



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE MAY 2015

In the spring of 2013, Connecticut College published its first Sustainability Plan that identified fourteen strategic priorities that would support the College's desire to become a model of sustainability for our students and other institutions across the country. In two short years, the College has made great strides with regard to all of these priorities, which includes the establishing of our Office of Sustainability in Fall 2013 and a Faculty Co-Director position in January 2014.

At Connecticut College, sustainability is a framework by which long-lasting solutions to local and global challenges are developed through understanding the connections among social equity, environmental stewardship, and economic well-being and including all three within all decision-making and strategic planning processes.

**I. *Education:*** *Incorporate the values of social equity, economic viability and environmental stewardship into campus culture by expanding the presence of sustainability in the curriculum, co-curricular activities, and community education.*

**1. Foster Understanding**

- a. Selected to host first-ever Student Sustainability Leadership Symposium in Nov. 2015
- b. Hosted kick-off event for Feeding the Future Conference

**2. Curricular Integration**

- a. Established 2-credit seminar for all Sustainability Fellows that provides a theoretical foundation for their work in the Office of Sustainability
- b. Deeply involved in the Mellon Initiative for Global Engagement
- c. Developing an Integrative Pathway focused on sustainability in partnership with Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- d. Number of sustainability related courses increased from 63 to 75

**3. Sprout Garden**

- a. Moved and expanded it to a quarter acre in size, yielding thousands of lbs. of produce
- b. Formalizing collaboration between FRESH New London and Sprout Garden

**4. Sustainability Grants**

- a. Collaborated with SGA to extend the Sustainable Projects Fund for three years
- b. Support students and SGA to develop projects for funding, implementation and analysis

**II. *Resource Efficiency:*** *Reduce the College's consumption of unsustainable resources and production of greenhouse gases by promoting conservation and on-campus production of resources.*

**5. Resource Consumption**

- a. Completed major upgrade to waste and recycling infrastructure campus-wide
- b. Installed six bottle-filling stations in the renovated library and Crozier-Williams
- c. Begun consideration of large-scale photovoltaic (solar) installation of campus in partnership with the Office of Administration, Facilities Management, and the Finance Department

**6. Revolving Fund**

- a. Received \$52,400 from FY13 ACL budgeting process to pilot idea of revolving fund



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## 7. Food Systems

- a. Created six Sustainability Fellow positions to support the work of the New London County Food Policy Council
- b. Finalized Sustainable Food Guidelines through partnership with Dining Services

**III. Campus Stewardship:** *Make the physical campus a model of sustainability by establishing and expanding sustainable practices in construction, facilities operation and maintenance, and land use.*

## 8. Policies and Practices

- a. Finalized comprehensive Sustainable Building Policy and Practices in partnership with Facilities Management and the Office of Administration
- b. Instituted the Office Waste Minimization Program in all offices across campus

## 9. Purchasing

- a. Developed sustainability guidelines for our new Purchasing Policies in collaboration with the Director of Purchasing
- b. Received funding to launch a pilot Office Swap Program to reduce office supply waste and costs

## 10. Asset Reinvestment

- a. Developed sustainability guidelines for all asset reinvestment project considerations in collaboration with Facilities Management

**IV. Community Building:** *Support the development of a more diverse and inclusive Connecticut College community, foster new sustainability collaborations, and incorporate sustainability into the College's governance structure.*

## 11. Community Collaborations

- a. Developed Sustainability Fellow positions to support the work for local community organizations (NLC Food Policy Council, Hodges Square Village Association, New London Main Street, United Way of Southeastern Connecticut)
- b. Participated in a variety of campus-based committees, working groups and discussions to support the incorporation of sustainability into the College's governance structure

## 12. Communications

- a. Built out sustainability web pages and established an active blog
- b. Instituted robust social marketing strategy for the Office of Sustainability

## 13. Campus Decision-Making

- a. Established Office of Sustainability Fall 2013 and Faculty Co-Director position in January 2014
- b. Instituted a Co-Director structure for office leadership to model the importance of inclusivity and equity in our pursuit of sustainability and shared governance

## 14. Alternative Transportation

- a. Established the first official bus stop on the Southeast Area Transit Authority (SEAT) bus line in partnership with the Office of Volunteer and Community Services (OVCS) and the Office of Administration
- b. Participating in Dean of Student Life's Transportation Task Force to determine the transportation needs of the campus moving forward and how to fulfill them in a sustainable manner