

# Sustainability Summit

## May 29, 2009

### Summary Report

## Introduction

Calvin College takes seriously the Biblical mandate to be stewards of God's world and for years, Calvin has been actively involved in creation care and environmental stewardship through our teaching and research, through the Calvin Environmental Assessment Program, through the Plaster Creek Watershed Group, and through various institutional practices undertaken by departments all over campus. Last year we held the first Sustainability Summit to bring together people from various departments and units to focus attention on what we can do in our sphere of influence to foster greater environmental stewardship. Over the past year a number of new initiatives got underway including a new Campus Sustainability Guide, a Green Wiki, and a new Calvin Sustainability Scorecard, to measure and track our achievements over time as a means to hold ourselves accountable. This year at the second Sustainability Summit participants reviewed the achievements of the past year, examined on-line resources that have been developed to assist the Calvin community and brainstormed ways to reduce our energy consumption on campus to move us toward the goal of a 1% reduction in carbon emissions per year. The most important aspect of the Summit was the opportunity to review and evaluate the action plans from past year and then develop action plans for the coming year.

This Summary Report includes three sections:

- 1) Accomplishments to Date—a list of what Calvin has already begun or accomplished so far
- 2) Findings from group discussions of mixed groups of faculty and staff who considered the key question: What can we do to reduce our energy use and consumption on campus?
- 3) Action plans for 2009-2010 for various units within the College



## Accomplishments to Date: What are we doing already? 2008-2009


### Academics:

More courses participated in CEAP	Environmental Policy hire in GEO
Included sustainability content in courses	BioClub adopt-a-highway on Fulton St
Reduction of printers for student use	

### Admissions/Student Life:

ImageNow in place	Climate control
Increased alumni help	Prospect points
Student Development/uses only reusable silverware, cups, dishes, etc. No paper	Motion sensor lighting

### Dining Services:

	Tray Choice Tuesdays in dining halls
	Increased local purchasing
	Minimized use of water bottles/cans
	Introduced Green Program with students and staff
	Sack lunch green re-usable bags – eliminated paper bags (approx. 20,000)
	Catering events: eco-friendly setups

### Physical Plant:

Motion lighting – updated light sensors in Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex, Spoelhof Center, North Hall and Noordewier/VanderWerp	
<p>We recycled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 121.5 tons of paper</li> <li>• 45.4 tons of cardboard</li> <li>• 12,275 lamps</li> <li>• 1025 lbs. of household type batteries</li> <li>• 180 cubic yards of glass/metal/plastic, and more</li> </ul>	
Reforested areas around Ravenswood, Van Reken, east side of Burton entrance	All cleaning chemical and equipment purchases had environmentally friendly certification

### Residence Life:

Decreased dorm energy usage by about 10-15%. Some dorms reduced by 25% during the February energy contest	All cleaning chemical and equipment purchased this year had environmental friendly certification
Increased bus use in hall programs	Lots of efforts to educate students for creation care
Living-learning community in van Reken Hall---Creation Care floor	Student ESC---Film series; Expanded dorm energy competition; Mad Farmer Food Festival
Student ESC just starting an on-campus vegetable garden	

**Campuswide:**

Release time for faculty member to develop Calvin Sustainability Scorecard (Feb. 2009)—on-going tracking		Development of Campus Sustainability Guide
Development of Green Wiki		
Joined AASHE (American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education)		
Increasing involvement with the Plaster Creek Watershed—summer workshop for churches—June 23-25, 2009	Involvement with Regional Coalescence on Sustainability—to develop metrics for region	
Printing more double sided – less local printer use	Sending more copy jobs to Printing Services	

**Accomplishments to Date: What are we doing already? 2007-2008**

**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	

**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...

**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**  
**Key question: How can we reduce our energy and energy consumption on campus?**

**Group A (Rich Nyhof, Cathy Parks, Henk Aay, Sergio Da Silva, Rick Baez, John Witte)**

**Ideas**



Encourage student commitment/involvement

FIT course unit on efficiency (copy/paste Web pages to control paper waste; Excel-fit to 1 page command)

Research compliance (CEAP?)

