

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Student activities in Energy and
Sustainability at the University
of Illinois

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illinois.edu

The University of Illinois

- Flagship Public University in the State of Illinois
- 41,495 Students / Budget: 1.583 Billion
- 5th Ranked College of Engineering
- 800+ Registered Student Organizations
- Student activities decentralized
- Opportunities – many niches
- Challenges – lack of coordination



Green Fees and the SSC

student sustainability committee 
university of illinois at urbana-champaign

- Two fees, instituted by referenda, \$550,000 annually
- Allocated by Student Sustainability Committee, through cross-campus Request for Proposals
- Student led process, also demonstrates student commitment
- Business Instructional Facility Solar Array and Green Roof
- Occupancy Sensors
- Bike Racks
- Student Farm
- Wood-Fired Boiler
- Retrofits - Fume hoods, Lighting
- Prairie



Student Advocacy Efforts

- 40 years old campus environmental movement
Students for Environmental ConcernS (SECS)
- Must push your university to move out of its comfort zone
- Success: Establishment of Office of Sustainability
- Setback: Wind Turbine for UIUC
- Techniques: Protests, Political Support, Petitioning, Use Campus and Local Media, Letter-Writing, Meetings w/ Administrators and Community Organizations.
- Keep a working relationship with your administration, but realize your goals may be divergent – Transparency is key.



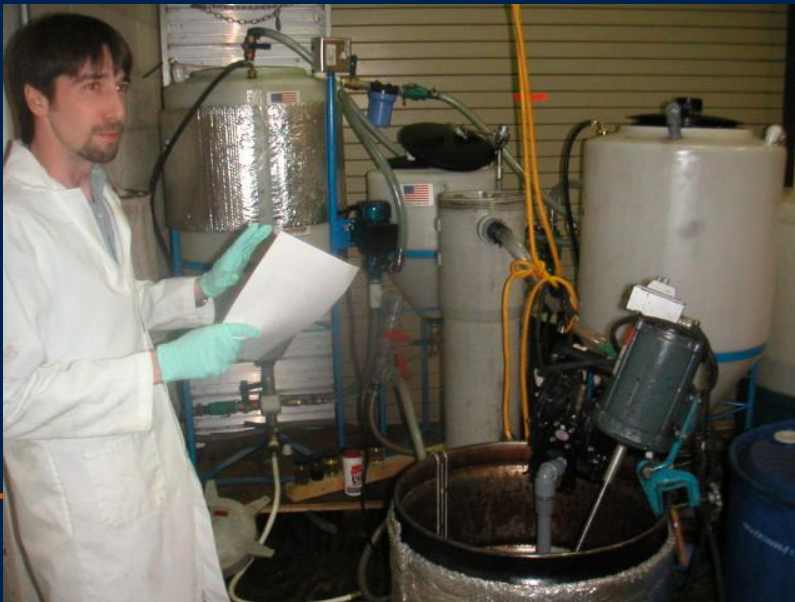
Competitions

- Must Engage and Educate Students
- Solar Decathlon
- E-Waste Competition
- MechSE Senior Design Projects
- Business Plan / Idea Competitions (Green Light Planet, CU Green Biz)
- Residence Hall Energy Competition



Volunteering

- UIUC Biodiesel Initiative
- EWB International Water Projects
- EWB Local Projects (Stove Emissions Sensing, Solar Cooker, Solar Fridge)
- Campus Cleanups, Recycling drives, Adopt a Pathway
- Prairie Restoration (Red Bison)
- VIP Green Projects and Roots and Shoots



Events and Outreach

- Essential for building long term support
- Organize Events and Lecture Series
- Earth Week / Live Green Week
- Alternative Energy Symposium
- Engineering Open House
- Environmental Horizons
- Outreach at Local Schools
- EWB Great Lakes Regional Workshop



In the Classroom

- Carbon Registry Class
- Green Roof Class Monitoring
- Mapping Sustainability
- School of Earth Systems,
Society and the Environment
- Environmental Fellows
program
- Get New Classes Offered
- Must Incorporate Sustainability
in Core Curriculum –
Curriculum Committees



In collaboration with the Environmental Change Institute
at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Conclusions

- U of I is making progress
- Distinctive features: Lots of Organizations, Green Fees
- Education, Advocacy and Projects – Do them All!
- New Office of Sustainability – May become hub for all these efforts – High expectations

Questions?

