In accordance with Baylor University’s sustainability policy, the Sustainability Coordinator, working with members of the University Sustainability Committee, has compiled the following report that provides an overview of all major sustainability initiatives and new programs of note from January 1, 2012, until December 31, 2012. All data within the report is based on a calendar year due to the nature of our reporting cycle. The 2012-2013 Stakeholder Sustainability Goals from our key partners are included.

In January 2012, Baylor University participated in Recyclemania, a national recycling competition among institutions of higher education, for the sixth consecutive year. Hundreds of colleges and universities from across the nation competed to determine who could reduce the most campus waste by diverting recyclables away from the landfill. Baylor finished first overall in the Big XII, and sixth in the state of Texas, coming in ahead of schools like SMU and Texas A&M. The overall recycling totals increased compared to prior years, finishing with 171 tons recycled.

Overall, the university experienced a record year for recycling in 2012 with over 440 tons, resulting in a diversion rate of twenty-six percent. During move-in operations in August, over eighty students volunteered to work with the Office of Sustainability to help recycle cardboard, plastics and other waste generated during move-in. This resulted in over twelve tons of recycling in forty-eight hours and a record high diversion rate for the event of twenty-six percent. Additionally, we also set new records during the 2012 Baylor football season: a new single game record of 2,540 pounds was set at the Sam Houston State game, there was an overall recycling increase during the season, and an overall record number of volunteers helping with recycling awareness during pre-game festivities for the season including a single game record of forty-four students volunteering before one game (Oklahoma State). These efforts were bolstered by the first-ever athletics recycling sponsorship by local recycling company CMC Recycling. Baylor also continued to offer its Take It or Leave It (TILI) program, giving students a chance to donate unwanted goods as they move out of Baylor-owned and operated properties. In addition to TILI, we expanded our recycling efforts to all residence halls on campus, emulating some of our successful move-in initiatives.

A revised and expanded Baylor Energy Madness energy awareness campaign took place on campus. The 2012 campaign saw a 6.6% overall decrease in energy usage amongst the fifteen residence halls that competed. Students were actively engaged in energy reduction and educational activities throughout the semester. All
of these efforts were fully supported by Baylor Facility Services and the Office of Sustainability. In addition to the residence hall competition, the Office of Sustainability continued to encourage energy efficient campus living through its ongoing public education campaigns “Last Out, Lights Out” and “Bears Take the Stairs.”

The Office of Sustainability continued to expand its educational efforts on campus by participating in major on-campus events such as the Student Foundation’s Bearathon, Uproar Records’ second annual Project Greenway, and Chi Omega’s Chili Cook Off. The Office of Sustainability also expanded its role in New Student Orientation, hosting a daily information session for incoming freshmen and their families in addition to the Campus Connections booth it has hosted in the past.

The Sustainability Student Advisory Board (SSAB) hosted the university’s Third Annual Creation Week, which was held during national Earth Week in April 2012. The week started with Student Foundation’s annual Bearathon race, which the Office of Sustainability sponsors and collaborates with Student Foundation to successfully incorporate many earth-friendly elements. During the week, the SSAB made announcements and hosted a booth at chapel to educate students about university sustainability initiatives. A major focus of Creation Week was the outdoor celebration that featured student musicians from Uproar Records and organizations from the Baylor and Waco communities hosting booths for students, faculty, and staff to explore. The week culminated in Uproar Record’s Project Greenway, an event sponsored by the Office of Sustainability wherein students compete to create fashions out of recyclable and reusable materials. Overall, Creation Week was a resounding success and we look forward to continuing this new Baylor tradition in the years to come.

Beginning in August 2012, the university and Baylor Athletics officially became 100% Styrofoam-free. Working with campus partners like Baylor Dining Services (ARAMARK) and vendors at our athletics venues, the university managed to eliminate all Styrofoam from Baylor-owned and operated properties before classes began. In addition to the removal of Styrofoam products, the university made strides in cutting down the amount of plastic used on a daily basis by installing two filtered refillable water stations on campus. These were placed in the high traffic areas of Moody Library and the Student Union Building and have been overwhelmingly popular. Installed in July, the stations have already been used over twenty thousand times, preventing many plastic water bottles from entering the waste stream.

The university and its sustainability efforts were recognized in a variety of ways during the semester. Baylor made it to the “Sustainable 16” of Enviance’s national sustainability competition, along with other schools like Duke University and UC-Davis. The competition looks at the combined impact and success of the university’s Environmental Science and Sustainability Departments. The university received coverage for this achievement from a variety of nationally reputable
websites and publications. The Environmental Science department and the Office of Sustainability look to continue their successful relationship and have begun exploring opportunities to more fully integrate sustainability focused and related courses into the university curriculum.

Along with the recognition received from Enviance, Baylor received a Bronze rating after participating in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). STARS is the nation’s most comprehensive higher education sustainability survey, covering every facet of the university from admissions to housekeeping. Since not everyone that submits for STARS receives a certification rating, we were very pleased to reach the Bronze level on our first attempt. We look forward to working towards the Silver level of certification in the upcoming years.

Smith Getterman, Sustainability Coordinator, also had the opportunity to present alongside colleagues from Santa Clara University, Duke University, and the University of Vermont at the 2012 AASHE Annual meeting, which was held in Los Angeles in October. Their presentation, *Sustainability Officers 1.0 to 2.0 Toolkit: Strategic and Sane Workload Management of People, Projects, and Programs on Your Campus*, was met with great enthusiasm from fellow conference attendees. Getterman looks forward to continuing his and Baylor’s relationship with AASHE in the future.

Getterman continued to remain active in the broader community through his participation on the Board of Directors for Keep Waco Beautiful, the City of Waco Recycling Advisory Committee, the sustainability initiative of the Waco Chamber of Commerce, and the Baylor/City of Waco Public Improvement District (PID) Committee. He also worked with Vicki Pierce, Manager of Housekeeping Operations for Crothall Services, Lara Conrad, Assistant Director for Resident Learning Programs for Community Learning and Living, and community partners, Caritas and Goodwill, to coordinate another successful “Take It or Leave It” donation drive during move-out.

**A Look Ahead to 2013**

Following a successful 2012, the Office of Sustainability continues to work on completing and implementing university-wide sustainability initiatives through the end of the academic year. The installation of glass recycling locations, the continuing education of campus and local communities on sustainability-related topics, an expanded Creation Week celebration which will include the first-ever campus farmer’s market, and the support of our stakeholders to attain their stated goals are all major objectives for the Office of Sustainability for the Spring semester of the 2012-2013 academic year. The second half of 2013 will see the start of a new academic year and the Office of Sustainability will turn its attention toward refocusing on the basics of sustainability, such as recycling, energy and water conservation. Our Stakeholders will continue to focus their efforts on green cleaning.
recycling at all university athletics events, increasing shuttle ridership, and more, as outlined in the attached Stakeholder Goals addendum. While our program continues to mature, it is important to ensure that we educate our community on the most basic areas of campus sustainability. Each of these initiatives will help more people in the Baylor community care for God’s creation during 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Smith Getterman
Sustainability Coordinator

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Pattie Orr
Vice President for Information Technology
& Dean of University Libraries

Date

Date