Monitor paper towel use, elevator use, door opener use by those without disabilities, printer output not picked up

Digital drop box in KnightVision

Orientation issues: recycling

**Group B (Randy DeJong, You-Kyong Ahn, Alisa Tigchelaar, Aaron Einfeld, Ken Heffner, Henry Kingma)**

**Ideas**

Student leaders educate peers in Residence Halls (ghosting, consumption, recycling, kilowatt measuring by RA's in student rooms, CFL's and power strips provided to students)

Integrate sustainability into curriculum goals (FEN as prototype)

All new construction is LEED certified as Calvin's building code/policy

Faculty/staff "Accountability Teams" similar to Healthy Habits initiatives



**Group C (Dave Benson, Renee Van Keulen, Ron Sjoerdsma, Steve McBride, Jonathan Dent, Lyndi Katje, Ben Arendt, Virginia Van Andel)**

**Ideas**

Heating/Cooling/Lighting zones (local control, include cost of personal devices; motion sensors)

Printing (reduce campus publications, education on other options)

Travel (telecommute for work, conference travel has already been reduced)

Lawn maintenance (convert to other green space where possible)



Group D (**Mark Muyskens, Matt Moore, Debbie Abbott, Matt Cooke, Carol Rienstra, Ada Castle**)

Ideas

Reduce use of electricity by reserving meeting rooms according to group size, turning off lights, installing motion sensors when possible

More efficient use of building support staff (clean up after yourself, use handheld sweepers, recycle cleaning bottles, train departments on green cleaning)

Change thermostat settings by 2 degrees seasonally

Encourage less car use (more bikes and don't worry about helmet hair!)



Group E (**Sharon Gould, Herm DeVries, Thia Oracz, Rebecca Levad, Sarah Greenfield**)

Ideas

Light sensors/timers

Communicate sustainability tips weekly via Calvin-news

Green rebate system incentive (similar to Healthy Habits incentives)

Reduce mowable lawn areas/increase low-maintenance ground cover (native)



Group F (**Bob Hoeksema, Vicki DeVries, Phil Beezhold, Jennifer Buck, Curt Essenberg, Dan Slager**)

Ideas

Marketing to campus community ("LEED" certified dorms, rooms offices; sign a Sustainability Commitment by committing to 5 things, e.g. don't use elevators, trays in dining halls, handicapped doors, put computers in sleep mode, reduce phantom energy sources)

Consolidate night classes into one building

Convert dorms into student-controlled heating

Have building/office "Green Leaders"



Group G (Matt Walhout, Dianne Slager, Nora Koster, Jay Wise, Elicia Arai, Dawn Crook)

Ideas

Need overall assessment on financial savings

Transportation (carpools, busses and bike credits; relook at interim travel)

Reduce lawn care

Printing (centralized mailing, study effectiveness of brochures vs. other paperless sources of advertising)

Rechargeable adapters

Do a personal audit: personal electronics in offices and residence halls such as refrigerators and heaters

Lights (use of natural light, motion sensors, competition across campus)



## Action Plans for 2009-2010 (developed within work units)



**Dining Services (Rick Balfour, Tim England, Cynthia Oracz, Marla Poterack, Steve McBride, Tom Goyette, Jennifer Buck, Matt Moore)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>Greenware Use For Disposable Applications</b>	Increase its use as new product is developed becomes available	Utilize the GROW and SEED benchmarks and vendor bulletins of new product development and availability.	All Managers who order product.	Ongoing	
<b>Reduce The Use Of Individual Portion Use Of Beverages</b>	Reduce Can/Bottle Use of Pop/Juice/Water Replace With 2 Liter Bottles Of Soda and Bulk Juice/Water Dispensers As Applications Allow	All catered events that involve disposables and RTE products are continually evaluated to incorporate any new advances.	Catering and Dining Hall Managers	Ongoing	
<b>Reduce The Use Of Non-Recyclable Packaging</b>	Dining Hall Sack Lunch Program Implemented reusable Lunch Bags This year.	Tracking Sack Lunch Numbers.	Commons Dining Service Manager	In place and growing use.	
<b>Increase Local Purchasing</b>	Building Relationships with local farmers, co-ops and vendors who specialize in locally produced product.	Continue to meet with local providers and distributors	All Managers who order product.	Base use is established and Seasonal use is growing.	
<b>Integrate Our Local "Calvin Dining" Sustainable Program With Creative Dining Services GROW/SEED Initiative</b>	Research what we are currently doing in comparison to the GROW/SEED Initiative of Creative Dining to become certified at the Silver Level (in the process of being developed) for all of "Calvin Dining" operations.	The GROW/SEED Program is to be monitored by Creative Dining Services. The monitoring aspect is in current development and should be rolling out in August.	All Management Staff	Throughout the rest of this year we will be our program with the benchmarks that are to be established.	



