

## **Sustainability Council Business Plan**

July 1, 2016

### **A. Executive Summary**

The Sustainability Council creates and supports an environment of sustainable practices for students, faculty/staff and NMSU stakeholders. This volunteer council is committed to education, research, operations and engagement that build an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable campus and community.

### **B. Mission and Vision Statements**

**Mission:** The Sustainability Council will facilitate and support sustainability goals system-wide and in partnership with local communities.

**Vision:** To be leaders in sustainable operations, education, and research; to be a resource and inspiration for future generations.

### **C. Definition of Sustainability**

Sustainability means meeting the economic, environmental, and social needs of the present generation while taking steps to ensure that similar needs of future generations are met.

### **D. Core Values**

- Respect for humanity and all living things
- Understanding that the natural and built environments are intertwined
- Unity of purpose through collaboration and interaction of ideas
- Pride in our heritage with consideration for the future
- Integrity of actions
- Passion for sustainability

### **E. Goals and Timeline** (completion date and team responsible)

- Update Office of Sustainability (OoS) website (12/01/10 by PAE and OoS, with ongoing maintenance)
- Prepare list of metrics for annual reporting on energy savings and efficiencies (12/15/10 by OP)
- Establish volunteer action arenas for faculty, staff, and students (02/02/11 by Leadership Team)
- Create media campaign for Office of Sustainability (01/12/11 by OoS and PAE)
- Increase sustainability programs campus and statewide (03/01/11 by PAE)
- Complete and submit AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) "STARS" (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System) reporting (due 05/21/11 by all teams)
- Incorporate "cradle to cradle" and LEED (US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specifications into Office of Facilities and Services (OFS) Building Design Guidelines (06/01/2011 by OoS and OP)
- Infuse sustainability into the curriculum and encourage sustainability-related research throughout the entire NMSU system (02/2012 by ER and ongoing)

### **F. Operational Plan**

- a. Management and Organizational structure
  - i. Council reports to Office of the President
  - ii. Chair of the Council is the manager of the Office of Sustainability to maintain connection and communication

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- iii. Working committees are responsible for developing action plans and follow the STARS reporting outline

### 1. Operations (OP)

This committee is made up of representatives from the Office of Facilities and Services (OFS), Auxiliary Services, and Housing and Residential Life departments, as well as others concerned with maintaining buildings and infrastructure sustainably at NMSU. The Operations Committee has a large role in greening the campuses including involvement in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and xeriscaping efforts and participation in cutting energy costs by metering the mechanical systems in buildings across the state, switching out incandescent lamps for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and purchasing Energy Star<sup>®</sup> appliances.

### 2. Education and Research (ER)

This committee will ensure that sustainability is infused throughout the core curriculum to give each graduate of NMSU multiple perspectives for dealing with sustainability-related challenges. The ER committee will also work to identify and support sustainability-related research by NMSU faculty.

### 3. Planning, Administration, and Engagement (PAE)

The Planning, Administration, and Engagement committee works to institutionalize sustainability at NMSU through sustainability coordination, incorporating sustainability into campus plans, and developing further plans to move toward sustainability. PAE will help NMSU organize, implement, and publicize sustainability initiatives, providing the infrastructure that fosters sustainability within an institution.

## G) Structure of Council

- a) Composed of volunteers from the faculty, staff and student body, and other stakeholders
  - i. Welcoming all volunteers at the discretion of the Leadership Team
  - ii. Outside advisors will be invited to join Council (e.g., City of Las Cruces representative)
- b) Chair appointed by University chancellor; chair is Office of Sustainability manager by default (2-year term)
  - i. Retain past-chair in Leadership Team for one-year period for continuity
  - ii. Leadership Team is composed of committee chairs, past-chair, and representatives from the following: ASNMSU, Faculty Senate, and Employee Council
- c) Election of Committee Chairs and Co-chairs
  - i. Committee chairs appointed by Leadership Team and chair (2-year commitment with opportunity to continue with terms of 1 year)
  - ii. Co-chairs appointed by Leadership Team and chair (2-year commitment with opportunity to continue with terms of 1 year; it is encouraged that this position be filled by students to facilitate student input and provide leadership training opportunities)
  - iii. Terms of appointments  
Term for the chair of the Council and chair of the Planning, Administration and Engagement committee is two years, elected in even numbered years. Term for the chair of the Operations committee and the Education and Research committee is two years, elected in odd numbered years. Elections are held August of every year.

H) Background information

- a) Year of Sustainability Summary: [http://sustainability.nmsu.edu/documents/yos\\_summary.pdf](http://sustainability.nmsu.edu/documents/yos_summary.pdf)
- b) ACUPCC (American College and University President's Climate Commitment):  
<http://acupcc.aashe.org/search/?abs=&q=New%20Mexico%20State%20University%20Main%20Campus>
- c) AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) STARS:  
<https://stars.aashe.org/>