



National Wildlife Federation®
CAMPUS
ecology®

**Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Spring 2008, Climate Action Plan**

BACKGROUND

Campus Profile

Ball State University, situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male, 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 masters programs and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Some 750 faculty, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

Contacts

Dr. Donald Whitaker
Executive Director, Inst. Effectiveness
Academic Assessment/Inst. Research
Phone: 765-285-1337
Fax: 765-285-5622
Email: dwhitake@bsu.edu

Robert J. Koester
Professor of Architecture
Chair, Council on the Environment
Phone: 765-285-1135
Fax: 765-285-5622
Email : rkoester@bsu.edu

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals

Every administrative unit on campus will develop its own sustainability plan.

Accomplishments

Some 99 plans have been prepared for inclusion in a final report to be submitted to the Provost at the close of the summer semester.

Challenges and Responses

For many administrative entities, this requirement of the 2007-2012 University Strategic Plan could seem to be “a distraction” at least if not “an insurmountable burden” at worst. To allay concerns and to facilitate the process, the Council on the Environment (COTE) developed a prototype unit-level sustainability plan as a tool to kick-start discussion at the unit-plan level and to standardize the organization and format of such plans when submitted to the Council.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

The Council on the Environment, with the support of the Provost, provided the primary leadership in this effort. Selected presentations were made to Academic Deans, Council on the Environment representatives and other audiences by invitation. The sample format and standardized category for reporting proved useful in aligning the efforts of the many administrative units so as to prepare materials for inclusion in the STARS Rating System submission. Ball State University is one of 92 schools in the country currently

National Wildlife Federation • Campus Ecology • 2008

vetting the use of the STARS Rating Tool. STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) is a comparative tool, developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), to evaluate campus sustainability.

Funding and Resources

No additional costs were incurred. Incidental costs of preparing the sample unit-level plan were borne by the Center for Energy Research/Education/Service which acts as a secretariat to COTE and the incidental costs of dissemination were minimized using electronic distribution and subsequent submission.

Community Outreach and Education

We anticipate that the final compiled report summarizing the unit-level sustainability plans will be shared publicly on the university web page and as part of the STARS reporting.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

We have not completed our assessment of the metrics, but the implications are that creation of these unit-level plans will have brought into the awareness of the respective administrative units the need for carbon offsets for travel and other incidental activities; we anticipate that the existence of the unit-level sustainability plans will assist the Council on the Environment as it works with the university leadership to ratchet-down the measurable BSU carbon load.

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology® Program

We continue to rely on the NWF Campus Ecology Program resources and use of materials produced by other universities which we acquired through the network of NWF Campus Ecology.

CLOSING COMMENT

To our knowledge, Ball State University is unique in its use of unit-level sustainability plans. We anticipate the integration with these into the STARS reporting format should have ripple effect. We plan to share useful information with other institutions that wish to follow this lead.