

# SIERRA



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## SIERRA MAGAZINE'S 2010 "COOLEST SCHOOLS" QUESTIONNAIRE



2007



2008



2009

- EFFICIENCY
- ENERGY SUPPLY
- FOOD
- ACADEMICS
- PURCHASING
- TRANSPORTATION
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION
- FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS
- OTHER INITIATIVES

# SIERRA

*Sierra*, the award-winning magazine of the Sierra Club, is compiling information for our fourth annual “Coolest Schools” issue, which will rate American colleges and universities according to their environmental practices, green initiatives, and caliber of sustainability-oriented education.

Schools that score highly in these realms may be contacted for further discussion and will receive recognition in the magazine’s September/October issue. Please fill out this interactive PDF as thoroughly as possible, save it with your responses as “2010\_coolschools\_your school’s name” and email it to [cool.schools@sierraclub.org](mailto:cool.schools@sierraclub.org) no later than **March 20, 2010**.

Note that this questionnaire will become a public document and that we will not be altering your responses before publishing them online. Please answer as thoroughly as possible. Questions left blank will receive no credit, and if a question requests a percentage, you must provide a percentage. The scoring key will be available online once the issue is published.

As the publication of the nation’s oldest and largest environmental nonprofit, *Sierra* has a readership of more than 1 million engaged and educated citizens.

Many thanks for your participation.

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**School name:**

**Contact name and title:**

**Contact phone:**

**Contact email:**

**School’s city and state:**

**Number of students:**

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**HONOR PLEDGE:** By completing and submitting this questionnaire, you are certifying that all statements in this document are true to the best of your knowledge.

**INITIAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Category 1: Energy Supply

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1. Please break down the energy types that your campus uses for electricity by percentage. If the school purchases its electricity from a utility company, this information should be available from that company.

<u>1.4</u> % Coal	<u>3.4</u> % Wind	<u>      </u> % Biomass
<u>.6</u> % Natural Gas	<u>      </u> % Solar	<u>      </u> % Geothermal
<u>5.7</u> % Nuclear	<u>88.8</u> % Hydro	<u>0.1</u> % Other <u>MISC</u>

Percentages are based on the latest fuel mix statistic from our utility company. However, the University participated in our utility company's renewable energy program to purchase REC equivalents to offset the coal/natural gas.

2. What type(s) of energy does your campus use for heating buildings (e.g., natural gas, biomass, coal)?

<u>      </u> % Coal	<u>      </u> % Biomass
<u>98</u> % Natural Gas	<u>      </u> % Geothermal
<u>1</u> % Electricity	<u>1</u> % Fuel Oil

If cogeneration, please explain.

The University of Washington has a small cogeneration facility, which is an extraction/exhaust turbine generator which produced 5% of the campus electricity in 2009.

## Category 2: Efficiency

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1. What percentage of campus buildings completed within the past three years have a LEED certification of at least silver?

100 %

Note whether the certification is higher than silver.

3 buildings are rated LEED Gold

2. What percentage of water used for campus landscaping is from recovered, reclaimed, or untreated sources?

0 %

3. What percentage of campus lighting fixtures are energy-efficient (e.g., compact fluorescent, LED, or equipped with motion sensors, automatic daylight shutoff, or other energy-saving features)?

95 %

A student-led CFL Exchange Project changed incandescent light bulbs on the Seattle campus with energy savings CFL bulbs. The initiative included an initial pilot program with Greek system houses and residence halls.

4. What percentage of campus appliances are Energy Star-rated?

100 % (Please see below description regarding appliances)

All of UW Copy Center copiers are Energy Star rated:

- 15 copy center machines
- 41 computer lab and library printers
- 38 library copiers
- 266 Departmental Copier Program Multifunctional Machines

In addition, the following appliances have been identified Energy Star rated:

- Washing machines that the students use in the res halls are Energy Star. Approx 125 washers.
- Some of our apartment fridges are Energy Star./campus microwaves are required to be energy star and approved by EH&S
- Food Service equipment has generated utility credits over the years
- Air conditioners (portable) are EnergyStar

5. Does the institution have underway a program of energy-efficiency retrofitting projects, such as improving building insulation or sealing heating and cooling ducts?

The University has an ongoing energy efficiency retrofit program. Energy audits of existing facilities are systematically performed to identify improvement project opportunities. Cost effective measures are then funded and installed, both with an energy service contractor and with in-house maintenance and operations staff. New facilities, or major remodels are installed with more aggressive energy targets.

## Category 3: Food

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1. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at cafeterias is grown or raised within 100 miles of the campus?

Six percent within 100 miles (twenty-five percent within 280 miles).

