

Sustainability Summit

May 21, 2008
Summary Report

Introduction

As a Reformed Christian college we take seriously the Biblical mandate to be stewards of God's good earth and we recognize that we have a responsibility to interpret, wisely use, and compassionately care for God's creation. As a concrete step to deepen this commitment, Calvin hosted our first-ever Sustainability Summit in May 2008. This builds



on a number of initiatives Calvin has begun in recent years including the Calvin Environmental Assessment Program (CEAP), the Plaster Creek Watershed Group, and Food for Thought. In January 2008 Calvin College participated in Focus the Nation, a national higher education initiative to consider *solutions* to global warming and the unique role a college or university can play in confronting this important issue. Because of the positive response and high number of people who attended each Focus the Nation event, the Sustainability Summit served as a follow-up to build

on the growing interest and synergy within the Calvin community.

The Sustainability Summit was organized by Gail Heffner, Matt Heun, and Clarence Joldersma and took place on May 21, 2008 in the Commons Lecture Hall. About 70 people from various departments and units within Calvin gathered for a day of conversation and strategizing to focus attention on what they can do in their sphere of influence to foster greater environmental stewardship. The Sustainability Summit was not focused on curriculum development but rather provided an opportunity for reflection and planning to impact institutional practice within and among various sectors of the Calvin community. This one-day event included an overview of Calvin's history and progress to date, some examples of what other colleges are doing and an opportunity for each unit or team to think creatively in developing an action plan for the coming year. These action plans will help Calvin build on and deepen components of the Calvin Strategic Plan (2008-2013).

This Summary Report includes three sections:

- 1) A list of what Calvin has already begun or accomplished so far—these ideas were compiled informally by participants throughout the day and written on large newsprint posted for all to see
- 2) Findings from group discussions with mixed groups of faculty and staff who identified their priorities from the Statement on Sustainability & the criteria they used to make these decisions
- 3) Action plans for 2008-2009 for various units within the College

Agenda— May 21, 2008

Sustainability Summit

- ✦ 9:00 AM—Introduction
- ✦ Overview/History of Calvin's work on creation care
- ✦ Context and goal-setting: 1% reduction in carbon emissions/yr
- ✦ 10:00 AM—BREAK
- ✦ Small group discussion of Statement on Sustainability
- ✦ Ideas from other colleges (view short DVD)
- ✦ Lunch/ Work Session within units— to develop action plans
- ✦ 2:00 PM Report Out—share plans with full group



Accomplishments to Date: What are we doing already?

Residence Halls:

Recycling in coffee kitchens (floor level)	Green cleaning supplies
Programming on environmental issues – varied, could use more consistency	Car-pooling for outings, some encouragement/use of public transportation
Re-useable signage in lobbies (white boards)	Bike storage rooms, increasing rack space
Reduced summer mailings from central office	Motion sensors in coffee kitchens (lighting)
Hallway lighting reduced after 11pm	Creation Care Living-Learning floor
Mosaic Community class was paperless	Oakdale Park CRC donations during move-out to reduce waste, re-use...

Physical Plant:

Green cleaning chemicals and supplies	% of paper is recycled
Upgrading to energy-efficient fixtures	Staged heating/cooling to maximize efficiency
Incorporating LEED standards into building projects	Reutilizing materials and space for building projects
New recycling bins	Planting trees, mostly natives
Collecting data on CO2 generation in the grass space	

Campuswide:

Walking from Youngsma Center to the main campus for meetings, etc.	Use recycle boxes for paper, etc., reduce amount of trash
Youngsma Center has a H2O cooler, PR stopped use of “Calvin” bottled H2O at many alumni functions	Printing applications on paper from managed forests
Many co-workers biking to work or riding The Rapid	Eliminating use of water bottles at Fridays@Calvin and recycling plates
Paperless calling management with Image Now (and soon, paperless financial aid processing)	Using January Series satellite site in Holland to reduce commuting
Using dual computer monitors to reduce paper printing	Email communication with students, families, and speakers
Facilitate paperless processes for Administrative offices with Image Now	Replaced CRT monitors with more energy efficient LCD displays
Purchasing energy star compliant computers (2008)	Reduced number of physical servers by virtualization technology
Reduced printing consumables with print accounting	Increased electronic delivery of traditional paper reports (student bills, financial reports, pay advices, etc.)
Electronic images to replace paper	Wash dishes, not disposable
Reuse scrap paper	Carafes, turn off coffee burners
Biking/bus riding	Music dept. – reducing the number of printed programs
Doing electronic (instead of paper files for music majors)	70,000 undergraduate applications printed on FSC certified paper
Engineering/wind turbine brochure printed on paper produced with wind energy	Reducing use of salt on roads, soil testing, local application pesticide

