



Office of Campus Sustainability
Annual Report – FY 2009

Office of Campus Sustainability - Overview

Established in July 2008, the Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) builds institutional learning capabilities in support of continual improvement in building design and operations, landscaping, procurement, energy and water conservation, waste minimization, recycling and service provision.

We integrate sustainability principles across all operational areas of the university and collaborate with relevant sustainability education and research programs across each of the colleges, schools, and departments to drive outcomes that are aligned with our overall university mission and vision. The scope of sustainability covers environmental and economic issues, and includes our direct campus operations; the indirect activities of faculty, staff, students, and business partners; and engagement with the greater community.

The Office of Sustainability is advised by the University Task Force on Energy, Environment, and Sustainability.

OCS Strategic Goals/Initiatives Update – FY 2009

The OCS's strategic goals and initiatives during its initial year of operations (FY 2009) were focused primarily on establishing a solid foundation for the office to build upon in the future. The OCS will continue to set forth bold and ambitious goals for achieving its vision of being a leader in campus sustainability.

The following information provides a high-level overview of the key goals and initiatives that were accomplished in FY 2009.

Operations & Assessment:

- Established the Office of Sustainability; named Campus Sustainability Coordinator; and hired part-time Outreach Coordinator
- Established University Task Force on Energy, Environment, and Sustainability along with a network of environmental action groups (EAG). EAG's are intended to serve as action-oriented task forces that are focused on specific areas relates to sustainability (i.e. contractual services, energy management, recycling, etc.)
- The University and the City of Oxford have established a joint committee on Sustainability which meet quarterly to discuss/share best practices and opportunities for shared improvement

- Several students within the Barksdale Honors College helped establish the Students for a Greener Campus organization to help promote and move forward the Green Initiative
- Established Faculty Fellows Program on Sustainability. Dr. Michael Mossing was named first Faculty Fellow on Sustainability in 2009. Dr. Mossing is leading in the development of the campus-wide greenhouse gas inventory assessment
- Established internship program for undergraduate and graduate students to help support and advance the UM Green Initiative.
- Collected data and conducted campus-wide GHG Inventory Assessment (Carbon Footprint). Results will be provided on Green Initiative website in the fall 2009.

Building & Grounds:

- UM's campus-wide master plan with Sasaki Associates is based upon creating a pedestrian core and relocating parking to the periphery of campus. The plan emphasizes sustainability in terms of greenhouse gas reduction, reductions in use of natural gas, electricity, and water. The Office of Sustainability continues to support the advancement of the university's alternative transportation system (bikes, shuttles, Oxford University Transit, etc.)
- Established University commitment that all new construction will be LEED Certified or equivalent. The Green Building Program will operate within the Office of Facilities Planning.
- Developed an energy star procurement policy, which requires that the university purchase energy efficiency equipment when financial reasonable. Implementation of this policy is targeted for summer 2009.

Academic Programs:

- An academic minor in Environmental Studies was established in fall 2008. The academic program continues to expand its course offerings.

Energy Management:

- The Physical Plant Department is in the process of installing light motion sensors and high-efficiency light bulbs in major buildings across campus including UM's main administrative building (Lyceum) and campus library. (90% complete)
- UM is implementing innovative technology that will allow the university to centrally monitor and control its energy use across campus (Phase 1 - digital meters are being placed on 10 of our largest buildings on campus)

Recycling & Waste Minimization:

- Establish Recycling Task Force and developed comprehensive recycling program for the University that will dramatically improve not only the process for collection but also the breadth of what the university is able to recycle. Implementation is set for fall 2009.
- Implemented Phase 1 of Green Grove Campaign during fall 2008 football season by passing out green recycling bags to tailgaters and educating the UM community on the university's recycling commitment. Phase 2 will be implemented in fall 2009.
- Students participated in Recyclemania in spring 2009 by conducting small pilot recycling assessment to determine opportunities for process and infrastructure improvement

Transportation:

- The University of Mississippi and the City of Oxford have partnered and established the Oxford University Transportation bus system, which provides the university community a transportation system alternative.
- The University is working with the City to enhance local bicycle pathways and expansion of bicycle infrastructure. The University recently increased the number of bike racks across campus and developed a plan for implementing bike share program in fall 2009. Bike-share program will be implemented in August 2009.
- Campus golf carts have been converted to electric carts including golf carts located at university golf course.
- The University has purchased a fleet of solar electric hybrid 14-passenger vehicles to support a shuttle system within the core of campus, including all major residential dormitories.