The University of Washington is located on Puget Sound; therefore, we are geographically challenged. The majority of the growing areas we can draw from are on the other side of the Cascade Mountains. Most of our locally grown/raised purchases (over 25 percent) are from areas within 280 miles east of the University, including the Yakima and Columbia valleys.

We use only cage-free eggs, which we purchase from Wilcox Farms, located 85 miles southeast of Seattle. Our dairy products are sourced from Darigold Farms. Darigold is a co-op of family-owned dairy farms from across the state, located from a few miles outside Seattle to over 150 miles away.

Our main produce supplier is Charlie's Produce, a local company that provides regional fruits and vegetables when in season. Family-owned farms that Charlie's draws upon for fruit and produce are located from 25 to 262 miles outside Seattle.

The majority of our potato products are sourced through Lamb Weston. The potatoes are grown on farms in Washington State's Columbia Valley region, 150 to 250 miles outside Seattle.

The majority of our baked goods come from local bakeries that have committed to using wheat sourced from a co-op of family farms that use sustainable farming methods. The farms, located in Eastern Washington, are 180 to 280 miles from Seattle.

2. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at campus cafeterias is USDA-certified organic?

Six percent. We offer our customers a wide array of certified organic products: coffee, teas, frozen food lines, tofu, soy milk, produce and breads.

3. Do campus cafeterias source seafood that is deemed sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program, or a similar program?

We use the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch recommendations, working with our primary food distributor to source seafood from the *Best Choices* category and monitor the sustainability status of our campus seafood program.

4. What percentage of entrees served in campus dining locations include meat? If meat is produced sustainably (for example, free-range or grass-fed), explain.

80 %

Meat, which includes poultry, pork and beef is offered in 80 percent of our entrées. Of our overall beef purchases, 18 percent is procured from grass-fed beef.

5. Are nutritionally complete vegetarian and/or vegan options available at every meal?

Vegan and vegetarian entrées are provided at every meal, with accompaniments, to offer a complete nutritional profile to our customers.

6. Is bottled water sold or distributed on campus?

Bottled water is available for purchase in all of our campus convenience stores. We also stock a wide assortment of sustainable, refillable containers and give customers full access to drinking water in all of our food service operations, as well as complimentary water cups. We are also offering bottled water in compostable water bottles.

We looked at the number of water fountains, and while having explored allowing bottled water sales, we learned that we wouldn't be providing ample water options without bottled water availability.

7. Does your school maintain a campus farm or garden? Does it use organic methods? Please describe the garden and methods used.

Our on-campus herb garden, located on the patio of McMahon Hall (a UW residence hall), provides fresh, seasonal herbs for our dining operations. We do not use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers.

- There is a p-patch on campus, set aside for residence hall students. The p-patch was started by Students Expressing Environmental Dedication (SEED), a residence hall environmental group. There are currently ten garden plots. A committed student or group of students tends each plot, making individual decisions about what to plant and what to do with the food. Also on site is a toolbox with tools, books, seeds and other resources for student gardeners, as well as a three-bin yard waste composting system, which gives students the opportunity to learn about compost and practice organic methods of maintaining healthy soil. The p-patch gives students an opportunity to have some ownership over what they eat and, in the process, learn how to reduce the carbon footprint of their diet, discover new ways of relating to the earth, and be an active member of an interdependent community.
- The UW also has an 'urban farm.' The UW Farm was started in 2004 by a group of UW students and employees, with the goal of educating the campus community about the global impacts of our food choices. The farm provides a model for reducing those impacts. It has been incorporated into the curriculum of introductory ecology classes and serves as a tool to connect the UW community with where and how food is grown. The farm includes a permaculture garden with mostly perennial food-bearing plants, and a demonstration farm with a wide diversity of organically grown vegetables. The UW Farm focuses on the production of food in urban spaces. Pesticides/herbicides are not used, and the gardeners practice sustainable agriculture in the form of cover cropping, crop rotation and compost production. The farm is not yet certified organic, but the gardeners hope it will become certified sometime in the future.
- Several UW employees recently started their own edible demonstration garden on the patio outside the UW Tower, a campus office building. The gardeners use organic methods, and no pesticides. Only organic compost is used, and seeds are purchased primarily from local, organic sources. The plants selected for the garden have low-water needs, and the gardeners aim to use permaculture perennials as much as possible. A permacultural polyculture method is used to keep bugs at a minimum, and from time to time gardeners bring in ladybugs or pick bugs off by hand. The purpose of the garden is primarily demonstration—not production—but the gardeners consider everything grown in the garden to be completely safe and edible. So far, the group has planted rosemary, lavender, chives, thyme, edible daylilies, lingonberries, strawberries, huckleberries, salal berries, wintergreen, kale, broccoli, collards, Brussels sprouts, beets, carrots, flax and honeyberries.