Small group discussion of Calvin's Statement on Sustainability (priorities identified)

Group A (Melissa Reiffer, Thea Brophy, Ryan Struck-VanderHaak, Henry DeVries, Renee Morris)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Hazardous Materials
Energy Purchasing	Investment Policies
Campus Site Planning	

Criteria for choices

- Teaching and research – all other areas come from education and impact the other 12

Concrete actions for the next year

- Bus pass
- More bike racks
- More education with food service and catering events (purchasing and recycling)
- Lunch bags for sack lunches
- Recycling
- Education in dorms for energy use and H2O consumption
- Weave Sustainability into curriculum and classroom practices



Group B (Rita Selles, Gayle Ermer, Kim Walhout, Anna Ferrell, Thia Oracz, Virginia Van Anandel)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling	Hazardous Materials
Energy Purchasing	Investment Policies
Transportation	Outreach
Building Construction	



Criteria for choices

- Building issues – lots of resistance, if it's not a priority, it won't happen. Choices last for years and are difficult to change. Other site and use issues too
- Energy and transportation – biggest pie chart impacts, most people affected
- Many things are very important but already have momentum and vision (CUPPS mugs, gins, dining services great progress, recycling)
- We want to promote solid waste recycling, land use, teaching and research

Concrete actions for the next year

- Transportation – fully subsidize bus and/or incentives for less auto travel; carpool website
- GREEN/LEED from now on!
- Reduced lighting after hours, motion sensor zone lighting
- Heating and cooling – reduce temperature differential; consider HVAC design during remodel
- We acknowledge that there are many great things happening in many of these categories and want to say we think those are important, even if we didn't put them in the top 3

Group C (Marla Poterack, Erin O'Connor-Garcia, Bud Bouma, Bob Alderink, Mark Lundell)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling	Campus Site Planning
Food and Food Services	Investment Policies
Building Construction	Outreach



Criteria for choices

- Largest impact with smallest expense
- Long-term impact
- Choices that coincide with industry trends

Concrete actions for the next year

- Energy reduction – energy management

Group D (Tom Steenwyk, Allison Graff, Mark Muyskens, Tom McWhertor, Phil Beezhold, Ken Piers)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Purchasing and Administrative Services
Energy Purchasing	Hazardous Materials
Transportation	Investment Policies

Criteria for choices

- Energy and transportation are greatest carbon emitters; need attention and will give bank for the buck
- Things we've already addressed better can go to bottom since we've done well already
- Cost effectiveness is an issue

Concrete actions for the next year

- Transportation –raise parking fees, include/explore fees for faculty and staff; cut use of physical plant vehicles; promote bus and carpool usage; additional subsidy for bus; increase bike racks and promote bike usage
- Teaching and Research – Address these topics in curriculum and co-curriculum; include this topic in Fall Faculty/Staff Conference; include sustainability in CORE, EPC should address
- Energy – Promote significant conservation efforts



Group E (Dave Koetje, Jay Wise, Ada Castle, Barb Palsrok, Michael Haan, Kristi Potter)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Hazardous Materials
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling	Investment Policies
Transportation	

Criteria for choices

- Changing our mindset/creation care ethic is priority #1
- Items 1, 2, and 13 encompass a large part of Calvin's mission. All should be high priorities
- Implementation needs to be bottom-up more so than top-down, making this accessible to individuals, highlighting actual data, making it fun/creative; posting our progress.



Concrete actions for the next year

- Get the word out: communicate beyond "area of influence;" de-silo the campus
- Celebrate the steps we take towards sustainability
- Tie "daily working out of the stewardship mandate" to "daily working out our sanctification"
- Yearly evaluations should include sustainability goals (personal and institutional)
- Suggestion box-reward for suggestions that are implemented
- Recycling aspect of Healthy Habits
- What can we choose NOT to use? "Shut down" time for lights/computers, etc.