Other Programs & Initiatives:

- Established the Efficiency and Effectiveness (E2) Initiative to enable individuals across campus through an online portal to recommend ways that we can be more efficient and effective in the way that we operated. www.olemiss.edu/info/E2Talk
- Enhanced the current building mayors program to engage mayors within each building to be responsible for “green” outreach, education, and implementation – especially in support of the energy conservation and campus-wide recycling

program. The mayors participated in their first professional development workshop in spring 2009 on the topic of energy conservation.

- Established Green Week with the City of Oxford to build awareness and educate the University and Oxford Community on how can live more efficiently and environmentally aware. The Green Week program provided over 50 events and activities related to sustainability to the UM community.
- Developed education/outreach material for 2009 student orientation program
- Initiated trayless policy in the Johnson Common Cafeteria to promote waste minimization and water conservation
- Developed education and outreach activities during the weeks leading up to the Presidential Debate, September 26, 2008
- Launched the "Sign the Pledge" outreach campaign to encourage the campus community to become active supporters of UM's commitment to going green.
- Developed Green Business Program - an initiative focused on engaging the local businesses in integrating sustainable best practices within day-to-day operations.
- Established brand and marketing/outreach strategy for FY 2010
- Developed and implemented Green Initiative website (www.olemiss.edu/green) to serve as educational/outreach resource for the UM/Oxford community
- Expanded biofuel initiative –lawnmowers are currently fueled by 30% biodiesel made from recycled kitchen oil from 3 food court/cafeterias on campus.
- Recently joined the U.S Green Building Council and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.
- Students, faculty, and staff participated in Power Down for the Planet in the spring 2009 by pledging to change settings on computers to maximize energy efficiency.
- Established The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) within the university foundation to support university-wide fund raising campaign related to sustainability and operational efficiency.

OCS Strategic Goals & Initiatives – FY 2010

The following information provides details on the Office of Campus Sustainability's key goals and initiatives planned for the upcoming fiscal year – FY 2010.

Organization & Assessment:

- Establish graduate intern position for academic year 2009/10
- Develop annual report and long-term strategic plan for Office of Campus Sustainability
- Continue to advance Task Force on Energy, Environment, and Sustainability
- Continue to advance the development of Environmental Action Groups comprised of faculty, staff, and students in the areas of energy conservation, recycling/waste management, acad. programs, outreach, and assessment
- Continue to advance Faculty Fellowship Program on Campus Sustainability
- Continue to advance Green Internship Program for 1-2 students per semester (undergraduate or graduate)
- Update and finalize Greenhouse Gas Inventory and engage the support of the Faculty Fellow and student interns
- Develop long-term plan carbon footprint reduction plan as details by the President's Climate Commitment

Energy Conservation:

- Partner with Physical Plant Department and Office of Facilities Planning to develop and implement formal comprehensive energy management program
- Continue to evaluate opportunities for expanding use of solar energy within campus operations
- Expand the implementation of digital utility meters on key buildings across campus (Phase 1 Completed - FY 2009)
- Utilize energy management software to collect and analyze usage data and trends and engage members of the UM community with programs and initiatives to reduce overall energy usage.
- Continue to upgrade to high-efficiency lighting and install motion sensors throughout campus