## Category 4: Academics

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1. Does your school offer any environmental- and/or sustainability-related majors, such as environmental studies, ecology, or sustainable agriculture? If so, please list them all.

Yes. Our undergraduate programs are as follows:

**Aquatic Sciences:** The School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in aquatic and fishery science.

**Architecture:** The Department of Architecture offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Arts in architectural studies.

**Atmospheric Sciences:** The Department of Atmospheric Sciences offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science with a major in atmospheric sciences.

**Bioresource Science and Engineering:** The School of Forest Resources offers a program in partnership with the Department of Chemical Engineering that leads to a Bachelor of Science with a major in bioresource science and engineering.

**Civil and Environmental Engineering:** The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

**Community, Environment and Planning:** The Department of Urban Design and Planning offers an interdisciplinary program that offers a Bachelor of Arts with a major in community, environment, and planning.

**Earth and Space Science:** The Department of Earth and Space Science offers programs that lead to a Bachelor of Science with a major in earth and space science and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in earth and space science.

**Ecology, Evolution and Conservation:** The Department of Biology offers an option within its Bachelor of Science with a major in biology that focuses ecological and evolutionary processes and environmental policy.

**Environmental Science and Resource Management:** The School of Forest Resources offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science with a major in environmental science and resource management.

**Environmental Science:** The University of Washington at Bothell offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in environmental science.

**Environmental Science:** The University of Washington at Tacoma offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in environmental science.

**Environmental Studies:** The University of Washington at Tacoma offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies.

**Landscape Architecture:** The Department of Architecture offers a program that leads to the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.

**Mechanical Engineering:** The Department of Mechanical Engineering offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

**Oceanography:** The School of Oceanography offers programs that lead to a Bachelor of Arts with a major in oceanography and a Bachelor of Science with a major in oceanography.

Program on the Environment: An interdisciplinary program that offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in environmental studies.

Our graduate and professional programs are as follows:

Aquatic Sciences: The School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences offers programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph. D. in aquatic and fishery science.

Architecture: The Department of Architecture offers a program that leads to a Master of Architecture.

Atmospheric Sciences: The Department of Atmospheric Sciences offers programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences.

Built Environment: The College of Built Environments offers an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in the built environment.

Civil and Environmental Engineering: The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Climate Change: Educational Outreach offers an on-line Certificate Program in Decision-Making for Climate Change that is offered in collaboration with Northwestern University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of California at Irvine.

Earth and Space Science: The Department of Earth and Space Science offers programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph. D. in earth and space science.

Environmental Management: The University offers an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in environmental management.

Forest Resources: The School of Forest Resources offers programs that lead to Master of Environmental Horticulture, Master of Forest Resources in Sustainable Forest Management, as well as Master of Science and Ph.D. in Forest Resources. In addition, the School offers concurrent and cooperative degrees (Master of Science/Master of Public Affairs and Peace Corps International Masters) with other academic units.

Landscape Architecture: The Department of Architecture offers a program that leads to the Master of Landscape Architecture.

Marine Affairs: The School of Marine Affairs offers a program that leads to a Master of Marine Affairs.

Mechanical Engineering: The Department of Mechanical Engineering offer programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph. D. in Mechanical Engineering.

Oceanography: The School of Oceanography offers programs that lead to a Master of Science and Ph. D. in oceanography.

Program on Climate Change: An interdisciplinary program in climate science that offers a graduate certificate in climate science.

Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management: The University offers interdisciplinary Master of Science and Ph. D. programs in quantitative ecology and resource management.

Urban Design and Planning: The Department of Urban Design and Planning offer programs a Master of Urban Planning and a Ph.D. in urban design and planning.

2. Does your school offer classes about clean technologies, including topics such as energy efficiency and solar-wind energy engineering? If so, please list them all.