Group F (Rich Nyhoff, Matt Hoekzema, Ben Arendt, Carol Rienstra, Emily Cooper, Marc Huizinga)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Energy Purchasing
Food and Food Services	Water and Wastewater
Building Construction	Hazardous Materials

Criteria for choices

- #1: Educational mission
- #4: Address for economic reasons
- #6: Government regulations
- #8: Sheer size and effort
- #10: Size and visibility

Concrete actions for the next year

- Include physical plant maintenance staff to accommodate inc. buildings – proper maintenance is visible
- In season, local foods purchasing
- Focus the College – involve all students, neighborhood associations, CRC
- Calvin community bikes – club to purchase; recondition for campus use

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Hazardous Materials
Energy Purchasing	Investment Policies
Transportation	

Criteria for choices

- #1: Most important outcome; broadest impact even though there is no direct carbon footprint change
- #4: Largest impact on our carbon footprint would be reducing our electrical energy usage
- #5: Much of water usage is under administrative control; not as many teaching opportunities
- #6: Not as much of a teaching opportunity; there are regulations that we already have to follow
- #7: A practical thing we can all affect; is an example to the community; everyone participates in it everyday
- #8: Also, something we all do every day: energy cost of transporting food is very high
- #12: Least visible, low impact



Concrete actions for the next year

- Confessional statement signed by the Board, used during convocation acknowledging how we have fall short in this area
- Buy green power
- Educate about the costs, financial or carbon, for certain actions like turning off the lights, computer, etc. Tell students what the carbon footprint is. Let dorms vote to decrease temperature? Inform people how much energy we're using
- Include a session about these issues during Orientation, or be more intentional about introducing this to new students
- Buy more local; create a list of local food sources; recycle more or compost (?) in the dining halls
- Make CUPPS mugs available at Johnny's and in bookstore, Spoelhof Café, etc., places where drinks are purchased.
- Install low flow shower heads
- "Green" newsletter, sharing these stories of what things are done; or communicate these through existing channels to inspire the rest of us. Article in Spark to educate alumni

Group H (Randy Van Dragt, Jeff Greenfield, Victoria Seaburg, Dan Slager, Rick Balfour)

Top 3 Priorities	Bottom 3 Priorities
Teaching and Research	Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
Transportation	Hazardous Materials
Building Construction	Investment Policies

Criteria for choices

- Feasibility of short-term economic and willingness factors
- Maximizing environmental impact
- Educational research outcomes/Awareness campaigns
- Outreach factors

Concrete actions for the next year

- Increase parking fees and add fee to faculty/staff discount for carpooling
- Increase bus subsidies (free?)
- Lobby for bike lanes on Burton/Lake/East Beltline
- Sustainability manager/formal structure for monitoring and enforcement
- Create energy audit project for both student living and building/departmental assessment. Have awareness campaigns and reduction efforts
- Active use of LEED guidelines for building/remodeling/and fundraising efforts
- Classroom research of LEED certifications for FAC and Commons buildings designs
- Create communication (i.e. web page) of usage amounts of commonly used items (computers, appliances, etc.) to raise awareness and provide tips for reducing their consumption



Action Plans for 2008-2009 (developed within work units)

Academic Services (Vicki Seaburg, Anna Ferrell, Thea Brophy, Renee Morris, Tom Steewyk)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Eliminate paper/plastic plates, cups, silverware	Wash dishes			Sally, Anna	End of summer 2008
Recycle-reduce waste	Educate office for recycling more efficiently, including recycling shredding			Renee	
Eliminate hazardous waste	Hazardous waste collection day for Calvin employees/ deliver to Physical plant; bring from home			Vicki	Now
Regulate office heating	Turn up air conditioning in summer, get rid of space heaters				
Less electricity with coffee pot and hot water pot	Use thermoses				
Use of electricity from computers	Turn off completely overnight				
Imaging	Eliminate paper copies of e-copies; online admissions catalog				
Work from home					
Educate student employees					

