



Creative Ideas for Integrating Sustainability Across the Higher Ed Curriculum

WOHESC

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- Introduce yourself and your “niche” (what your work is) on your campus.
 - Where do sustainability concepts and content appear now in the curriculum? Has your institution carried out any kind of curriculum review or syllabus-analysis to discern where and how sustainability content is appearing in courses now?
 - What opportunities do students have to learn about or participate in your institution’s commitments and activities related to sustainability?
 - What opportunities do students have to learn about sustainability initiatives in your wider community through community-based learning (field trips, community-based research) or service-learning opportunities?

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- ▶ In what ways do faculty members interested in sustainability-across-the-curriculum come together to learn about or support one another's endeavors? Is there a formal working group or an informal network?
 - ▶ At your institution, where are the building blocks and leverage points for strengthening sustainability-across-the-curriculum? Some possibilities might include:
 - ▶ Service-learning or civic engagement initiatives;
 - ▶ Campus sustainability initiatives that involve students;
 - ▶ Student affairs initiatives such as leadership development programs;
 - ▶ Leverage points in the curriculum, such as a freshman reading program, the general education requirements, senior capstone projects, etc.
 - ▶ Organizational partners in the community, including other institutions of higher education, K-12 schools, etc.



What *is* a Faculty Learning Community?

- ▶ An interdisciplinary group of faculty members engaging in a collaborative program that focuses on a question, set of problems, or passion about a topic, *i.e.* sustainability.
 - ▶ The outcome is to connect with others about enhancing teaching and learning about the topic.
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Benefits of FLCs for Faculty

- Sense of feeling less alone with new curriculum and pedagogy
- Community of practice outside one's department
- Linkages to projects and initiatives on campus:
 - Linked courses
 - Common lecture series
 - Grant proposals



Benefits of FLCs for Students

- Sustainability as an emerging norm
 - Sustainability framed as more than simple actions
 - Sustainability grounded in disciplines, places, and professional practice
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FLC Formats

- Summer Institutes (or Workshops), usually 1-2 days
 - Followed by meetings or lunches throughout the academic year
- A series of meetings throughout the year, *i.e.* twice a term/once a month



WWU Sustainability Fellows

- Call for applications in December
 - Identify a course (existing or proposed) that you would like to introduce sustainability in to.
- Monthly meetings of interdisciplinary faculty members – represent all the colleges of WWU
- *Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus* by Mitchell Thomashow



Incentives

- Small budget for travel or books
 - Stipend for attending the meetings
 - Additional stipend for submitting a course revision or activity
 - Professional development hours
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Curriculum for the Bioregion Initiative's Approach for Designing Integrative Sustainability Assignments