- The Business School, the College of the Environment and the College of Engineering co-sponsor the Environmental Innovation Challenge, an annual student competition for interdisciplinary student teams to define a clean-tech problem, design and develop the solution, and produce both a prototype and a business summary that demonstrates the market opportunity. A seminar course on clean-tech accompanies the competition. ('Environmental Innovation Practicum') ENTRE 490/579 ENGR 498 and ENVIR 450
- Many courses are offered on specific clean tech issues across different disciplines. (e.g., engineering, law, architecture) For example, in the area of clean energy technologies and renewable energy, the following courses are available:
  - DESIGN AND ENERGY ARCH 531
  - ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY BIS 458
  - ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION: ENERGY & MATERIALS BALANCE CEE 250
  - ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CHEM E 341/ ENVIR 341/ ME 341
  - RENEWABLE ENERGY CHEM E 442/ ENVIR 442 / ME 442
  - ENERGY SYSTEMS E E 351
  - NATURAL RESOURCES-ENERGY LAW A 528
  - SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DESIGN M E 426
  - ADVANCED AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CONVERSION M E 430
  - ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR M E 523
  - CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY POLICY PB AF 593
  - ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT II PHYS 342
  - PRODUCTS AND ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES PSE 104
  - ENERGY POLITICS IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE SIS 420
  - ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT TESC 239

3. Does your school provide students with a list of environmental and/or sustainability classes to make such courses easy to identify? Please provide a link, if available.

Because of the large number of relevant courses offered over the course of an academic year (>400), the identification of relevant courses and seminars is provided to students in multiple ways:

1. A university-wide catalog of environment-related majors, their admission requirements, and their descriptions, with links to the courses offered:  
<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/majors/enviro.php>
2. A Freshman Seminar on "Exploring Environmentally-Related Majors" to introduce all of the environmentally-related majors available at the University of Washington. Freshmen explore and learn about academic majors, courses and experiential learning opportunities.:  
<http://depts.washington.edu/fyp/programs/seminars/>
3. The UW Office of Stewardship and Sustainability provides a set of links to environment/sustainability-related courses: <http://f2.washington.edu/oess/stories/research/courses>
4. The UW has introduced a new search function for the course catalog to help students find courses in their area of interest. (beta version found at <http://f2.washington.edu/oess/stories/research/courses>)
5. The College of the Environment maintains a calendar of environmental and sustainability-related events both on campus as well as in the community that is sent out weekly to more than 1000 individuals. These events include weekly seminar courses, public lectures, hands-on learning opportunities, etc. <http://myuw.washington.edu/cal/showMain.rdo?calendar=coenv>

4. Please provide names of standout professors who work on environmental and/or sustainability issues and list their accomplishments, including awards, honors, and publications.

The hundreds of environmental faculty at the University of Washington are some of the most respected and productive investigators in their fields. Their work ranges from fundamental process studies to translational research leading to real-world solutions. Specific honors for environment/sustainability faculty include:

- Eight members of the National Academy of Sciences
- One member of the National Academy of Engineering
- Six Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences
- Twelve Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 2008 MacArthur Foundation Fellow (David Montgomery)
- 2006 Volvo Environmental Prize (Ray Hilborn)
- 2005 and 2009 Heinz Foundation Award for the Environment (Jerry Franklin and Dee Boersma, respectively)

5. Do you have environment- and/or sustainability-related centers, programs, or research institutions associated with your school? If so, please provide their names and a description.

Yes. At the University of Washington the research activities in natural resources, the environment, and sustainability are extensive, broad in scope, and of very high quality. UW has become one of the of the largest and most important environmental research universities in the country.

Relevant UW Centers, Programs and Institutions include (but are not limited to):

- Air Pollution Training Center – Providing training opportunities for air pollution professionals.
- Alaska Salmon Program – Research and teaching on Alaska salmon since the mid-1940s.
- Center for American Politics and Public Policy – Collaborative research on American politics and public policy, including environmental management and natural hazards policy.
- Center for Conservation Biology – Developing tools to monitor human and other environmental impacts on threatened and endangered species throughout the world.
- Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health – Identifying ways that genetic and environmental factors combine to affect susceptibility to diseases and disorders.
- Center for Environmental Visualization – seeing your world in a new way
- Center for Quantitative Science in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife – Providing high quality instruction in mathematical and applied statistical methods in the biological sciences, renewable resources management, and environmental studies.
- Center for Science in the Earth System – Integrated research on the impacts of climate on the U.S. Pacific Northwest and the application of climate information in regional decision-making processes.
  - Climate Impacts Group – Studying the impacts of natural climate variability and global climate change (“global warming”) on the Pacific Northwest.
  - Office of the Washington State Climatologist – Collecting, disseminating, and interpreting climate data for the state of Washington.
- The Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest – Discovering, teaching and demonstrating the concepts of sustainable forestry.
- Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology – Supporting education, research and scholarly exchange in population studies.
- Center for Urban Horticulture – Applying horticulture to natural and human-altered landscapes to sustain natural resources and the human spirit.
- Columbia Basin Research Group – Investigating issues surrounding salmon biology in the Columbia and Snake River basins.
- Environmental Innovation Challenge – Annual student competition for interdisciplinary student teams to define a clean-tech problem, design and develop the solution, and produce both a prototype and a business summary that demonstrates the market opportunity.

