



# weber green

Weber State University's Environmental Initiatives Committee –

## Our Mission

The Environmental Initiatives Committee shall help facilitate the modeling of best practices for economic and environmental sustainability at WSU. The committee shall serve as a local and state-wide source for scientifically based information and for leadership on environmental issues affecting Utah, the Wasatch Front, and WSU Campus Committees.

[www.weber.edu/environment](http://www.weber.edu/environment)

## Your Green Link

## news and information

### EIC Committee Recommendations

#### Carbon Offset Fees

The EIC recommends that the RSPG Committee require that all travel using RSPG funds include a Carbon Offset fee to be paid into a **WSU Renewable Energy Fund**, using offset amounts priced at market rates. For example, \$7 one-way for short haul flights, \$17 one-way for cross-country flights, and \$29 one-way for international flights.

#### Campus Property Issues

The EIC recommends that WSU establish a "WSU Foothill Commission" into order to develop a long-term master plan for the WSU-owned property to the east of the Ogden campus. The WSU Foothill Commission should consist of faculty, administration, staff, students and community members. The Commission would combine existing land use studies, such as seismic mapping projects, soil stability tests and other existing maps in order to identify locations where land could be preserved for outdoor learning opportunities, such as botanical, zoological, geological, or creative endeavors, preserved for aesthetic purposes central to the university's unique scenic foothill setting, to avoid unauthorized encroachment on university property, and to designate areas for future potential university development.

A subsequent discussion in Faculty Senate Executive Committee suggest discussions pertaining to the foothill property may take place within the context of WSU's Campus Master Plan.

#### City Pipeline Issues

At this time, the EIC recommends that, in the absence of significant further discussion on the issue, the university pursue options other than allowing the City of Ogden to build a pipeline across its property (e.g., exploring alternative routes for a pipeline). Should the university choose to allow the pipeline to be built, the EIC recommends that the university pursue strategies such as an easement swap or significant financial considerations for mitigation projects.

### 2nd Annual Intermountain Recycling & Sustainability Summit

#### Friday – March 4, 2011, WSU Campus

#### Sponsored by WSU Environmental Club, WSU Continuing Education, Utah Recycling Alliance (URA)

##### Summit Mission

Provide best-practice education for recycling/sustainability professionals and the public in order to motivate residents of the intermountain region to take action to protect our environment through recycling and sustainability. See political support of issues and work to get measures adopted in the west to improve the lives of citizens.

##### Summit Objectives

- Educate the public regarding recycling and sustainability issues
- Motivate the public and key stakeholders to action
- Exchange ideas
- Network
- Introduce Utah Recycling Alliance to the public
- Bring a broad range of recycling/sustainability issues to the discussion table

##### Recycling Track session topics will include:

Implementing Medical Disposal in a Municipality, Community Composting, Encouraging Communities to Recycle, Glass Recycling Issues, Community Recycling Education, Utah Recycling Alliance (URA) Open Meeting

##### Sustainability Track session topics will include:

Sustainability and Mass Transit in Northern Utah, Community Renewable Energy Generation, Economic Approach to Sustainability, Organization Sustainability Programs, Community Water Quality Systems, Community Air Quality

For sponsorship, to reserve a booth, be a presenter, or volunteer, contact [charleselzinga@weber.edu](mailto:charleselzinga@weber.edu). Please type Recycling/Sustainability Summit in the subject line of your e-mail.

### WSU Environmental Resources

#### Recycled Copy Paper at Bookstore

**High-quality recycled copy paper is now available from the WSU Bookstore and can be ordered online.**

- It saves trees and costs less than non-recycled paper.
- Uses 50 percent fewer trees than average 20 lb. Bond paper
- Turns wood into papermaking pulp via mechanical grinding vs. chemical methods
- Requires fewer chemicals and less bleaching
- Reduces fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by partially using hydroelectricity during manufacturing

### WSU Facilities Management

#### Recycling Collection on Tuesdays

Last semester **Facilities Management** implemented a new program to encourage increased recycling on campus. Trash will be collected every other day of the week, however, Tuesdays will be reserved for recycling collection in an effort to save custodians time and to bring attention to the recycling program.

