



Welcome.

Participants in the UW Sustainability Initiative have been working on re-visioning and re-focusing our efforts.

We want to set a plan for the next 3-5 years.

We want your help.

Today we're here to have a discussion. To start us off I will:

Remind us/ tell us about how the University's sustainability initiative started

Remind you of our key commitments

Update you about what has been achieved so far

Tell you about what the future of UW sustainability might look like

Raise some of the challenges we face

Then we'll talk



I believe that we need to graduate a generation of solutionaries.
– Zoe Weil

I want to start with a story about how I first got involved in UW's sustainability efforts.

In 2003, I was part of a group of student that attended the *Greening the Ivory Towers* conference in Montreal organized by the Sierra Youth Coalition. The conference was organized along a single guiding principle:

As institutions in which people are paid to think about the world around them,
As institutions where people dedicate their time to learning about the world around them,

Universities have a unique role to play in figuring out and modeling what 'living right' together on a healthy planet might look like.

That means dedicating academic energy to these questions.

It also means trying new experiments in management, experimenting with new technology, AND experimenting with new ways of working across generational, philosophical, and occupational boundaries.

It is our job.

One of the defining events of that 2003 conference was the launch of the CSAF (Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework), the result of a Master's thesis by Lindsay Cole. The CSAF

Is a tool aimed at assisting Universities in living right on a healthy planet by helping them track progress and make improvements in key areas of sustainability.



I believe that we need to graduate a generation of solutionaries.
– Zoe Weil

This meant looking at how much stuff universities used (water, car gas, oil, electricity, garbage etc...), since we generally use stuff faster than the planet makes it.

It also meant looking at the impacts of this stuff (greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels causing climate change; hazardous substances impacting human health, wildlife, land and water; consumption of paper, plastic etc... and its impact on deforestation....)

It also meant looking at how university operations impact the communities they live in

And looking at how the University models and supports engaged community members

What inspired us students the most about Lindsay's work was the spirit she brought to it:

Her vision was that universities conduct the assessment by using the CSAF as a pedagogical tool in the classroom so that students can

- Have learning experiences that contributes to actually making a difference

- Develop skills they will need to deal with the challenges they are inheriting

- Develop the heart, passion and commitment they need to address these challenges

- Develop a sense of ownership and membership of a community that students, faculty, and staff all have a stake in.



We UW students got home from the conference and wanted to do this. Period. The core group grew and some of them convinced a prof. to let them make a classroom assignment out of creating a formal proposal to present UW's senior executive. They did, and the proposal was well received.

In a series of follow up meetings, the students learned that some UW staff, especially facilities staff, were already being really proactive in pursuing energy efficiency projects on campus – staff interest was there.

Over that period, various meetings and publicity stunts took place.

Then, one day one of the students was asked out of the blue to go meet with President Lloyd Axworthy in his office in 5 minutes. She figured it must be something interesting, so she did.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

NEWS RELEASE

March 4, 2005
For Immediate Release

**Going Green:
University of Winnipeg To Create
Kyoto Compliance Task Force**

Axworthy Calls for Fully Sustainable Campus

UWinnipeg President releases Campus Development Plan and challenges all to make 'four dimensions of sustainability' integral to learning, research, university operations.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

WINNIPEG, MB. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President & Vice-Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg, today released UWinnipeg's Campus Development Plan and challenged students, faculty, staff and community members to develop a fully sustainable campus - one that meets the needs of the 'four dimensions of sustainability: ecological, economic, social and cultural.'

Axworthy made his remarks in his State of the University Address, held this morning before a capacity crowd in the newly renovated Convocation Hall. The address served as the kickoff event to the university's 40th Anniversary Homecoming & Reunion Weekend that runs through this weekend, and coincides with the public release of the University's Campus Development Plan.

"Our ultimate goal is to create a fully sustainable campus," Axworthy said. "A campus that acts upon its local and global responsibilities to protect and enhance the health and well-being of humans and ecosystems. In doing so, we will meet the needs of current generations in such a way that ensure that future generations can meet their needs."

"The 40-minute presentation was a visionary speech by Axworthy - one that identified the institution's accomplishments of the past with its goals for the future. He walked on the arena where the university has already established itself as a leader, such as the influential Institute of Urban Studies, the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program and the innovative Student Designated Members."

