

**Sustainability Curriculum Committee  
Annual Report FY 2015-2016  
(April 28, 2016)**

**September 2015**

The Sustainability Curriculum Committee was established from the Sustainability Curriculum Team in Summer 2015, and the first task for the committee was to finalize our FY2015-2016 action plans.

**Strategic Direction 1: Providing sustainability education**

- Water in the Desert (REPORT Lead: Asa Stone: Project Lead: Asa)
- RecycleMania (Project Lead: Asa Stone and Molly Blumhoefer REPORT Lead: Molly)
- C2G Project (REPORT Lead: Molly. Project Lead: Shawn Wright, Molly and Paul Polechla)
- CNM College Day (REPORT Lead: Molly. Project lead: Jennifer)
- Technical support in multiple areas (Lead: John)

**Strategic Direction 2: Assessing sustainability education**

- Sustainability Assessment via Water in the Desert and RecycleMania (Lead: Ursula)

**Strategic Direction 3: Formalizing sustainability education**

- Service Learning
- Recruitment of dual-credit students (Lead: Paula)
- Green Chemistry Commitment (Lead: Carol Martinez)

**December 2015**

At the end of the Fall term, we reported our project updates. As of December 2015, only one of the said projects were completed. The other projects continued in the Spring term.

**Strategic Direction 1: Providing sustainability education**

- Water in the Desert Project: Successfully completed the project (Asa)
- RecycleMania: Finalized the framework and began strategizing details (Molly)
- C2G: Completed the garden adoption process document (Molly)
- Distance Learning: Revisiting the committee's DL Community site (John)

**Strategic Direction 2: Assessing sustainability education**

- Student Assessments: Completed the student assessment through #CNMWitD, developing an assessment for #CNMRecycles (Ursula)

**Strategic Direction 3: Formalizing sustainability education**

- Curriculum Support: Working on dual credit (Paula)
- Green Chemistry Commitment: Signed the commitment (Carol)
- Transfer: exploring a possible 2+2 with Sul Ross State University (Paula)
- Service Learning: Produced 32 certificates for the Water in the Desert Project

**April 2016**

At the end of the academic year, we compiled our project updates and reports.

**Strategic Direction 1: Providing sustainability education**

See report authors and project leads under part 1: September 2015

**Water in the Desert Project** The Water in the Desert Project was offered as an 8-week education series in the Fall term of 2016. The project was designed to meet the committee's strategic directions 1 and 2. The project members included Carson Bennett, Molly Blumhoefer, Luis Campos, Heather Fitzgerald, Steve Glass, Monique Lacoste, Sandi Rourke, Sue Small, Ursula Waln, and Asa Stone. The project concluded in November 2016 with 32 certificate students, over 300 participating students, and over a dozen participating instructors. Ursula's analysis revealed that the project was successful at improving participants knowledge about water resources issues. See the project website for details (<https://www.cnm.edu/about/sustainability/water-in-the-desert-project>).

**RecycleMania Project:** Recyclemania was an 8 week experiential learning project offered in spring 2016, beginning the week of February 7. It was designed to meet the Committee's strategic direction 1. The project was led by the following faculty, staff, and students: Luis Campos, Anthony Rael, Lupe Fuentes, Ursula Waln, Sandi Rourke, Katrina Taylor, Monique Lactose, Sue Ruth, Asa Stone, the USGBC student organization and Molly Blumhoefer. It included a national recycling competition (CNM placed 31 out of 198), Adopt-A-Bin Contest, Service Learning, and a variety of campus-wide educational events. 79 students participated in the first week's assessment of knowledge on recycling. The event concluded the week of March 27 and had several student and faculty participants at the many educational events throughout the entire 8 weeks. Mt RecycleMore event on March 2 also brought in students from 3 Albuquerque Public schools. Ursula's analysis revealed that the project was successful at improving participant's knowledge about single-stream recycling and waste issues. Plan for FY2016-2017: For future projects, we could improve our education efforts by providing greater reinforcement of messages around what items are appropriate for placement in CNM's recycling bins. Advertise "Recyclemania" events more on campus by using Wayfinding Kiosks, newspaper and other media sites. We could Include Recyclemania events during College Day, especially LEED building tours. We need to better target part time students. For the 8 weeks, we could focus on Reduce and Reuse first, then Recycle. We could encourage faculty in arts to host a "trashion-show" with students as a part of the education expo. We could develop more community partnerships. We could develop more online educational tools such as a virtual tour of the Recycling Plant. We could develop a 5 minute presentation for departmental meetings to gain more faculty participation. For more information please visit: <https://www.cnm.edu/about/sustainability/recycling>.