**Physical Plant (Phil Beezhold, Henry Kingma, Ada Castle, and others from physical plant)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
Add Sustainability Page to the Physical Plant Web Site			Physical Plant	Sept, 2009	Outreach
Add BTU meters to main water piping			Physical Plant	May 2010	Energy Purchasing
Continue to upgrade light sensors, bulbs, ballasts, etc., to energy sufficient fixtures			Physical Plant	Ongoing	Energy Purchasing
Continue to reforest unneeded turf areas (Boer Bennink)			Physical Plant	Sept 2009	Land Use
Install energy saving items to the FAC remodel/expansion			Physical Plant/Contractor	Dec 2010	Energy Purchasing, Building Construction, Water Reduction, Recycling
Added additional bike racks			Physical Plant	Ongoing	Transportation

**Calvin Information Technology (Sarah Greenfield, Virginia Van Andel, Dawn Crook, Mike Harris)**

College-wide: find person or form committee for ongoing maintenance of digital assets regarding sustainability

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>CIT course /summer workshop on Sustainability for faculty and staff</b>	Create course content and schedule course; possibly as a session at faculty conference	Watch for course to appear	Green IT team	Next summer	
<b>Add sustainability section to website through CMS project</b>	Suggest to CMS project team to add a sustainability section to overall website during re-design process		CMS project team	Within next few years	
<b>Power Management Software</b>	Resubmit concept document to CIT leadership team		Green IT	By end of the calendar year	
<b>Support the completion of the virtual desktop project</b>			Green IT team		
<b>Killowatt lending program?</b>					

**Residence Life (Jay Wise, John Witte, Aaron Einfeld, Jonathan Dent, Matt Cooke, Rebecca Levad, Curt Essenberg)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>“LEED” (Energy star) certification of student rooms</b>	Residence Life to develop a checklist for students, and process for auditing a room (led by RA). Develop an appropriate recognition or incentive for students who do it.	Through RDs and RAs	Becki Levad and Erin Felak	End of Fall Semester 2009	Energy reduction; outreach;
<b>Additional Bike Racks</b>	Add racks to high volume locations and locations not yet updated	--	Physical Plant	Sep., 2009	Transportation; campus grounds
<b>Bike “check out”</b>	Have 2 bikes at each residence hall that students could check-out with their ID card	Front desk staff (eventual computer tracking)	Becki Levad, Jay Wise	End of October, 2009	Transportation
<b>Reusable cups and plates for hall events</b>	Get a set of dishes that halls could use for events, plus containers for storage of clean or dirty (for transportation). Consider getting a set for each hall eventually, which could be given to students and returned at the end of the year (or they get fined).		Food Service, Jay Wise	Look to implement during next academic year (after research)	Food and food service; solid waste reduction and recycling; purchasing?
<b>Clear plastic bags used for recycling, black bags for garbage</b>	Differentiate recycling containers and end-of-year recycling efforts by using clear bags for recycled good...	Physical Plant, hall recycling staff	Physical Plant, Jay Wise	Sep., 2009	Waste reduction and recycling
<b>More 3-tiered recycling bins for residence halls and KE</b>	Continue implementation of the new style bins that began last year. Some halls received them as a “test” and they worked wonderfully. We need them in each lobby and each basement (3 per hall, roughly)	Physical Plant	Physical Plant, Jay Wise	Sep., 2009	Waste reduction and recycling
<b>Utilize CVN for commercials and instructions on recycling, green cleaning supplies, etc.</b>	Develop commercials and announcement screens (through cooperation with CVN, student video-producers, CAS video production classes, etc.) to promote sustainability practices, both in the halls/Knollcrest East and campus wide as well.		John Witte, various offices, students, Physical Plant	End of Fall Semester, 2009	Outreach
<b>Investigate water usage efficiencies</b>	Should we be installing low-flow shower heads when renovating? Are there other water saving measures?		Physical Plant, Jay Wise	Research over the next year	Water and waste water
<b>“Kill-o-watt” programming</b>	Repeat and revision or “Kill-o-watt” programming from last year in residence halls and Knollcrest East	Residence Life Dept.	Jolyn Dahling, Becki Levad, Erin Felak	February, 2009	Outreach; Energy reduction
<b>Public transportation maps and instructions</b>	Have these posted or available in each residence hall	Res. Life Dept.	Jay Wise	Sep. 2009	Transportation
<b>Decrease personal refrigerator use.</b>	Continue to enforce one fridge max per student room, and consider additional charge for use or eventual elimination of these units – more research needed.	Res. Life Dept.	Jay Wise, John Witte	On-going	Energy reduction

