The 4th Annual Student Sustainability Survey & Town Hall Meeting

Brought to you by: ENVS 4100
Appropriate Technology and Sustainability - Ecological Design: The Campus as a Living, Learning Laboratory with Dr. Harold Glasser

Recommendations

Short-term Goals

- Increase healthier food options on campus, including local and diet sensitive options. Develop the student initiated Sustainable Café.

- Create a campus-wide sustainability campaign in coordination with the Office for Sustainability to further advance the building of a campus culture of sustainability and increase sustainability-oriented learning opportunities for students.

- Integrate sustainable living and trainings into Residential Life.

Long-term Goals

- Create an introductory sustainability course to fulfill general-education credits.

- Increase investments in renewable energy infrastructure (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal.)

“Although I have observed that many students feel the sustainability fee is unnecessary, I think one of the things that sets Western apart from many other universities is its focus on sustainability and green technologies. In my opinion, $8 is a small price to pay for an initiative that not only benefits WMU, but also the community.”

- Survey Respondent

Photos used in this report are credited to Rebecca Brand

The “Only You” Sustainability Survey graphic was developed by Cameron Gregory
The WMU Sustainability Fee was student initiated. In keeping with this tradition, the Office for Sustainability conducts an annual student survey. This year the survey collected ideas, suggestions, and recommendations from 1,356 students. 84% were Undergraduate Students and 16% were Graduate Students.

Survey Data Unveiled: Top 4 Priorities According to Respondents

- Increase food options on campus (i.e. local, healthy, diet sensitive)
- Expand sustainability focused residential options on campus
- Increase renewable energy infrastructure (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal)
- Create an introductory sustainability course to fulfill general-education credits

Town Hall Meeting Feedback: Engaging the Respondents in a Break-out Session

A Town Hall meeting on the survey took place on April 10th with 35 participants. The Town Hall began with a presentation on the survey results and then participants were asked to discuss their initial reactions. Conversations in these break-out sessions ranged from raising the Sustainability Fee amount to ideas for increasing student body support for these initiatives. After this break-out session, we came together as a whole to discuss the ideas and questions with Office for Sustainability staff.

Three Primary Goals:

1. Assess awareness and support of the Sustainability Fee and associated projects

2. Attract students with no prior association with sustainability at WMU and introduce them to opportunities to advance their involvement

3. Further engage students already involved in sustainability at WMU and gain their feedback for advancing initiatives and reaching more of the general student population