**Compost-to-Garden (C2G) Project** The goal of the Compost to Garden Committee (C2G) for spring 2016 was to develop a method by which faculty members or student organizations could adopt one of the 6 raised garden beds on the southwest corner of Max Salazar to meet the Committee's strategic direction 1. The active committee members of spring 2016

semester were Marleen Baros, Heather Fitzgerald, Carson Bennett, Chris Morosin, Molly Blumhoefer, Shawn Wright, Amanda Vital and Paul Polechla. The committee successfully created an “Adopt-a-Bed” process and has adopted out all 6 beds for summer 2016. Faculty will be using the beds for curricular purposes, enhancing awareness about sustainability. Molly Blumhoefer and the CNM USGBC student organization also spear-headed a cross-disciplinary “pilot project” to develop sustainable gardening on campus and to raise awareness about Campus as a Living Lab and student groups. This project was a success. Plan for FY2016-2017: The next step for the C2G committee is to secure a site and funding for permanent worm-beds and composting on campus, preferably near the existing garden beds. Shawn Wright is currently working with the Deans of MSE. There are also raised beds near RPM that could be utilized by Culinary Arts faculty and students. C2G committee should work on a “Culinary” specific garden project, beyond the pilot project mentioned above. For more information about the pilot project please visit: [http://www.cnm.edu/news/faculty-and-staff-news/culinary-students-harvest-lettuce-from-garden-on-southwest-corner-of-max-salazar-hall?utm\\_source=cnm\\_newslink&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newslink](http://www.cnm.edu/news/faculty-and-staff-news/culinary-students-harvest-lettuce-from-garden-on-southwest-corner-of-max-salazar-hall?utm_source=cnm_newslink&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newslink)

**CNM College Day:** Molly Blumhoefer and Katrina Taylor set-up sustainability related items in L-203. Katrina presented the CNM Sustainability Degree requirements and educational information related to Carbon Footprint (Katrina may want to add to this section—if she hasn’t already reported). Molly assisted the USGBC student organization with a vermicomposting demo and information about Green Design (LEED) initiatives on campus. The college students seemed to be pleased with the information, especially the worms! Plan for FY2016-2017: If the USGBC student organization and sustainability at CNM (as related to courses offered, etc.) are housed in the same room again for college day, it may help to give an overview of the stations and “what is sustainability at CNM”. This could be done with an announcement or presentation led by a faculty member as each group of high school students enters the room. This would also introduce the USGBC student organization and the faculty members present. LEED tours given by the USGBC students would also be a nice addition to college day and would tie into Recyclemania. Perhaps combine Recyclemania and College Day in some manner.

### **Strategic Direction 2: Assessing sustainability education**

**Student Assessment for Water in the Desert Project (Ursula):** A total of 195 respondents participated in the assessment during the first week of the project, and 66 respondents participated in the assessment during the last week of the project. The results suggest that the project was successful at improving participants’ knowledge about specific water resources issues explored through the project. However, the project was not very effective at improving participants’ knowledge about general sustainability concepts. For future projects, we could improve our education efforts by incorporating general sustainability concepts into each of our education opportunity.

**Student Assessment for RecycleMania (Ursula):** A total of 79 respondents participated in the Recyclemania assessment during the first week of the project, and 29 respondents participated in the assessment during the last week of the project. Asking participants to

voluntarily share their email enabled the identification of 26 participants who took both the pre- and post- assessments, 23 of these self-identifying as students. The post-assessment sample was too small to support significance testing. However, the percentages of correct responses were higher on the post-assessment compared to the pre-assessment for all questions except one, which asked about what items are not acceptable in CNM's recycling bins. While 69% of post-assessment respondents correctly identified plastic bags as inappropriate, less than 31% correctly identified glass bottles, and only 19% identified both items. On the pre-assessment, 29% of respondents identified both items. Overall, the results suggest that the project was successful at improving participants' knowledge about sustainability in general but what not as effective at increasing knowledge about single-stream recycling. For future projects, we could improve our education efforts by providing greater reinforcement of messages around what items are appropriate for placement in CNM's recycling bins.

### **Strategic Direction 3: Formalizing sustainability education**

#### **Recruitment of dual credit students (Paula & Lisa):**

Paula and Lisa didn't get much support from Scheduling on creating a "generic Sustainability schedule". Here's Paula's new idea: revise the Sustainability page (via Mary McCray) to create a landing spot for information on Sustainability Curriculum. Paula is planning to request that this is messaged to our Dual Credit students once done.

#### **Green Chemistry Commitment (Carol):**

Carol Martinez has been collecting and disbursing information on Green Chemistry Conferences and professional opportunities for faculty and interested students. She has encouraged campus adoption of non-toxic white board markers. This will also support facilities Green Cleaning Policies for LEED certified buildings. At this point, facilities staff is looking into the feasibility of the switch. Feasibility will be based on both budget and faculty preference. A pilot run may be in order for a newly renovated building.