**Student Life/Admissions (Elicia Arai, Rick Baez, Ken Heffner, Ben Arendt, Carol Rienstra, Lyndi Katje)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>Reduce mail sent to prospects</b>	Use a prospect point system to identify students who will not apply and can be taken off the mailing list		Steve Ruis, Dale Kuiper	June 2010	
<b>Reduce Travel</b>	Use more alumni and parent ambassadors locally- increase by 20%		Lyndi Katje, AC's	June 2010	
<b>Creation care message</b>	Add information to the website and be more explicit in admissions material about creation care at Calvin College		Jeanne N., Erin Bryant	June 2010	
<b>Reduce Energy</b>	Turn off extra monitors when not being used, turn off conference room screens between office visits		Ben Arendt	June 2010	
<b>Reduce Plastic Water Bottle Usage</b>	Provide band riders with a water pitcher and glasses		Ken Heffner	June 2010	
<b>Computer Usage</b>	Have Physical Plant conduct an audit of the counselors' offices. (Hibernate or use standby mode.)		Rick Baez	June 2010	

**Academic Departments/ Faculty-staff Science Division Action Plans (Rich Nyhof, Randy DeJong, Dave Benson, Mark Muyskens, Sharon Gould, Bob Hoeksema, Dianne Slager, Cathy Parks, Matt Walhout)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>Reduce waste from Summit 2010</b>	Give instructions for recycling lunch items	Level of confusion of participants	1 or 2 people, other than organizers	Summer 2010	Recycling
<b>Increase energy metering and monitoring capabilities of buildings and rooms</b>	Investigate costs and feasibility of installation				
<b>Reduce chemical waste</b>	Chemistry department will re-examine chemical wastestream and look for ways to improve.	Construct report of findings and actions	Chemistry dept will take a lead	End of 2009	Waste reduction
<b>Increase sustainability efforts by all faculty &amp; staff</b>	Develop an in-service curriculum/training to be given to departments				Energy use
<b>Increase connection between sustainability and faculty/staff activities/accountability</b>	Integrate place/expectation for faculty/staff to record their sustainability-related activities on Faculty Activity Reports, etc.				
<b>Decrease refrigerator &amp; freezer energy use</b>	Take inventory and energy audit of lab and <i>office</i> refrigerators & freezers		Team of faculty and students	Summer 2010	Energy use
<b>Increase use of electronic media for teaching and student work.</b>					

**Academic Departments/Faculty-staff Hiemenga Spoelhof Action Plans (You-Kyong Ahn, Ron Sjoerdsma, Henk Aay, Vicki DeVries, Alisa Tigchelaar, Nora Koster, Herm DeVries, Renee Van Keulen)**

Goal	Action	How to monitor	Who is responsible	By when	Fit with Sustainability Statement
<b>Reduce paper usage</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Send more stuff to printing services</li> <li>2.) More docs exclusively to KV</li> <li>3.) Reduce printing to printer (e-mail big culprit!)</li> <li>4.) Allow submissions on misprinted paper</li> </ol>	Accountability: being part of the solution/teams/group effort	Each individual, primarily faculty themselves	Next time copy machine usage report comes in	Solid waste reduction
<b>Reduce energy used for lighting in classrooms, offices and halls</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Use natural light whenever possible</li> <li>2.) Turn lights OFF (yes, you!) when unnecessary ones are on</li> <li>3.) Use "smart strips" for computer and separate power strip for other aps, turn off when not using</li> </ol>	Perhaps a captain?	Every individual	Immediate	Energy Purchasing
<b>Integrate sustainability into the curriculum</b>	Sustainability Summit 2010 will inform; search AASHE and Calvin KV on matter	Future goal	Discuss on department level, individuals	Fall 2010	Teaching and Research