Looking forward, Axworthy stressed the need for action on the recent recommendations of the Academic Task Force to make post-secondary education more accessible to people who identify do not attend university. He called for student-driven research to address our most pressing sustainability problems and to create a "transformative culture" in educational programming with no barriers to artistic expression and civic engagement.

He also addressed the task of fulfilling the goals of the university's recently announced graduate studies programs, the benefits of the proposed Science Complex, the need for continued dialogue and partnerships with the community, and the establishment of a Master School of Science for environmental studies situated within the proposed Richardson College for the Environment.

"The strategy I am proposing is large," Axworthy said, "however, the vision of an ecologically, economically and socially healthy university community with a thriving culture of cooperation and a visible ability to adapt to the demands of the coming age is the lens through which all policy undertaken on campus must be taken."

"This comes down to our own personal human development," he continued. "A notion embedded in the idea of sustainable development. Our mission here is to support our students, faculty, staff, administrators and neighbours to continuously develop individually so that we might continually develop as an institution."

To provide the road map for the future, UWinnipeg released its Campus Development Plan as a guiding document for campus development. The Campus Development Plan, which is the cooperation of campus and community stakeholders that began in 2004 and continued through 2004 and 2005, provides a holistic approach to campus and community development that breaks down barriers between the university and the neighbourhood.

Key proposed projects, many of which are already underway, include an enhanced transit, a new library centre open to the campus and community, affordable mixed housing and an expanded daycare to benefit both University of Winnipeg students and members of the community.

Axworthy added that the plan will be going back to the community for further consultation and follow-up in the near future.

Excerpts from Dr. Axworthy's address may be seen at The University of Winnipeg's website, at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/university-address-070913>. The full text of his address may be viewed at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/university-address-070913>. The complete Campus Development Plan may be seen, at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/campus-development-plan>.



g will announce its intention to join a growing number of racing sustainable practices and policies that embody the

at the University's OmniTRAX/Broe QUEST: North will call for the development of a comprehensive rthy, on behalf of The University of Winnipeg, will also of the Association of Universities and Colleges in

University of Winnipeg students have pushed hard on the issue of sustainability, and we've risen to their challenge calling for this University to become a leader in sustainable practices and policies.

-President & Vice-Chancellor Lloyd Axworthy, March 2005

It WAS interesting.

Dr. Axworthy told the student that UW had just hired someone to chair a sustainability task force with the aim of creating a comprehensive sustainability management system for the university and to help the university achieve Kyoto compliance.

As it turned out, aside from the various members of faculty that were going above and beyond helping us students do our bit, there was also a faculty member from Menno Simons College speaking directly with UW administrators, asking them to get serious about sustainability.

So, with staff already proactive, students raising a fuss, and faculty raising a fuss... well... it just seemed like a good idea.

The task for was established to reflect the broad-based interest in sustainability that already existed on campus. Students, faculty, and staff worked together to draft policies and come up with strategies. This multistakeholder structure carried over into the way the Campus Sustainability Office continues to operate, with its Campus Sustainability Council and its various issue-specific working groups.



In 2006, a Board-level Sustainability policy was unanimously passed to a standing ovation. A series of Administrative policies were also passed, not all at the same time. Our key commitments in a nutshell:

Kyoto compliance (reduce ghg emissions 6% below 1990 by 2012)

