



Sustainability @ Bellevue College

October 2011

Bellevue College Deepens Commitment to Sustainability

BC has recently become a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ([AASHE](#)) to further campus efforts toward building a healthy and just world. AASHE enables higher education institutions to meet their sustainability goals by providing specialized resources, professional development, and a network of peer support. Through this membership, BC will receive support in advancing its sustainability initiatives throughout the institution and in the community.

SESF

Next Meeting

The Student Environmental Sustainability Fee (SESF) Committee will be holding their next monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 26 at 2:30 p.m. in room C211. All interested students and faculty members are welcome to attend.

Projects Funded Since May

1. Energy Check by Sarah Oates
2. Composting/Garbage/Recycling Receptacles by Sophia Trinh
3. Sustainability Curriculum Manager by Marika Reinke
4. Bike Racks by Christian Stage
5. Strategic Plan by Deric Gruen

Let's Celebrate!: BC Begins Composting

by Megan Phan, Environmental & Social Responsibility Representative

Thanks to Bellevue College's Food Services and the Student Environmental and Sustainability Fund (SESF), the BC Cafeteria will start a very exciting composting pilot project starting October 17th! We are reaching out to you in hopes that you will celebrate with us and educate the students about the importance of composting and reducing our waste.

All cafeteria food containers, cups, lids and, of course, food itself can now be diverted from the landfill by making into compost. We have four receptacles with compartments for composting, recycling, and landfill/waste in the cafeteria with clear labels and pictures above each bin for students to easily distinguish what goes where. This is beneficial for students to learn about composting, to practice sustainable living through simple actions, and to see how these simple acts can help sustain our earth for future generations.

You can volunteer Monday, October 17th through Thursday, October 20th to raise composting awareness anytime between 10:30AM – 5:30PM (minimum of an hour), email asgenvir@bellevuecollege.edu for details.



The major goal of composting is to reduce the amount of solid waste our campus generates. By composting organic waste, we are returning nutrients back into the soil in order for the cycle of life to continue instead of throwing them into the landfill where all the garbage typically goes.

Finished compost looks like soil, dark brown and crumbly, and smells like a crisp forest floor. Not only does it smell great, but it also has the advantage of being a useful natural fertilizer for both farming and gardening and is ultimately more environmentally friendly than synthetic fertilizers. This year, the compost that BC produces will be picked up by Cedar Grove Composting, the Pacific Northwest's leading organic recycling company.

Transportation

Bicycle Training

In July, Bellevue College had a class to teach bicycle repair and road safety to those who are interested in teaching these skills to BC students. We hope to expand our bicycling programs here on campus in the near future. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Christian Stage at christian.stage@bellevuecollege.edu with the subject line: BIKE PROGRAMS.

Energy Bill for August:

Electricity: 2011 - \$72,124; 2010 - \$89,551

Natural Gas: 2011 - \$7,162; 2010 - \$13,727

“We need to promote development that does not destroy our environment.”

--Wangari Maathai



for our environment. We appreciate your support in making this pilot project a success!

BC's First Sustainability Curriculum Manager

by Angela Hildre, Sustainability Curriculum Manager

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as Bellevue College's first Sustainability Curriculum Manager! This new position was approved and funded by the Student Environmental Sustainability Fee (SESF) committee.

My job is to promote and advocate for the infusion of sustainability into the college curriculum. I will be working with faculty, students, the Sustainability and Resource Conservation Manager Deric Gruen, the SESF Committee, the ASG Board, and the Environmental Advisory Committee.

My goals this year are to research current efforts and best practices in sustainability curriculum and to develop sustainability curriculum outreach and education programs for faculty. There are many college campuses throughout the nation that will serve as mentors in our process to "green-up" our campus-wide class curriculum.

While I am new to this position since this summer, I am not new to the campus. In 2002, I was hired as a part-time instructor in the Interior Design Department. Since then, I have taught a variety of courses and I love my job as an interior designer and educator!

A spark ignited in me when I first discovered LEED-Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a voluntary building rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council. By the way, the new Science "S" Building on our campus is rated LEED Gold!

I thought about how I can integrate sustainable design into my practice and instruction. Many of my students were asking for instruction about green design. So, I decided to develop the Green Sustainable Design Certificate Program, a three class series that offers students instruction about global, national, local sustainability issues, and work that is happening to improve our built environment.

Want to learn more about integrating sustainability into your course? You can reach me at angela.hildre@bellevuecollege.edu or x6099

Sustainability @ Bellevue College Online: <http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/sustainability/> For more information, please contact: Deric Gruen, Sustainability Coordinator and Resource Conservation Manager deric.gruen@bellevuecollege.edu , 425.564.2720

