

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: NMSU SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE  
FROM: The Green Team (Tim McKimmie, Connie Falk, David Boje)  
DATE: March 5, 2010  
SUBJECT: Sustainability at NMSU  
CC: President Barbara Couture, Interim Provost Jay Jordan

In order to make sustainability efforts at NMSU more visible, effective, and integrated, we recommend that NMSU create a Sustainability Director position to head up the Sustainability Task-force and provide oversight of all sustainability efforts on campus. These efforts will include oversight of sustainability as it pertains to campus operations, student life, curriculum, and outreach. The director will report directly to the President of NMSU.

The search committee should investigate job descriptions of sustainability directors at other university campuses and prepare a job description that meets the needs at NMSU. The search committee will advertise the position to current NMSU faculty and interview candidates to assess commitment and qualifications. The Director should be given adequate course release time to allow for at least half-time service in the director's position, more if possible.

The director should also, as part of his/her official teaching work load, organize an undergraduate course that creates opportunities for students to engage in sustainability projects addressing campus and community sustainability problems (energy audits, greening the landscape, rain harvesting, styrofoam alternatives in Frenger Court, community gardens, etc.) with faculty mentorships.

The Director will have the power to carry out the job and the authority and accountability for responding to changes recommended to the task-force. This accountability includes tracking and reporting on each suggestion and complaint received regarding NMSU sustainability, and an outcomes assessment of the disposition of each item. The Director will actively participate in AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) events and promote faculty and student presentations at AASHE conferences, when possible.

We also recommend fully implementing the STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System), as the first step in measuring campus green footprint. Currently, many items in the existing measurement systems do not have measures. The results of the measurement will be fed back to the campus to encourage positive

change and improvement. Finally, the STARS results should be benchmarked against peer institutions. In addition, every effort will be made to improve NMSU's rankings in the National Wildlife Federation campus report card on sustainability, considered the "gold standard for charting the sustainability movement in higher education," according to David W. Orr, author of *Earth in Mind, Ecological Literacy, The Last Refuge*, and *Design on the Edge*. (See <http://www.nwf.org/Global-Warming/Campus-Solutions.aspx>)

The measurement efforts and results can be the basis for creative student projects that can be implemented to bring about better results. For example, class projects could include ecological landscaping that conserves and reclaims water, analysis of using bats instead of toxic pesticides to control mosquitoes and bat house construction and siting, a life cycle analysis of different types of packaging used in food service on campus, analysis of potential for local sourcing of campus food, environmental auditing of energy uses and waste in campus buildings, carbon emissions from different approaches to campus transportation alternatives, and identification of upstream waste reduction opportunities.

Currently the Sustainability at NMSU website has no link to the main page of NMSU. This can be requested. The Sustainability at NMSU website also does not have enough info in its metatags. There are few key words, and no description. The result is the site is not being accessed as widely as it might. This can be easily remedied.

The current tags read:

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<meta name="Keywords" content="energy, climate change" />  
<meta name="Description" content="" />
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