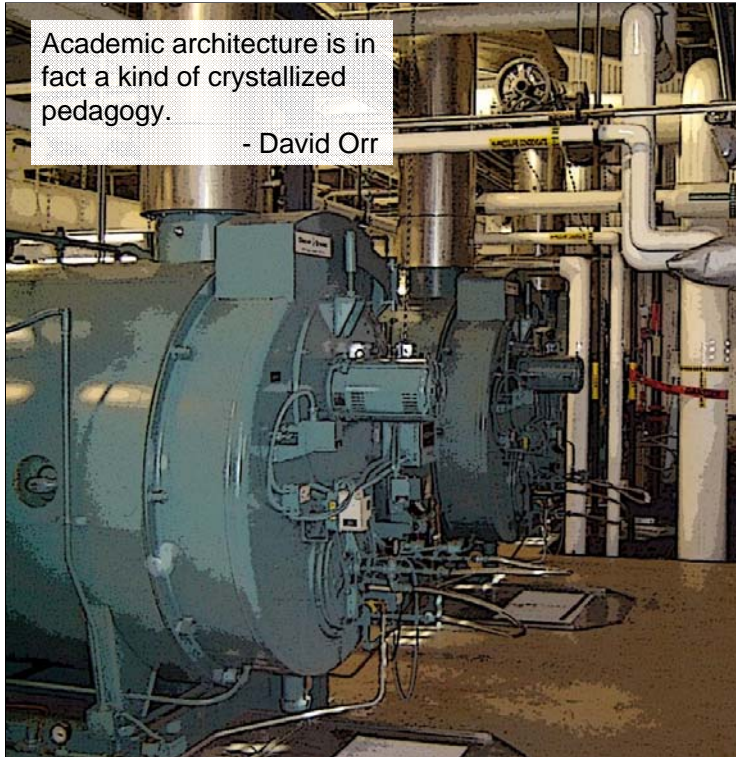
Use less stuff

electricity, natural gas, fuel, water, things that end up in the garbage/recycling/compost etc...

Minimize and eventually stop using stuff that irreparably damages our planet

greenhouse gases, toxic chemicals, hazardous fertilizers etc....

Create a campus in which making decisions with these two things in mind is normal.



Academic architecture is in fact a kind of crystallized pedagogy.
- David Orr

Achievements

- Policies;
- Indicators;
- Tracking systems;
- Lighting retrofit;
- Roof replacement;
- Composting;
- LEED buildings;
- Green cleaning;
- Campus sustainability recognition award;
- Xeriscaped grounds;
- Diversity Foods;
- Bottled water ban;
- Water retrofit;
- Hybrid heating system;
- Comprehensive facilities audit;
- Bike lab...

Achievements so far set us up to meet our Kyoto target.

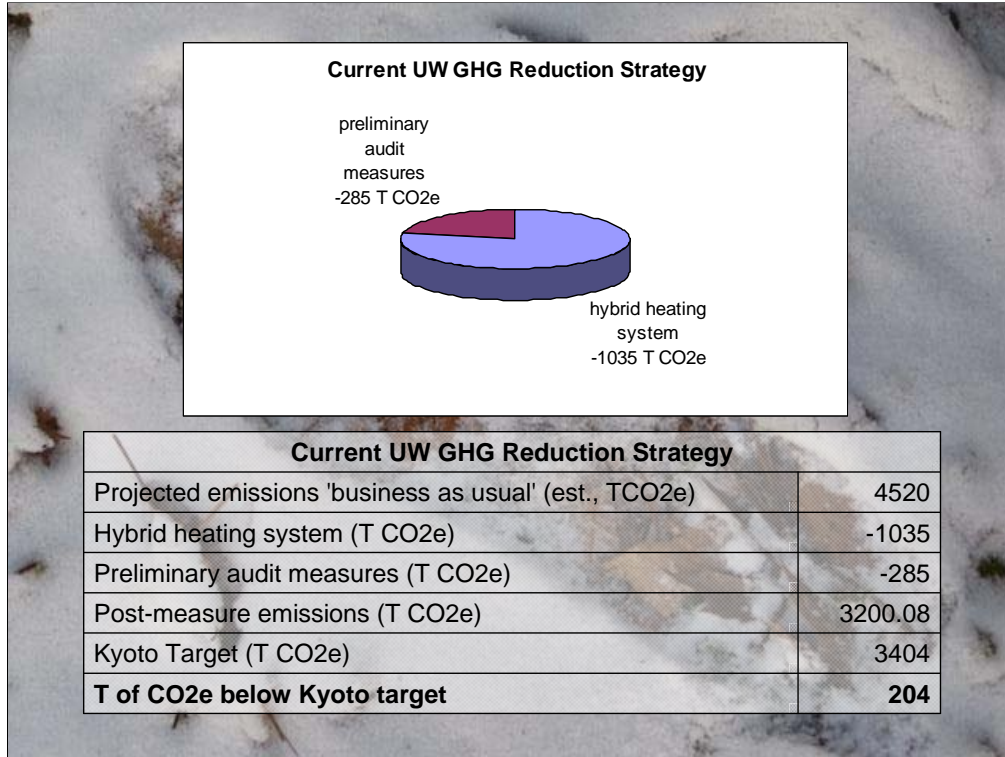
The most important thing that we can do is deal with the guts of our older buildings – mechanical systems, boilers, plumbing fixtures. These things aren't very photogenic, which means that not a lot of people know about them.

