WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

President Floyd has signed the President's Climate Commitment. Washington State University’s Sustainability Initiative has a volunteer coordinator and an active workgroup that tackles sustainability issues and conducts an annual sustainability forum. The sustainability workgroup has drafted formal policies that will be included in the university’s Business Policies and Procedure Manual. A policy on recycling has been adopted and a paper-use policy is under review.

Climate Change & Energy

The university’s facilities operations department and environmental health and safety office have worked diligently to reduce energy use on campus and to find more efficient ways to provide the same level of utilities services. The university has a program encouraging the use of renewable energy in the state of Washington and is investigating the feasibility of installing a small wind generator.

Food & Recycling

Dining services spend approximately 40 percent of its annual food budget on local products ranging from produce to beef and chicken. Some local produce comes from the on-campus orchard and farm. Dining services pulps and composts all food and paper waste to be used by the compost facility. The Waste Wise—Shared Responsibility recycling program recycles 97 percent of the waste stream from approximately 1,500 collection areas throughout campus, and when a campus-wide cookout hosted 5,400 students, only 13 pounds of waste were not recycled or composted.

Green Building

Any state-funded major building or renovation projects must meet LEED Silver standards, at a minimum, per the governor’s order. Thirteen project managers within the university’s capital planning and development department are LEED-accredited. The Compton Union Building will be WSU’s first certified LEED Silver building.

Transportation

The university fleet currently has five hybrid vehicles and plans to add another five this fall. A student-led project is in the process of collecting waste fryer-oil from the dining centers in order to filter and refine it; the heavy equipment unit will use the refined oil. Approximately 3,800 gallons of biofuel will be produced. The university provides a free commuter bus and public transportation system.

Endowment Transparency

The university makes neither its proxy voting record nor its list of endowment holdings public. This information is only available to trustees and senior administrators.

Investment Priorities

The university aims to optimize investment return and has not made any public statements about investigating or investing in renewable energy funds or community development loan funds.

Shareholder Engagement

The university asks that its investment managers handle the details of proxy voting.

Data compiled from independent research as well as through a campus sustainability policy survey, a dining services survey, and an endowment shareholder practices survey. Endowment size in upper right corner is as of June 30, 2011. For information on data collection and evaluation, please see the Methods section on page 228. Overall grade on the College Sustainability Report Card 2007 was C.

Higher Grade Than Last Year
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Green Building B

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Washington State University

C +

How can we do better?