Dining Services (David Dornbos, Thia Oracz, Rick Balfour, Jen Buck, Marla Poterack)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Potatoware Greenware	Put silverware at end of food line to match food taken; use greenware made of corn; communicate and educate Calvin community about waste-stream sorting: that degradable potato starch material goes into waste stream until we have a compostable stream	Inventory customer demands	savings	CDS Managers	Now
2-Liters-Soda	Pour into cups rather than separate aluminum cans	Plan ahead for events	Additional labor, cost of cups	CDS production	Now
Johnny's/Spoelhof Café's packaged goods, no foam cups or containers	Educate about current practices, e.g., apples wrapped in cellophane is a Mich. Health requirement.	Inventory customer demands		Thia	
Uppercrust: sack lunches	Get students to bring their own bags (like CUPPs program) rather than paper bags with 200+ lunches a day	Use of paper bags vs. green bags	Bag =89 cents x 1000=\$890 vs. paper bags	Jen	
Dining Halls: Napkins	Use Unbleached napkins	Inventory & monitor use		Jen	Now
Cleaning Materials and lighting	Use All purpose and green Seal approved cleaners and lighting	Use only green seal products		Matt	Now
Local purchasing	Use local in-season foods	Stay in tune with local growing	Seasonal demands	Production	Now
Elimination of Foam: Johnny's/Retail Staff Dining		Inventory customer demands		Catering Retail Mgrs.	Now
Decrease water use	Pitchers for water rather than bottles; do dishes on full load only	Daily		All Mgmt	Now
Reduce office waste	Webtime entry; Online applications; lighting and computers off when not used; use email vs. paper copies; pdf files for dining services	Compare daily reduction		All Mgmt	Now
Reduce use of plastics	Use wood stirrers	Compare usage		Catering Retail	Now
Reuseable decorations	Use what is already on campus, i.e., flowers; organic fabrics in displays; store and reuse	Plan ahead and promote		All Mgmt Team	

Communications and Marketing/Advancement and Development (Bob Alderink, Allison Graff, Barb Palsrock, Luke Robinson, Dave Warners, Lynn Rosendale, Carol Rienstra)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Educate the residents of Youngsma Center regarding recycling, energy reduction opportunities	Form Environmental Liaison Committee	How well people are implementing suggestions	Minimal	ELC	Fall 2008
Calvin Environmental Stories and News on website	Produce environmental stories including "green" tips	Once a month	Minimal	Comm/Mktg, Stories Committee	Summer 2008
Change type of paper consumption	Increase use of FSC certified paper or 100% post consumer waste paper			Comm/Mktg or publishing services	Summer 2008
Connect Youngsma with Bunker and neighborhood for education	Hold celebrations, seasonal messaging by J. Henderson,	Increased use/participation in the Bunker Center	Minimal	ELC	Fall 2008
Change type of ink	Soybased ink vs. regular?				
Bod book	Still produce?				

Physical Plant (Phil Beezhold, Dave Koetje, Ada Castle, Matt Koekzema, Henry Kingma, Dan Slager, Ken Heffner)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Renovating dorm heating	Study options for renovating systems		TBD	PP/Engineering project	June 2009
Real-time metering in dorms	Propose system for this		TBD	CIT/PP/Engr	June 2009
Van pool updating	Consider other options for			PP/Campus Safety	June 2009
Update light sensors	Provide more lighting sensors in rooms, especially classrooms, auditoriums?		\$20K/yr	PP	For next budget
Study co-generation options			reduce carbon footprint: offset higher costs?	PP/Engr	June 2009
Upgrade to energy efficient fixtures	Replace with energy-efficient ballasts and bulbs, boilers, windows		\$150Kboiler, \$50K/yr for lighting	PP	For next budget
Reduce elevator and handicap opener usage	Educate students		None	Student Life	Dec. 2008
Increase recycling effort and effectiveness in residence halls	Educate students	RA/RD/dorm leaders/ housekeepers	Signage, printed materials	PP, ESC, and Student Life	Sept. 2008
Reforest unneeded turf areas; make rain gardens	Lake drive exit area; around the dorms		Cost savings in lower maintenance Naming donor opportunities	PP, Biology	Accelerate and formalize
Increase the cost of bringing a car to work			Revenue generator (snow removal fund)	Parking task force	Fall 2008

