>. The purpose of the site is two-fold. First, to inform the Baylor family about campus sustainability practices. As our efforts continue we will add news features and other community education pieces about sustainable living. Second, the website informs potential Baylor students, staff, and faculty about the University's responsibility to the environment. Sustainability is becoming an increasingly important recruitment tool for an increasingly environmentally concerned public.

Additional copies of this progress report are available on the Baylor Sustainability website <http://www.baylor.edu/sustainability/>

Recycling (continued)

faculty and staff, while folding nicely into current refuse collection routines. Between now and the completion of Phase III, we encourage faculty and staff to contact Housekeeping Services (x4119) to request a recycling container that fits nicely beneath your desk.

We hope to have the three phases of our campus recycling program implemented by the end of 2008.

PawPrints (continued)

stations with duplex-capable printers. Before the end of this term, nearly all of our PawPrints printers will be defaulted to duplex printing. Our estimates suggest that we will save close to 750,000 sheets of paper by the end of the Spring term.

We hope that our success in reducing paper consumption on our public printers will encourage our faculty and staff offices to move to duplex printing. To encourage this change, the base printer package listed with our vendor through Technology Procurement has been changed to include a duplexing unit. If we conserved over half-a-million pages on 84 student printers in 5 months, imagine the possibilities for conserving paper on the many printers distributed throughout our faculty and staff offices.

Recyclemania (continued)

remains #1 among Big 12 schools, and is currently ranked #76 out of 167 in the per capita competition recording 6.32 lbs. of recycling per person. To encourage recycling during the Recyclemania competition, all campus recycling dumpsters have been unlocked. While many of these containers indicate they can accept only paper and cardboard, our blue dumpsters can also accept plastic (#1 - #7), aluminum, and other materials listed on Baylor's sustainability website. We are in the process of producing and posting signage to this effect. Our campus containers cannot accept glass, but there is a glass collection station behind the Goebel Environmental Studies Center.

Our goal is to make a strong showing for Baylor University in the final standings of Recyclemania 2008, and to ride the momentum of our initial recycling efforts and the contest to establish a strong recycling program on our campus. Our goal is to finish Recyclemania 2008 with an average somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 pounds for each person in our Baylor community. We will continue to publicize throughout the duration of Recyclemania to encourage students, staff, and faculty to help us all to attain this goal!