The initiatives that will put the biggest dent in our consumption are underway only now, so we aren't likely to see numbers change until the reporting period that ends March 2012. Current numbers reflect that.

numbers			
	fy2007	fy2008	fy2009
campus area	91,750 sq. m.	92,950 sq. m.	101,169 sq. m.
energy consumed	32,253,322 kwh	30,507,144 kwh	34,158,051 kwh
waste produced	77.8 t (?)	125.2 t (?)	221.4 t (?)
total compost	1.5 t	11.1 t	13.5 t
water consumed	NA	80,113,761 l	74,714,597 l
ghg emissions	3937 t co2e	4139 t co2e	4327 t co2e

The numbers

- (1) We're taking up more space, and our consumption reflects that. Generally speaking, our consumption per sq. meter is decreasing, which is a good start but isn't the number we're most interested in. The planet doesn't get bigger just because we do. One of those pesky little facts.
- (2) Major projects won't show up in the numbers until FY 2011 (which means March 2012), but we can hope to see some movement in those numbers then.
- (3) Garbage – tracking our garbage has proven to be fantastically difficult because there is not much demand in Manitoba for waste haulers to weigh what they collect, and because technology doesn't seem to quite be there. This has resulted in wildly varying estimates. The upshot is that we are fairly sure that these numbers are quite wrong. But, even if they indicate only a trend, it is a trend we all need to be very worried about. What the heck are we buying to be throwing so much stuff away?!?!
- (4) Compost: this is a real success story. It looks like we will double our collection this year too.



The moral of this story:

Our new electric boilers and audit measures mean that we are in good shape to meet our Kyoto target.

Audit measures also promise improvements in our overall energy conservation.

The new boilers won't mean that we use less energy. This project is about switching from natural gas to lower emission hydro.



- (1) Procurement: Dealing with waste means dealing with what we buy. It means tracking how much we buy (in masses and volumes, not just dollars). It means tracking what our stuff is made of, and it means planning what happens to it once its (hopefully very long) life at UW has run its course.
- (2) New targets (ghg, energy, water, waste, transportation)
- (3) Repurposing of existing buildings: As departments move into their new homes in our new buildings, we will be doing work on core buildings to re-purpose them. This presents opportunities to take on more projects suggested in our facilities audit.
- (4) Your ideas here: What do you think we should be looking ahead to?

things we need to sit and think about

(1) counting; (2) our appetites; (3) local conditions; (4) process...
which gets us back to...



Cut down the forest of desire, not the forest of trees.

- Dhammapada

Challenges

Tracking – several ongoing challenges

- Procurement: how to practically track how much we buy in masses and volumes, and how to track what our stuff is made of?
- Travel/Commuting: how to efficiently collect data on how people get to and from the university?
- Waste: how to accurately track what we're sending out the other end when industry can't seem to provide us with that information?

Our appetites:

- Space: we like it a lot.
 - Stuff: we like it a lot.
 - Purchasing: we do it a lot.
- And these appetites mean we use too much stuff.

