Sustainability at Pacific Lutheran University

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PLU Sustainability Milestones

1994, February – Students Jeanette Dorner and Lisa Bakke with Jill Whitman attend Campus Earth Summit at Yale University

1994, Spring – PLU Environmental Issues Committee established to address concerns related to landscaping mitigation for Mary Baker Russell building and other issues

1994, May 6 – Sharon Aller brought to campus by Environmental Issues Committee to discuss recycling programs and other campus practices

2000, April 3 – Signed University Faculty Environmental Policy Resolution, presented to the Faculty of Pacific Lutheran

2001, September – Presentation of Environmental Services recycling program and Environmental Studies curricular program at Greening of the Campus IV Conference

2002, Spring – Campus Sustainability Committee formally established

2002, Fall – The Russell Family Foundation grant awarded

2003, Summer – First Campus Water Sustainability Fellowship—Mike Henson

2003, June 2-6th – Water Sustainability Workshop with student, staff, and faculty representation

2003, Fall – The Russell Family Foundation second grant awarded.

2003, September – The expansion of sustainability teaching across numerous academic disciplines

Campus operation personnel incorporated into courses as guest instructors in various courses on campus.

2003, September 8th – President Anderson discusses E. O. Wilson’s The Future of Life during convocation

2003, September 18-20th – Presentation of progress at Greening of the Campus V Conference

2004, Spring – Sustainability Committee Publicity Campaign

2004, March – Campus printing switches to 30% post consumer recycled paper for copiers and printers, 10% post consumer recycled paper for off set printing versus virgin paper. Testing of 50% recycled content for printers and copiers in progress.

2004, April 22 – President Anderson signs Talloires Declaration

2004, April - Campus Water Sustainability Fellows (2) for Summer 2004 awarded—Kelly Fahl and Michelle Stark

2004, June 1-4th – Campus Sustainability Workshop with student, staff, and faculty representation

2004, June 17-18th – EFS Puget Sound Workshop

Reed Ojala-Barbour ‘11, talks with Fred Tobiason, professor emeritus of chemistry, during the dedication of the Fred L. Tobiason Outdoor Learning Center at PLU on Monday, April 18, 2011.

2005, January 4th – Ground breaking for MORKEN, a LEED Silver Certified 55,000 sq ft facility

2005, Spring – Students collect 1000 signatures to raise awareness for the Talloires Declaration

2005, April 8th – Talloires Declaration resolution is approved by PLU faculty

2005, May-June – Third Annual Water Sustainability Workshop

2005, September 15-17th – Presentation at Ball State Greening of the Campus

2005, November 18th – Presentation at EFS Workshop

2005 – Sustainability goals addressed in the Campus Master Plan

2007, Spring – Students pass an ASPLU resolution to implement a semester fee to support cost of Green Power

2007 – PLU becomes charter signatory of American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment


2007, September – began composting pilot project with LeMay

2007-2008 – Policy that all new campus construction be built to at least the US Green Building Council’s LEED silver standard written into Campus Master Plan

2009 – Official formation of the Sustainability Office, merger with Environmental Services

2009 – Completion of 1st Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2008/09. Total Net Emissions @ 23,117 MT CO2E

2009 – Reed Ojala-Barbour begins his Sustainability Fellowship in habitat restoration, receives grants from Green Partnership Fund and Greater Tacoma Community Foundation


2009 – Completion of 2nd Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2009-10. Total Net Emissions @ 20,314 MT CO2E

2010 – Sustainable Endowment Institute Highest score in the country awarded to PLU

2010, June – ORCA regional transit pass offered in an effort to get employees onto mass transit by subsidizing the cost of the pass for all employees with benefits.
2010, August - Zipcar services added to campus, a unique car-sharing service for PLU students, faculty, and staff ages 18+ that provides affordable access to low-emission vehicles by the hour or day.

2010, September – PLU is the first university to ever submit a Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) Report, which scored Silver

2011 - Bicycle Cooperative re-started as part of Sustainability Fellowship; moved to Harstad

2011 – Third Biennial GHG Inventory; carbon dioxide emissions down 17% from 2008-2009 levels. Total Net Emissions @ 19,131 MT CO$_2$E

2011 – PLU places 15$^{th}$ in North America in RecycleMania contest

2011, February – PLUs governing student body, ASPLU, passes student Resolution 6, banning bottled water from PLU Marketplaces

2011, March – President Anderson dedicates the Fred L. Tobiason Outdoor Learning Center as a formal campus location

2012 – Bonneville Environmental Foundation Solar Grant awarded to PLU for a 7.6 kWh solar array to be installed on Facilities Management, a kiosk to be installed in the AUC, and curriculum to be implemented in local schools.

2012 – PLU places 11$^{th}$ North American RecycleMania contest.

2013 – Addition of Sustainability Lead FTE staff position adds programming and management capacity to Sustainability Office

2012 – PLU places 14$^{th}$ out of 523 schools in the North American RecycleMania contest.
2013 - Chrissy Cooley, presents on PLU’s Bottled Water Ban at AASHE conference

2012 & 2013 – Chrissy Cooley awarded two RCMmy’s for the Puget Sound Energy Resource Conservation Manager annual awards; only RCM to ever receive two RCMmy’s

2013, March – PLU submits a second STARS report, score rises from Silver to Gold status

2014, January – PLU selected as a finalist for the 2014 Second Nature Climate Leadership Award. National marketing opportunities available. Decision to be made in Spring 2014. All finalists will be highlighted at the 2014 ACUPCC Presidential Summit.

2014, February – PLU co-hosts the first biennial Washington State Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WAESC) to be held at Western Washington University. Presentations from three PLU faculty and one student as well as inclusion of two posters.

2014, March – Co-organizing the South Sound Sustainability Expo at the Tacoma Convention Center