- Conduct energy conservation focus groups/workshops with Physical Plant staff, building mayors, and other key stakeholders throughout campus
- Conduct campus-wide energy conservation assessment specifically with IT & large appliances within offices, classrooms, and laboratories. Submit recommendations for improvement.
- Expand education, standard operating procedures, and best practices associated with energy management to each of the branch campuses.
- Continue to develop education & outreach material to support energy conservation initiatives
- Develop formal Green Certification/Training Program and engage Building Mayors as Green "Champions"
- Implement Energy Star Procurement Policy
- Continue to enhance Efficiency & Effectiveness Initiative by engaging the UM Community to submit recommendations for operational improvement
- Develop long-term energy usage goals and engage UM community on key data trends and program improvement strategies

Recycling & Waste Minimization:

- Establish campus-wide recycling program within Physical Plant Department; continue to engage staff council and student-led organizations, Associated Student Body, Students for Greener Campus, Roots & Chutes, and Greek Council
- Evaluate recycling program within residential halls and consider opportunities for improvement
- Initiate campus-wide recycling competitions with rewards and honors
- Implement student move-in recycling program and awareness campaign
- Continue to enhance collaboration with key university partners such as Coca-Cola, Aramark, Barnes & Noble, and other local vendors to advance recycling program.
- Expand comprehensive recycling program to branch campuses and other on-campus auxiliary units
- Participate in Recyclemania contest during spring 2010
- Develop and implement computer recycling program

- Develop environmental purchasing guidelines for campus-wide operations
- Partner with Physical Plant Department to develop Green Housekeeping Program
- Partner with Daily Mississippian to implement enhanced campus-wide newspaper recycling program
- Continue to engage UM community with trayless policy within the Johnson Commons to promote waste minimization awareness
- Implement zero-waste pilot program within Office of Sustainability
- Establish and implement Green Grove Campaign - an initiative focused on enhancing the recycling program supporting game day operations (i.e. tailgating in the Grove).
- Expand composting program beyond landscape services

Buildings & Grounds:

- Implement LEED Commitment Policy - stating all new buildings will be at minimum LEED compliant (Center for Manufacturing and Law School are scheduled to be LEED Certified) or equivalent
- Develop and establish Green Building Program within Office of Facilities Planning
- Support in the continued development of campus-wide bio-fuel initiative
- Partner with Facilities Planning Office to highlight UM's Campus Master Plan and the key elements related to campus sustainability
- Establish "Green" Certification/Training Module; engage building mayors as "green" change agents at the local units

Transportation:

- Establish UM Car Share Program and develop cost/benefit assessment for "Green" decal program
- Establish formal bike loan program in conjunction with Office of Student Affairs and members of the Associated Student Body
- Continue to support in the advancement of the Oxford University Transportation System (OUT) for alternative transportation system around the perimeter of campus and throughout the City of Oxford.
- Continue to implement UM Bike Program, including the bike-share program, bike awareness campaign, bike pathway initiative, and bike rental and valet program.

- Continue to convert or replace gas golf carts currently on campus to energy efficient electric golf carts
- Evaluate opportunities for improving alternative transportation options for inter-campus transport of faculty, staff, and students.
- Evaluate opportunities for improving alternative transportation options for non-traditional students and other off-campus commuters

Academic Programs & Research:

- Support in the expansion of UM's undergraduate minor in environmental studies
- Engage faculty-led environmental committee with assessing for opportunities for further integrating environmental components within academic coursework & research funding opportunities
- Support the enhancement of Green" lunch bag/speaker series

Other Programs & Initiatives:

- In partnership with the City of Oxford, develop and initiate 2010 Green Week during the spring 2010
- Develop long-term education outreach/marketing plan to support overall UM green initiative
- Develop and implement Green Awareness Campaign during move-in week for incoming freshmen
- Continue to expand and enhance user-friendly website for UM Green Initiative
- Develop and implement several educational outreach initiatives including: Green Dorm; Green Lab; Green Business; and Green Office.
- Develop comprehensive calendar of campus, local, state, and national events and activities related to sustainability
- Continue to enhance the collaboration and overall partnership with the City of Oxford to collectively serve as an statewide education resource on sustainability
- Conduct 'green' focus groups across campus with students, staff, and faculty to engage and collect input from campus-wide stakeholders
- Engage student leadership in furthering the UM Green Initiative through creative outreach and student activities during the 2009/10 academic year