- Fire and Mountain Ecology Laboratory – Investigating climatic change, fire, and forest ecology in mountain ecosystems of western North America.
- Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory – Studying real fluids in the laboratory as scale models of the globally circulating ocean and atmosphere.
- Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean – A cooperative institute between NOAA and the UW that complements the research at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in climate variability, environmental chemistry, estuarine processes and inter-annual variability of fisheries recruitment.
- Marine Molecular Biotechnology Laboratory – Using molecular/genetic techniques to address ecological questions in freshwater and marine ecosystems.
- Marine Population Assessment and Management Group – Applying a multi-disciplinary approach to develop quantitative methods for use in marine resource management.
- NEPTUNE (Regional Scale Nodes portion of the U.S. Ocean Observatories Initiative) – A regional ocean observatory in the northeast Pacific Ocean that will enable regional-scale, long-term, real-time observations and experiments with the ocean, seafloor, and sub-seafloor.
- Northwest Center for Particulate Matter and Health – Studying the effects of particulate air pollution on human health.
- Northwest Environmental Forum – A collaborative meeting and work space to bring together decision makers and stakeholders to apply scientific and policy information to address critical environmental and natural resource management issues.
- Olympic Natural Resources Center – Conducting research and education on natural resource management practices which integrate ecological and economic values.
- Polar Science Center – Observing and modeling the physical processes that control the polar environment.
- Precision Forestry Cooperative – Pioneering research in forest production, management, and manufacturing at a new scale of resolution and accuracy with the goal of producing economic and environmental benefits.
- Program on Climate Change – Understanding physical climate variability and how humans influence climate, climate change, and climate impacts.
- Program on the Environment – Fostering and promoting interdisciplinary environmental education at the University of Washington
- Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program – Collecting plant material from wild populations and growing them in the greenhouse for eventual reintroduction into native sites.
- Restoration Ecology Network – A regional center to integrate student, faculty and community interests in ecological restoration and conservation.
- Rural Technology Initiative – Empowering the existing infrastructure to use better technology in rural areas for managing forests for increased product and environmental values in support of local communities.
- Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit – Meeting the growing needs for trained personnel to conduct and provide education in the field of fish and wildlife resource management.
- Washington Sea Grant Program – Serving communities, industries and the people of Washington State, the Pacific Northwest and the nation through research, education and outreach in the marine environment.
- Wind River Canopy Crane Research Facility – Providing access for scientists to gather samples, install instruments and conduct experiments in the canopies of trees as tall as 220 feet.

6. Is an environment-themed class a core curriculum requirement? If yes, please provide the name(s) of the course(s).

No. The UW, however, does require at least 10 general education credits from courses that focus on the disciplined, scientific study of the natural world. Departments that offer such courses include astronomy, atmospheric sciences, biology, chemistry, fisheries, forest resources, earth and space sciences, mathematics, and oceanography.

7. What percentage of academic departments offer environment- or sustainability-related classes?

72% of all COLLEGES offer environment- or sustainability-related classes (doing this count by department is prohibitively time-consuming)

## Category 5: Purchasing

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1. Does your school have a sustainable-purchasing policy? If yes, briefly explain.

Yes, the Procurement Services webpage: <https://www.washington.edu/admin/purchstores/purchgreen/>

This includes environmental purchasing guidelines and procedures for campus customers and procurement staff. The guidelines include:

- Statement regarding the University's commitment to sustainable purchasing practices
- Recommended products that reduce waste, resources, save energy and reduce greenhouse gases
- Information about diverse and local suppliers
- Information about contract supplier's environmental policies and practices
- Glossary of terms and other educational material
- Language for solicitations, including legal requirements and product standards.
- Supplier Code of Conduct

Effective 12/31/2009 - the University mandated the use of 100% PCR bond copier and printer paper.

UW Housing & Food Services working policy involves:

- Finding alternatives to all landfill waste packaging.
- Promoting sustainable purchasing practices by incorporating product stewardship requirements into vendor contracts and agreements.
- Striving for completely compostable service ware in all our food service operations.
- Providing to distributors and manufacturers the specifications and forecasted usage of disposable service ware to create a demand for compostable products in our region.
- Communicating our vision of a zero waste environment to all of our vendors.
- Striving for zero waste convenience stores on campus by working with food and beverage producers and the food packaging industry to bring about changes in product stewardship.
- Working toward providing a market for better performance characteristics from compostable products that are acceptable at commercial composting facilities.