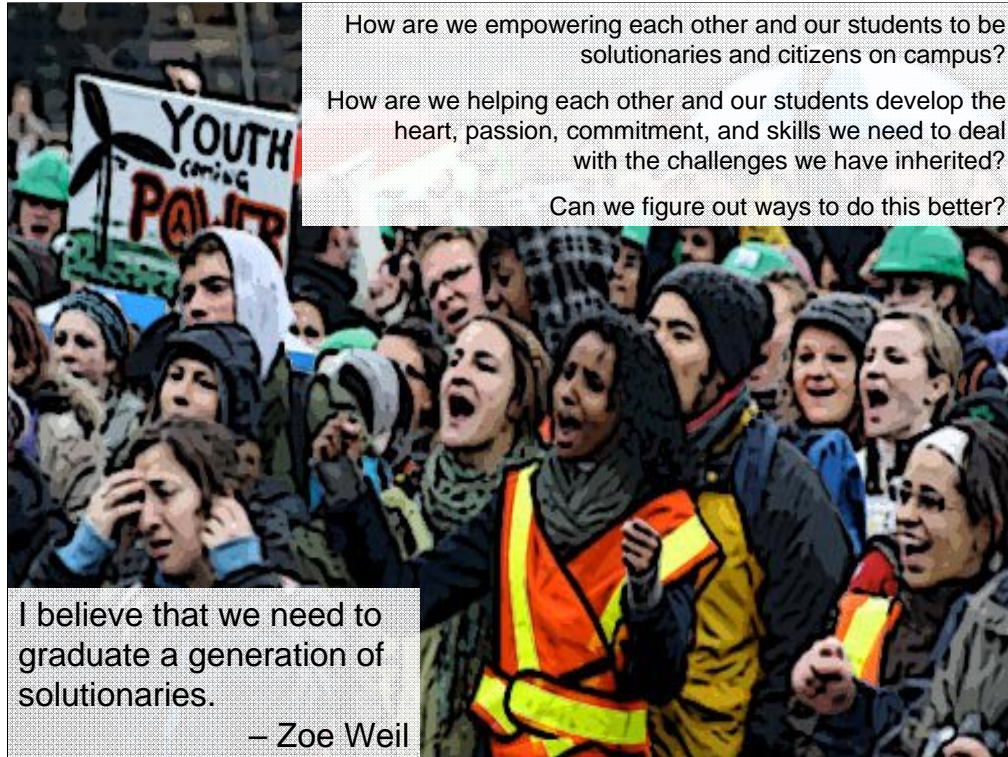
Local conditions:

Low energy prices in Manitoba mean very long payback terms for renewable energy projects
Also, we're already doing pretty well so there isn't as much low-hanging fruit.

- The audit tells us that our core buildings are already 28.5% below 2005 national university average for energy intensity.
- Looking nationally, natural gas is a 'cleaner' fossil fuel & we use low-emission hydro. Compared to other provinces, our energy supply means that our emissions are already relatively low.

Process/engagement

- How do people want to be engaged?
- Is our job simply to make it easier for you to make better choices and to come up with ways for the University to use less stuff?



Or is this actually about taking seriously the idea that as institutions in which people are paid to think about what it means to 'live right';

And as institutions where people dedicate their time to learning about what it means to 'live right';

Universities have a unique role to play in figuring out and modeling what real social and environmental responsibility might look like?

This means that we are all learners and we are all educators, regardless of our official position

Most importantly, We're shaping this place for each other and for our (fellow) students –

How are we empowering each other and our students to be solutionaries and citizens on campus?

How are we helping each other and our students develop the heart, passion, commitment, and skills we need to deal with the challenges we have inherited?

Can we figure out ways to do this better?

Thinking back to what I learned in my experience as a student asking the University to do something about sustainability and being involved in drafting policies and learning about how much work it actually takes - I want many other students to have that experience too. I think it could change the world. For good.



It is the way we think
and our capacity for
wisdom that will
ultimately produce the
world we live in now
and shape the world of
the future.

- Konai H. Thaman

I'm also standing here noticing that a lot of the challenges I just described could use some academic help.

Psychologists, philosophers, classicists, and theologians, humanities folks, how can we improve our relationship to our appetites so that they have less of an impact on the planet and cause less harm to other humans?

Scientists, help us understand the real physical risks and consequences of our current operations. Help us come up with technology, systems, tracking and monitoring tools. Can we use this place as a lab to try new things?

Political scientists, sociologists, cultural theorists, help us figure out how to practically have meaningful, inclusive conversation. Help us understand the how human-centric discourses around human rights and justice that often emphasize endless increases in material wealth can be mapped onto the realities of a finite planet.

Rhetoricians, writers, actors, artists, help us facilitate and communicate a lively conversation.

Economists and business people, help us figure out how to make the right choices economically viable.

Everyone: let's talk.

Come join the conversation.

Online Survey: Launched today and open until February 7 – watch your inbox or go to sustainability.uwinnipeg.ca.

Inquiring Minds: During the **Grass Routes Sustainability Festival** (January 31-February 5) the Inquiring Minds squad will be using public art, video, social media and face-to-face conversation to gather your thoughts and visions for a sustainable campus.

Focus Groups: A series of focus group meetings will be held the week of February 14. Contact Alana to participate.

Be in touch: email, phone, visit the office....

Alana Lajoie-O'Malley
a.lajoie-omalley@uwinnipeg.ca
sustainability.uwinnipeg.ca
1Y08
789.1479

Schedule/details etc...