CIT (Jeff Greenfield, Virginia VanAndel, Michael Haan, Sarah Greenfield, Henry DeVries)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Deploy power management software for public computers and secondarily all Calvin machines	Purchase, install, train	Report impact of amount of computer wattage vs. savings seen	Software \$, time, communication	CIT Vava, Jeff, Sarah, Michael	w/in next year
Turn IT Off campaign	Educate on what to do and when for power savings; use actual metered statistics	Concrete outcome is the communication itself	Time	Jeff, Nancy, Sarah	Before next fall
Add sustainability considerations for CIT projects and procurements	Have a CIT sustainability team work deliberately in CIT	Check project process documents	Time	Jeff to propose to project team, Mike	End of summer
Monthly regular meetings for energy considerations and project planning	Add 5 minutes to Monday morning summaries	Make sure meetings happen	Time	Jeff, Nancy	Within next month
Cross department discussions	Create community web areas to share ideas about sustainability	Project process, web page exists	Software cost, time	Nancy – weblog, CIT	Fall semester
Create a resource list for IT specifically, and college in general				Wiki community sustainability director	?
Extend paper recycling resources in all computer labs	Work with physical plant to extend paper recycling to all public computing areas	Ask Henry	Containers, time	Henry	Fall semester

Admissions and Enrollment (Ben Arendt, Kim Walhout, Matt Sink, Tom McWhertor, Mark Lundell, Kristi Potter, Ken Piers, Ryan Struck-Vander Haak, Dale Kuiper)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Consider travel and travel resources	Use compact cars vs. full size, carpool or bike to work; train as option; evaluate how we get to places and how often; look into carbon off-sets;	AC's	Comparable		Fall
Reduce internal paper consumption	Move to dual monitors; use recycled paper; reduce paper supply;		Cost increase	Jeanne	
Creation care message	Be more explicit in admissions material to include creation care;				
Unplug computers at night				Everyone	

Faculty and staff (Melissa Reiffer, Gayle Ermer, Rita Selles, Bud Bouma, Lee Hardy, Rich Nyhof, Otto Selles)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Reduce paper usage by 1/3 within 2 years	Encourage students to submit papers single-space or e-copies	Copier records, office supply orders, printer returns	Duplex printers, otherwise free	Primarily faculty	Fall 2010
Reduce energy used for lighting in offices, classrooms and hallways	Educate faculty about energy use of lights and other energy-using equipment they bring into their offices; use motion-detectors for hallway lighting;	Utility bills	CFLs, LEDs, motion sensor switches, timers	Physical plant	Fall 2011
Use energy conservation measures as opportunities for teaching	Train faculty to make use of energy saving teachable moments in their classes; Educate faculty about energy requirements for space heaters, fridges, etc	Count goals and assessment		Faculty	Fall 2010
Less reliance on private autos for commutes	Increase subsidy for bus, increase cost for parking, lean on East GR to create bike lanes on Lake Dr and on GR for Burton St bike lane; create covered bike parking; look into discounts for car-pooling; look into pay-and-park option;	Parking or usage, bus cars, surveys	Car or subsidizing bus rides	Faculty, students, college	Fall 2010
HVAC-make more efficient		Utility bills	High-revamping HVAC systems	Physical plant	Fall 2012

Residence Life (Mark Muyskens, John Witte, Erin O’Conner, Diana Hoogerhyde, Chris Klein, Matt Cooke, Jay Wise, Elicia Arai, Aaron Einfeld)

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Cost	Who Implements	By when
Reduce refrigerators in dorms	Charge a fridge fee and/or limit # per room; educate parents and incoming students	RA walk through and track per hall	\$100 fridge sticker/vinyl	J. Witte, RDs, AC	June 1
Save energy	Motion sensors in hall and laundry room			J. Witte	July 31
Encourage bike riding	Additional bike racks at residence halls	RD/AC monitor usage		Jay Wise	August 31
Encourage bus use	Make sure two events per year per living area use public transit	RA event eval question-to monitor		RDs/AC	May 2009
Reusable cups and plates for halls events	Have hard set of plastic cups and plates to reuse, and encourage students to bring their own	RA event eval, question to monitor	Vending machine revenue	Diana and Elicia	August 31
Recycling containers for kitchen rooms and dorm rooms	Pilot in-room recycling in one dorm to see how this might work	Bi-annual online survey	\$3000 cans and info sticker	J. Witte, CK	August 31
Better labels for indoor and outdoor recycling containers	better labeling for recycling stream management		Printing costs	Elicia, Janice	August 31