The Odyssey of Creating a Sustainable Campus at UNM: Assets, Barriers, and Strategies

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and

Director

UNM Sustainability Studies Program
Community of practice began in 2007

Context of external organizations and policies

Context of internal leadership & resources

Physical Plant:
- Power
- Heating
- Cooling
- Buildings
- Grounds

Academic Programs:
1. Policy 2100
2. Climate Action Plan
3. P4 Purchasing
4. Education is Power

• Degree program
• Courses
• Research
• Outreach
Helpful statewide green building mandate
President: Interim funding, state-wide summit, 7th value in HR evaluations, approved carbon action plan (80% reduction by 2030), secured W.K. Kellogg endowment agreement
2100  
SUSTAINABILITY  
Effective Date: 06/01/08  
Subject to Change Without Notice

Authorized by Regents Policy 3.1 "Responsibilities of the President"

1. General

The University of New Mexico recognizes its profound relations with other entities both near and far: past, present and future. The University encourages a diverse campus culture that harmonizes UNM’s sustainable goals of environmental protection, social equity, and economic opportunity within the context of its education, research, and public service missions. The University aims to improve performance in all areas of operations thereby meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the prospects of future generations. As a demonstration of this commitment, the University is an active member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. In all activities present and future, the University shall develop systems to manage environmental, social, and economic wellbeing with specific goals, objectives, priorities, processes, and milestones by which to verify performance. This policy applies to all University property and activities, including branch campuses.

2. Sustainability Principles
Undergraduate minor degree to complement majors
Sequence of SUST courses + electives
Self-supporting I&G
Lobo Growers’ Market  links community to campus.  
Helps to support 40-50 vendors  
25,000 pedestrian customers
Students -- APPLY for this interdisciplinary summer field school and receive a stipend and in-state travel allowance!

Field school visits four (4) major agricultural areas of the state to develop land literacy, direct knowledge of the value chain, orientation to Hispanic and Native traditions through face-to-face meetings between rural and urban agriculturalists and students.

The project will produce online Sustainability Studies courses and two summer field school courses to visit four bioregions and 21 farms, ranches, markets, processing facilities, and community food projects in traditional Hispanic, Native American, and other communities.

Mentoring will be provided by faculty and off-campus partners.

Students will become skilled leaders by conducting original projects.

There will be interdisciplinary opportunities realized by topics course, seminar series, social events, and student symposia.

http://unmfoodshedfieldschool.wordpress.com/
UNM Climate Action Plan

80% reduction by 2030

Prepared by Sustainability SUST 434
Spring 2009

Carbon inventory courtesy Jeff Zumwalt

Mary Beggio
Iain Deason
Bill Dunn
Renn Halstead
Jessica Johnson
Angelina Lopez
Bruce Milne
Zachary Perls
Kaycie Robinson

At the UNM Bookstore
Eating well from the local foodshed!
Community of practice threads throughout hierarchy

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<th>President:</th>
<th>$ Summit 7th value CAP Endowment agreement</th>
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<td>Provost:</td>
<td>Council Policy 2100 Purchasing</td>
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<td>Phys. Plant:</td>
<td>Utilities renovation Lobo Energy -19% C C inventory 180 kW +15% mass trans. PV</td>
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<td>Students:</td>
<td>Alleygardens LGM Sustain Fair Trade LG SR NMPIRG</td>
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## Assets

**Leadership & Policy**
- AASHE ACUPCC
- USGBC LEED
- Architecture 2030

**Heritage & Identity**
- Pueblos and Diné, Hispanic agriculture,
- Green building community
- Clean energy community
- Local foodshed

**Funding**
- NM Legislature
- McCune Charitable Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- USDA Hispanic Serving Institutions

**People & Creativity**
- Tenure system
- Students, staff, faculty
- Campus planning, food provider

## Barriers
- No federal clean energy policy
- No federal carbon/climate policy
- Repealed state cap & trade
- Backsliding local building code
- Poor state-wide infrastructure
- Underfunded mandate
- No I&G for curriculum
- No revolving fund
- No campus director
- Administrative turnover
Mantras:

- Treat sustainability as a moral imperative that unites
- Be relentless in the face of barriers
- Value all willing partners
- Change the context via policy innovation
- Look outside the walls of the institution
- Do something bold
- Build continuity
- Set goals and monitor progress
- Teach across the curriculum
- Hire expertise where possible
- Create incentives
- Make change visible and celebrate it
- Identify and test assumptions
Acknowledgments:

Funding:
State Rep. Mimi Stewart
McCune Charitable Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
USDA

Leadership:
Former provost Reed Dasen-brack
President David Schmidly
Provost Chaouki Abdallah
Mary Vosevich & Physical Plant Department
Mary Clark, Jeff Zumwalt
Campus Planning
Members of the Sustainability Council
Chartwells

Colleagues: Terry Horger, Jessica Rowland, Maggie Seeley
Department of Biology
Lobo Gardens, Dan Young
Collaborative for Foodshed Development
College of Arts & Sciences
School of Architecture & Planning
College of Fine Arts
College of Engineering

Students in SUST 134, 334, 364, 434, 499, and
2011 Foodshed Field School

This case study reflects the perspective and experience of
the author. Time limitations preclude honoring significant
contributions to sustainability made
by persons not referenced herein.