2. What percentage of paper used on campus is made from at least 30% postconsumer recycled content?

80 %

Does your school purchase paper that is Forest Stewardship Council-certified?

Yes. The University's on-site printing operation is Forest Stewardship Council certified.

3. Does your school have a policy to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-certified (or similar) electronics? If yes, please describe.

Yes, contracts include this requirement and our purchasing guidelines include this requirement. Faculty and Staff are advised to purchase energy efficient products.

4. Do you have packaging agreements with suppliers that minimize waste? If yes, please describe.

Yes, by consolidating orders, we are able to reduce the overall packing used as well as the overall cost of goods. Some of our suppliers offer discounts for consolidating orders. We are working with our contract

suppliers to reduce their packaging and Office Depot has implemented tote delivery program that eliminates boxes and air bubble for the majority of deliveries.

UW's Housing & Food Services has worked with food vendors to assist them in moving toward the use of sustainable packaging. These vendors include Uwajimaya, an Asian specialty supermarket, which provides us with grab-and-go sushi; NoshAway, our supplier of kosher deli sandwiches; and Mostly Muffins, our bakery vendor, which provides us with cookies and donut holes that are packaged in renewable resource and compostable packaging. UW's Seattle campus catering facility, Bay Laurel, provides an entire line of to-go sandwiches and salads that are packaged in compostable wrapping and containers.

5. Does your school specify in its purchasing contracts that products with energy-saving features be installed or delivered with these features enabled?

Yes. In addition, copier suppliers are required to set the default on copiers to duplex.

## Category 6: Transportation

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1. Does your school provide a free shuttle service around campus and town? If yes, briefly explain.

UW operates four free shuttle services with a combined ridership of 500,000 passengers/year.

- Dial-a-Ride provides transportation to students, faculty, staff, and UW-sponsored conference attendees with disabilities that limit mobility between designated locations at UW and in the U District.
- Health Sciences Express provides UW faculty, staff, students, medical center patients and their families with transportation between UW and affiliated medical centers.
- The South Lake Union Shuttle transports School of Medicine staff, students, and patients between UW medical and research facilities.
- Beginning at 8pm, NightRide provides shuttles between six on-campus pick-up sites and any passenger-requested location inside of a two-zone area. Zones are within 1-mile of the UW campus.

2. What has your school done to promote bicycling as a transportation method?

The UW provides nearly 6,000 bicycle parking spaces at racks throughout campus. Several bicycle enclosures and a number of dormitory bike rooms provide secure parking, and additional secure enclosures (with capacity for over 100 bicycles) are planned for construction in 2010/11; secure parking is also available in 600+ bicycle lockers. Holders of our multi-modal transportation pass - U-PASS - enjoy discounts at bicycle-related companies, and inexpensive repairs are available to the UW community at the UW bike shop. In concert with our annual Bike to Work Month and Ride in the Rain events, abandoned bicycles are collected and sold back to the UW community. Ride in the Rain attracts over 1,100 participants in competing for most commute trips, miles, and rides in the rain.

3. Does your school encourage its students and employees to use public transit, carpool, or use some other form of alternative transportation? If yes, what are the incentives?

The UW strongly encourages non-automotive options through our multi-modal transportation product, U-PASS, which provides members with unlimited rides on King County Metro, Community Transit, Sound Transit, Sounder Commuter Rail, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, Pierce Transit, and Link Light Rail. U-PASS members also receive discounts on carpool parking, free rides on the NightRide Shuttle, and discounts on vanpool fares (primary and secondary vanpool drivers also receive free U-PASSes) and Zipcar memberships. Faculty and staff U-PASS members can purchase a limited number of discounted drive alone parking day permits for days when they need to drive, and can also take advantage of the Emergency Ride Home Program, which covers 90% of the cost of an emergency taxi. The UW investment in U-PASS transit service is expected to exceed \$20M in the coming year.

4. Approximately what percentage of students drive to school in a car?

12-15%

Drive alone trips represent just 12% of all student commute trips to campus, and carpooling represents an additional 3% of student commute trips (12% + 3% = 15%). The vast majority of students take transit (39%), walk (36%), or ride a bicycle (9%) to get to campus.

5. Approximately what percentage of faculty and staff drive to work in a car?

44-55%

Drive alone trips represent 34% of all staff commute trips, and carpooling represents an additional 10% of staff trips (34% + 10% = 44%). The vast majority of staff trips (45%) are by transit. Drive alone trips represent 47% of all faculty commute trips, and carpooling represents an additional 8% of faculty trips (47% + 8% = 55%). Transit (23%), biking (14%), and walking (7%) round out the faculty mode split.

