

Environmental Sustainability

WWU named in three national green rankings

Western was named to three different national green-college rankings based on its commitment to green building techniques, sustainability and the use of alternative energy sources.

- The Princeton Review's annual "Guide to 311 Green Colleges," published in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, named Western as one of the nation's most environmentally responsible "green colleges."
- Western was listed 17th among the nation's top 20 college and university purchasers of green power by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Western was the only college or university in the state of Washington on the EPA list.
- Western also placed highly on the EPA's College and University Green Power Challenge, which recognized the largest single purchasers within each participating athletic conference; Western won the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with its 40 million kilowatt hours of green power purchases.

Climate plan outlines steps to carbon neutrality

Western's newly completed Climate Action Plan outlines university goals to address climate change, including:

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to 36 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.
 - Reach zero net greenhouse gas emissions (or "climate neutrality") by 2050.
 - Incorporate greenhouse gas reductions into the institutional decision-making process.
 - Create a plan implementation team.
- The plan also outlines ways to reach those targets, including:
- The university's 10 X 12 Initiative, which seeks a 10-percent reduction in university utility use by the end of 2012.
 - Real-time reporting on energy use in campus buildings.
 - Electrification of campus vehicles.
 - Research into biomass power generation.

WWU among the top green energy purchasers in higher education

Western is 12th on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of the nation's top 20 green energy purchasers in higher education. Western annually purchases 100 percent of its electrical energy from green sources via renewable energy credits and was the only college or university in the state of Washington on the recently released EPA list.

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Green roof tops Miller Hall \$51.5 million renovation

The installation of a "green roof" is one of the many innovative sustainable features for the \$51.5 million major renovation of Miller Hall. The first of its kind on Western's campus, the green roof has a multitude of advantages: savings on heating and cooling costs; better sound insulation; reduction in storm water runoff and extra protection resulting in a longer roof lifespan. The roof includes a mat system of sedum plants and a flowering plant that requires little maintenance.

LED lights in parking lots, solar panels among projects funded by A.S. Green Energy Fee

Five student projects will receive a combined total of \$263,900 in funding from the A.S. Green Energy Fee grant program, funded by money left over from a \$21 Green Energy Fee students pay each academic year to purchase renewable energy credits. The following projects were selected:

- A proposal a team led by **Matthew Moroney** of Salt Lake City to install a 5-kilowatt-hour solar array on the Environmental Studies building's south-facing roof, for \$167,500.
- **Grant Bowman** of Dallas and his group's proposal to retrofit parking lot light fixtures with energy efficient light emitting diodes, for \$61,000.

- A proposal spearheaded by **Julia Shure**, a Seattle native, awarded \$21,000 to install water-bottle-refilling stations around campus and to fund speakers and educational events related to the global water crisis and the bottled water industry.
- A proposal by **Bodie Cabiyo** from Tonasket to replace paper towel dispensers with high-speed air hand dryers in selected bathrooms around campus, for \$13,000.
- A paper towel composting project, led by **Greg Meyer** of Piedmont, Calif., to modify selected waste receptacles in Haggard Hall to only accept organic waste, for \$1,400.

Viking Field is Western's source for fresh produce

Growing Washington, a local nonprofit that helps small farmers break into new markets, works closely with University Dining Services to provide fresh seasonal produce for university dining halls. Viking Field, Growing Washington's dedicated garden, provided more than 100 varieties of food for university dining halls in 2010-11, making the partnership the largest, most active farm-to-school effort in the state. Western is now Growing Washington's single biggest customer.

10 x 12 Program launched to reduce water, gas, electricity consumption by 10 percent by 2012

The Office of Sustainability, in partnership with President Shepard and Facilities Management, in January 2011 introduced the 10 x 12 Program, a strategic element of the President's Climate Commitment and the WWU Climate Action Plan, which call for Western



A new green roof tops Miller Hall's new Student Collaboration Space.

to become climate neutral by 2050. The purpose of the 10 x 12 Program is to coordinate and implement utility reduction awareness and action throughout campus. Its goal is a 10-percent reduction in electricity, natural gas, water consumption, and landfill waste by 2012. Phase I of the 10 x 12 Program was launched as a pilot, in four academic buildings: Arntzen hall, Parks hall, Biology and Chemistry. In the first five months of the program, electricity consumption reduced to below baseline average levels in three of the four pilot buildings. The 10 x 12 Program pilot is the first step in development of a campus-wide program.

Woodring to offer Environmental and Sustainability Education endorsement program beginning in 2012

Woodring College of Education faculty members **Victor Nolet, Lauren McClanahan** and **Mitchell Jancic** developed an eight-course program leading to a Specialty Area Endorsement in Environmental and Sustainability Education. The Washington state Professional Educator's Standards Board approved the plan in March 2011 and classes will begin summer 2012. Courses include: "Instructional Strategies in Education for Sustainable Development," "Community-Based Strategies in Education for Sustainability," "Education for Global Sustainability," and "Leadership in Education for Sustainable Development."

'Place Matters' conference focuses on sustainability, economic development

Western hosted the ninth annual Business Alliance for Local Living Economies Conference in June. The

conference, "Place Matters," included more than 80 speakers as well as plenaries, interactive sessions, intensive pre-workshops, "living economy" tours, and a variety of networking and social events. Hundreds of entrepreneurs, business network leaders, economic developers, sustainability experts, and local government and community leaders gathered at the conference to explore new practices in growing community health and wealth and test models for social entrepreneurship and local economic development.

Students measure food waste at sustainability event

During its Sustainable Dinner served April 20 in the campus dining commons, University Dining Services held a "Weigh the Waste" event to determine the amount of food dished up but not eaten during dinner. Customers of each of the three dining commons scraped uneaten food scraps and paper napkins into compost bins, which were then weighed and divided by the total number of customers at the meal. Here are the results: Viking Commons: 6.6 oz. of waste per customer; Ridgeway Commons: 6.8 oz.; Fairhaven Commons: 5.5 oz. This event was part of a wide range of University Dining Services' sustainable practices.

Green Expo previews careers in sustainability

Western's Green Opportunities Expo in May showcased career options in sustainability. The event, free and open to the public, included 20 speakers from Microgreen Polymers, Calvert Investments, Earthcorps, Superfeet and the North Cascades Institute, among other organizations. The first 300 attendees received

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tickets to the 2011 Seattle Greenfest. The Green Opportunities Expo was organized by the A.S. club Net Impact along with the Office of Sustainability, Career Services, the MBA Program, Huxley College of the Environment and the College of Business and Economics.

Earth Day celebration includes discussion of sustainability as a community goal

Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin and Environmental Studies Assistant Professor **Bill Deitrich** spoke at the Huxley College of the Environment speaker series celebrating Earth Day on April 22. Conlin discussed "Sustainability and Community" and shared how Seattle sees sustainability as a community goal and how it is working to get there. Deitrich spoke about his book project, "Green Fire," which documents the history of Huxley College. The event was free and open to the public.

Students research green power for local hospital

Students from Western, Whatcom Community College and Bellingham Technical College teamed up to research alternative power sources for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center. The students, working with the Northwest Higher Education Sustainability Consortium, analyzed three potential alternative power sources for the hospital: solar panels, a fuel-cell array and a combined heat-and-power system. The student members of the research team were WWU junior **Erika Rednizak**; **Richard Bruno**, a Whatcom Community College student who plans to transfer to Western; and Sheila McElhinney of Bellingham Technical College. The consortium hopes that this pilot project will serve as a model of future student and faculty team work and community partnership in working toward sustainable solutions to common problems.