

## Quarterly Report -Sustainability Office Period of June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>

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### Narrative

This quarterly report describes the current sustainability programs and initiatives on the PLU campus while creating vision for the future. It includes an evaluation of carbon mitigation strategies at the facility level to help PLU better understand the savings potential and investment needed to obtain a carbon neutral footprint by 2020. Through the combination of these measures, PLU hopes this plan will drive initiatives to ensure that climate protection and sustainability are actively incorporated into every aspect of the institution, supporting their mission: seeking to “educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care - for other persons, for the community and for the earth.”

**In the upcoming school year it is the goal of the sustainability office to sculpt the vision of sustainability at PLU. To great benefit, there are many guiding principles already in place:**

The Presidents Climate Commitment states that PLU will seek carbon neutrality by 2020, submit a Climate Action Plan (CAP), and complete regular progress reports PLU hopes to achieve zero waste to landfills by 2020 becoming culturally sustainable which entails that the concepts and actions of sustainability are being felt as a constant presence amongst the culture (students/faculty/staff) around campus. As a participant in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS), PLU aims to use STARS as a path to other sustainability-related programs.

**These goals were discussed in the 2020 preliminary planning process in 2010. As a result, a working definition was developed to encompass these goals. They can be summarized as the “ABC’s of Sustainability and the quarterly reports that will be generated from the Sustainability Office will be framed in this manner.**

**For this initial quarterly report, and for those to follow, the Sustainability Office will discuss what PLU has done within the current quarter surrounding not only the goals of the office but the mission of sustainability. This report will also discuss what we hope to achieve or improve in the following or future quarter(s). Attached to each report, will be spreadsheets depicting usage of natural gas, water and electric across campus but also detailing changes and improvements in these fore mentioned utilities.**

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### Q1: What We've Done (organized by the ABC's)

#### Academia

- STARS Report is near completion.
- Outdoor Learning Center established
  - July 17<sup>th</sup> Faculty Work Party
- Collaboration with Dr. Amy Young in her public relations class, Dr. Susan Harmon in her Marketing class
- Sustainability Fellows Mackenzie Sehlke and Josh Stromberg began work in their respective projects; Rain Gardens and the Bike Coop

#### Built Environment

- Utility Saving Projects
  - Stuen, Hong, Memorial, Harstad lighting retrofit projects completed
  - Toggle switches installed to replace locked light switches in Reike, Olson and seeking others
  - Smartstrips distributed in winning unPLUG halls Ordal, Tinglestad, Pflueger and Hong. The strips have stickers explaining the function and benefit.
- Bike Coop built in basement of Harstad Hall. (Racks, cabinets, shelves, paint and purchased supplies)
- Facility Action Plans, a requirement of the Puget Sound Energy Resource Conservation Manager program have been completed for MBR, UC, Names, Ordal, Reike and Harstad
- Maintaining Utility Bills
- Temperature Set Point Policy controls scheduling has begun
- Fume Hood Art begins
- Dyson Airblade Hand Dryers were introduced in the UC, and now 8 are installed on campus
- Outdoor Learning Center
  - Solar grant identified
  - Designs for 3 signs has begun (Topics: 1. Entrance – Fred Tobiason and history, 2. Habitat Restoration, 3. Meadow, 4. Rain Gardens)

#### Campus Culture

- Began CAP/FAP STARS
- New Student Orientation
- unPLUG planning complete
- Newsletter established
- Public Relations Campaign instituted 7/20
- Website Overhaul
- Blog, Facebook and website maintained
- Utility Bills being sent out
- Began establishing potential building representatives
- Parent eNews went out
- Accepted by AASHE as presenter at conference
- Bike Coop
  - Planning completed for kick off

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### Q2: What We Hope To Improve (organized by the ABC's)

#### Academia

- Preliminary observations from STARS show that academics was the weakest category
- Continuing to work with Faculty to develop an intentional classroom outdoors
- Implementation of the public relations and marketing campaigns set forth by students of Dr. Amy Young and Dr. Susan Harmon
  - Use student input to identify a brand/image for campaign
- unPLUG

#### Built Environment

- Light occupancy sensors in MBR
- Light retrofits in 2 more buildings
- Temperature set policy implemented
- Outdoor Learning Center signs installed, named, gazebo figured out
- MBR Variable Frequency Drive's and CO2 sensors, sensors in UC
- Family Weekend Nov. 6
- Take Back the Tap
- Fume Hood stickers

#### Campus Culture

- AASHE summit
- Mural to highlight People, Planet, Profit
- Lute Loop for Bikes
- Bike Coop in general
- RD talks to make plan res hall by res hall
- Green Orientations - SLI, Mgrs Retreat, orientation
- Sustainability Committee will begin meeting monthly

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### Executive Summary: Utility Billing Reports

In order to meet the sustained goals set forth by the ABC's of Sustainability, and to use as a benchmark to track progress, the Sustainability Office has been tracking utilities usage across campus and has compiled attached reports on the usage of water, natural gas and electricity. We were able to compare our usage and costs savings from a year ago in all three of the fore mentioned areas.

- In comparison to the same quarter of 2009, 2010 water usage dropped 68% and cut our costs by over \$7,000.
- In comparison to the same quarter of 2009, 2010 natural gas usage dropped 60% and cut our costs by nearly \$100,000.
- Finally, in comparison to the same quarter of 2009, 2010 electricity usage dropped 57% and cut our costs by over \$90,000.
  - NOTE: Dollar value is *not* the most accurate metric to gage utility savings, given their volatile nature. However, the Utility Manager software data entry has been weak in regards to past usages. As data becomes available, future quarterly reports of the Sustainability Office will show reductions in either therms (gas usage), kilowatt hours (electricity usage) or CCF (water usage).

These substantial declines in usage and costs are a direct result of the on campus initiatives and practice set forth by the Office of Sustainability, and the continuing of these old and soon to be new practices will further show the effects that Sustainability has at PLU.