## Category 7: Waste

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1. What is your campus's current waste-diversion rate (i.e., percentage of campus waste being diverted from landfills)?

54%

2. Does your campus have recycling receptacles wherever there are trash cans?

Yes, the University of Washington has recycling receptacles wherever there are trash cans. In building hallways, classrooms, conference rooms, mail/copy rooms, and break rooms/kitchens, recycling receptacles are placed next to or near waste cans. Each staff workstation on campus has a desk-side recycling bin. There are more than 400 outdoor combined litter/recycling receptacles, which have a lower portion for litter and an upper chamber for recycling.

3. Are recycling bins readily available at large events such as football games?

Yes, recycling bins are readily available at large events. Waste and recycling carts are placed throughout the parking lots and stadium concourse for football games. Bags for collection of recyclable materials are distributed to tailgaters that are not close to a set of waste and recycling carts. All stadium concessionaires participate in the pre-consumer food waste composting program. During cleanup of the stadium and parking lots following the game, the cleaning crew sorts recyclables from the garbage. More than 29% of the waste generated during the 2009 football season was diverted from the landfill. Recycling containers are placed next to waste containers at other indoor and outdoor sporting events, such as basketball and baseball games. Recycling and waste containers are also provided for other Seattle campus special events, which range from 20 to 5,000 attendees. The events are varied and include academic open houses, departmental celebrations, graduation ceremonies, and external events, such as training sessions, cultural celebrations, and weddings.

4. Does your school compost? If yes, are compost receptacles available at all on-campus dining locations?

Yes, the University of Washington composts and there are compost receptacles available at all on-campus dining locations, including all University-run coffee shops. All dining facilities and coffee shops collect pre-consumer food waste and post-consumer food waste and compostable serviceware items. As of January 2009, the dining facilities had a complete line of compostable to-go serviceware. There is also a pilot compost program within several residence halls. Many staff on campus participate in the voluntary, self-serve composting program. The University of Washington Medical Center composts pre-consumer food waste from its kitchens.

The composting program at the UW is one of the highest rated in the Northwest region. Compostable food, beverage and service ware waste is collected at all 36 of our food service concepts. We have a complete line of compostable service ware and recently introduced compostable lids for the Coca-Cola® ecotainer™ cup, the first compostable, paper-based soft drink cup produced from renewable resources. Last year, Housing & Food Services sent over 621 tons of food waste and compostable service ware to Cedar Grove, our local composting facility, located 35 miles north of the University of Washington campus.

5. Has your school committed to any type of waste reduction goals, such as “zero waste?” If yes, briefly explain.

In 2007, the City of Seattle approved a [resolution](#) establishing the goal of recycling 60 percent of the waste produced within the city by 2012 and recycling 70 percent of the waste by 2025. The city’s goal has been adopted by the University, which currently has a 54 percent diversion rate. To meet or exceed the 60 percent recycle rate, the University’s Recycling & Solid Waste program is expanding existing programs and creating innovative new ones. Recycling & Solid Waste is also focusing on promoting personal environmental responsibility and action, because participation in and commitment to responsible waste management by each person on campus is essential for the University to reach its recycling and sustainability goals.

We are committed to zero waste. Our goal in Housing & Food Services can be summed up in one statement: “Once the customer has finished dining, after sorting what remains as re-usable to be washed or items to be recycled or composted, there is, in effect, ‘zero waste’ left over—in other words, nothing destined for the landfill.”

6. Does your campus administer a donation program for clothing and other used goods when students are moving out of student housing? If so, are bins located in every dormitory?

The *Scram: Student Moveout* program started in 2004 with the goal of diverting reusable goods, such as food, clothing, and household goods, to partner charitable organizations and providing recycling options for other unwanted materials from the approximately 5,000 students who move out of the residence halls at the end of the academic year. Donation stations are set up at each residence hall for approximately 10 days at the end of spring quarter. During *Scram 2009*, the following materials were collected and donated to local charitable organizations: 4.7 tons of clothing; 1.2 tons of household goods; .6 tons of food; .3 tons of books; .2 tons of toiletries and cleaning products; and .2 tons of school supplies. Since *Scram* began in 2004, more than 57 tons of material have been donated to local charitable organizations.

## Category 8: Administration

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1. Is environmental sustainability part of your institution's mission statement, guiding principles, or similar document? If so, please provide the text or link.

