

The EC Accomplishments 2013-2014

Environmental Caucus

- Collaborated with the Office of Sustainability on organizing the Better World Film Series:

The Environmental Caucus sponsored the annual Better World Film Series. Which began March 5 and ran through April 23. These movies are free to attend and free refreshments and fruit was provided.

2014 movies included:

- Inequality for All
- Streams of Consequences
- Bidder 70
- Growing Cities
- Shift the Climate
- Taking Earth's Temperature
- Chasing Ice
- Carbon Nation

- Expanded the nomination categories for the annual Sustainability Leadership Awards to the Community Member or Organization:

It tremendously increased the number of guests at the ceremony, opening the gates for community members to join in the celebration of NAU and Flagstaff community achievements. This was a huge step towards breaking down the gap between campus and Flagstaff community.

- Earth Hour

The Student Environmental Caucus worked with the OS to promote and support NAU's inaugural Earth Hour. NAU had 100 attendees come out to Central Quad to learn about options to engage in campus sustainability clubs and initiatives, look through Astronomy Club telescopes, and participate in other activities.

- Implemented a Green Fund proposal to refine NAU's fleet services motor oil through a new sustainable vendor.
- Helped with the compilation of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) reports that gets promoted through the Princeton Review and the Sierra Club Cool Schools Report.

- EC hired a communications student worker who promoted Green NAU throughout the spring semester. The student worker made dozens of facebook posts, blog entries, twitter feeds, and Instagram uploads. She increased facebook “Likes” by over 100 people, bringing Green NAU to 976 followers by the end of the semester. She also increased connections between the EC, Green Jacks and other sustainable groups across campus.

Green NAU (Interdepartmental Collaboration)

- A million dollar investment in 138 dual “Big Belly” outdoor recycling and trash receptacles.
- The completion of a recycling pilot project in four buildings to increase our indoor recycling efforts as a step toward comprehensive indoor recycling reform in academic buildings.
- The initial movement towards a new water irrigation system that will reduce our landscaping water use by approximate 35%. We’re excited to announce that we’ve reached our 2010 Sustainability Action Plan goal of reducing the gallons of potable water per square foot of building space used annually by 20% by 2015 – we’re currently at a 30% decrease!
- The movement towards an herbicide and pesticide free campus.
- The composting of over 150,000 pounds of material a year.
- The recognition by the League of American Bicyclists as a “Bicycle-Friendly” campus.
- The revision of NAU’s Sustainable Action Plan.

Energy and Climate

- The overall reduction of campus electricity consumption per square foot by 20% and its natural gas use per square foot by 31% since 2002 with an overall increase in the student population of 6,750 and an increase in campus square footage of 50%.
- An 18 million dollar investment in a campus wide energy efficiency retrofit and conservation program.
- A \$68,883 investment in a biomass feasibility study to assess the potential for bringing a biomass plant to campus.

- The installation of 21 electric vehicle charging stations across campus.
- A wind turbine at the ARD building, outside the HRM, and two turbines outside the Solar Shack.
- The installation of an EnergyCap program that will monitor the energy and water use of campus buildings to help in detecting problem buildings and to help educate building occupants.
- The certification of 9 LEED rated green buildings – 1 Platinum, 5 Gold and 3 Silver.
- The purchase of 10% of our electricity through APS's Green Choice program.

Waste Minimization Action Team

- WMT was formed in order to gather key decision makers at the university to collaborate on issues regarding waste and recycling.
- Helped draft the Waste minimization section of the Campus Sustainability Plan.
- Collaborated to expand the Leave Green Campaign to the NAU bookstore for used book collection.
- Avi, Nick, and Ellen were awarded funding to install front loading scales for city recycling and waste trucks. (in progress)
- Nick and Avi carried out the Recycling Pilot Program Audits which includes a physical waste audit and a perceptions and satisfaction survey. (in progress)
- Catherine Sullivan, Nick, Kevin, and Avi organized the "slash the trash" homecoming skydome waste audit.
- worked to rewrite the Recycling and Waste Minimization section of NAU's Sustainability Action Plan. The team has been focused on the Plan's action of: "Establish a recycling program across campus with clearly marked bins distinguishing waste from recyclables in both outdoor and indoor locations. Adopt consistent campus-wide waste, recycling, and composting signage. Include an educational outreach campaign."