Prior to implementing this program campus-wide, Facilities Management tested the idea out in the Elizabeth Hall Building. The experiment was a success. Recycling rates doubled within the Elizabeth Hall Building.

The Weber State University Community does a pretty good job when it comes to recycling, but there definitely is room for improvement. The last trash audit conducted by Facilities Management in 2008 concluded that WSU recycles about 33% of its total waste. According to Sustainability Manager, Jake Cain, at least 50% of our remaining waste could easily be recycled under our current program.

Last year, WSU generated 676 tons of trash. That equates to a little over 71 pounds of trash per campus community member (faculty/staff/student) annually. If WSU were to recycle the 50% of trash, known to be recyclable, we would be reducing our landfill contribution by about 338 tons per year.

Please note that your trash can be picked up on Tuesday if it is absolutely necessary (i.e. trash contains food or smells). Just leave your trash bin right outside of the room door to let the custodians know that it needs to be emptied. Alternatively, you can empty the trash from your personal bin into one of the larger central cans on Tuesdays.

Over this past summer, purple recycling bins were distributed throughout campus. Please help us make Weber State great by placing the following recyclable items in your purple or blue recycling bin rather than the trash:

- Any #1 through #7 plastics (as a rule of thumb, these are soft plastics)
- Aluminum, steel, and tin cans, aluminum plates/pans, metal jar and bottle lids
- Paper/Newspaper
- File Folders and Card Stock
- Magazines/Catalogs
- Cardboard

Please help by scraping, emptying or rinsing leftover food into the regular trash before placing it in recycling containers. Thanks!

If you have any questions or concerns about the program, please contact **Sustainability Manager**, Jake Cain, at 801-626-6311. If you need a purple recycling bin, please contact Custodial Manager, Miguel Lopez at 801-626-6678.

#### Campus-Wide Energy Efficient Interior Lighting Upgrade

Over the next three to four years, **Facilities Management** at WSU will be undertaking a major project to upgrade all of the interior lighting on campus to energy efficient fixtures. The majority of the old lighting will be replaced with high-efficiency fluorescent lighting. CFL and LED lighting will also be used in a few specific applications such as in recessed can lighting and accent lighting. Upon completion, it is estimated that the lighting project will save the University \$150,000 each year on its utility bills. Additionally, WSU's energy consumption will be reduced by at least 2,000,000 kwh per year which means that WSU will reduce its carbon emissions by 849 metric tons annually.

This project is one of many being undertaken by Facilities Management to implement WSU's Climate Action Plan which was signed by President Millner in 2009. The first ambitious goal of the Climate Action Plan is to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the baseline year (2007) by 2012. By 2050, the Plan states that the goal is for WSU to be carbon neutral.

Most lighting will be placed on motion sensors to ensure that lights are not left on (and energy is not wasted) when rooms and buildings are not occupied. Facilities Management understands that this change will take some getting used to as people are used to buildings being lit a lot of the time. With regard to the lighting upgrade project, **Sustainability Manager**, Jake Cain, wants to emphasize that "These upgrades are being carefully considered to ensure that the buildings still operate efficiently and effectively without having a negative impact on the function of the building or the occupants. We are hoping to improve the lighting situation in buildings."

The plan is to upgrade the lighting in each campus building on a monthly schedule. Jake Cain will be meeting with building occupants prior to working in the building to explain the work to be done and address any questions or concerns building occupants might have. If you have any questions about the lighting project please feel free to contact Jake via email at [JacobCain@weber.edu](mailto:JacobCain@weber.edu) or by phone at 801-626-6311.

#### Estimated Start Month for 2011

Jan-2011 – **Miller Admin**  
Feb-2011 – **Library**  
Mar-2011 – **Annexes: 2,4,5,8,9**  
Apr-2011 – **Annexes: 10,11,12,13**  
May-2011 – **Lind Lecture**  
Jun/July-2011 – **Science Lab**  
Aug-2011 – **Allied Health**  
Sep-2011 – **Exterior Lighting**  
Oct-2011 – **DEC**