Yes. In 2004 the UW established a Policy Statement that is referenced on the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee website: <http://esac.washington.edu>

The 2009 University of Washington's Annual Report includes the importance of environmental sustainability as noted on Page 8 of the report: [[http://f2.washington.edu/fm/uw-annual-reports/sites/default/files/file/2009\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://f2.washington.edu/fm/uw-annual-reports/sites/default/files/file/2009_Annual_Report.pdf)]

2. Does your school employ at least one person dedicated to overseeing campus environmental initiatives, such as a sustainability coordinator, or have a sustainability task force or committee? Is the coordinator position a part-time or full-time position?

Yes, the Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability office is staffed by 1.5 FTE and supported part-time by a Project Manager and Web Manager. The office reports to the Associate Vice President of Finance & Facilities Administration. The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) is a 24 member committee represented by faculty, students and staff.

3. Has your school made an official commitment to reducing its impact on climate change by setting goals of emission reductions by a certain date? If yes, does your school have a plan for achieving these reductions? If so, briefly explain the plan.

In January 2009, under the auspices of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee, a Climate Action Planning Oversight Team formed to coordinate the drafting of a Climate Action Plan. Teams of faculty, students, administrative leaders and staff across all three campuses in Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma worked together to develop the UW plan, which was submitted to ACUPCC on September 12, 2009. The Plan describes preliminary strategies to be explored by the UW, including our intent to work toward becoming climate-neutral. The UW Climate Action Plan sets out broad strategies--i.e. a "Plan to Plan."

The UW Climate Action Plan can be found online:  
<http://f2.washington.edu/oess/uw-climate-action-plan>

4. Has your school conducted a complete greenhouse-gas-emissions audit of its campus?

Yes, in 2007, the UW completed a "2005 Green-house-gas Inventory". The UW is conducting annual and quarterly reporting for GHG emissions.

5. Has your school achieved a reduction in total annual carbon emissions? If yes, please explain and provide the benchmark year and percentage.

We have achieved a 3.8% reduction in annual GHG emissions. Our benchmark is 198,285 MgCO<sub>2</sub>e for fiscal year 2008. In fiscal year 2009, the number decreased to 190,766 MgCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Category 9: Financial Investments

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1. Is all information about your endowment fund publicly available? Briefly explain.

Endowment holdings are available to faculty, staff, students and the general public upon request. The Investment Office also meets with parties interested in the investment program to provide additional context and research support. According to Washington State House Bill 1640, which passed on March 31, 2009, "The University must disclose the names and commitment amounts of private funds in which it is invested. In addition, the University must disclose the aggregate quarterly performance results for its portfolio of investments in such funds."

2. Does your institution have an investment-responsibility committee that considers and acts on environmental issues?

While the University does not have a formal committee on investment responsibility, there is a process for addressing issues brought forward by the campus and community.

3. Does your school make environmentally responsible investments? If so, briefly explain what they are and whether they're made on an ongoing basis.

The University is currently invested in renewable energy funds and energy-conscious real estate funds. The University of Washington's investment policies follow a set of ethical considerations, which state that due consideration shall be given to the degree of corporate responsibility exercised by the companies in which investments are made

## Category 10: Other Initiatives

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1. Have any of your school's students effected positive environmental change on a campus, state, or national level? If so, please describe. (To nominate a specific student for greater attention in our coverage, please email [cool.schools@sierraclub.org](mailto:cool.schools@sierraclub.org) with his or her name, accomplishments, and contact information.)

Yes. Students at the UW are proposing a Campus Sustainability Fund ([www.uwcsf.org](http://www.uwcsf.org)) a major student-led initiative that would create a fund specifically for campus sustainability projects.

2. Have students participated in environmental challenges or events such as the Solar Decathlon, environmental design contests, or environmental debates? If so, which events and how did they do?

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a UW collaboration of Foster Business school, the College of Engineering and the College of the Environment offers an "Environmental Innovation Challenge", focused on catalyzing students to think about solving real-world environmental challenges such as finding ways to develop clean energy and sustaining non-renewable resources such as water.

UW students participate in the "One Thing" challenge, a competition between students at University of Washington and Washington State University encouraging positive behavior change that embraces sustainable practices. Previous efforts have included students creating a video that was used to promote the challenge, raise campus awareness and get students excited about sustainability.

3. Has your school set aside part of its campus as natural habitat, stipulated limited campus development, or enacted programs preserving its land? If so, please explain.

Pack Forest - College of the Environment:

The Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest is used for graduate and undergraduate academic programs, research, conferences, continuing education and public outreach. Terrain ranges from flat to steep (up to 100% slopes). Elevations range from 600 to 2000 feet. Soils range from glacial outwash to andesitic and lacustrine. Forest cover is predominantly Douglas-fir, with some red alder, hemlock and cedar; there are some meadow environments, streams (intermittent to river), wetlands, and ponds. Substantial forest stand diversity, ranging from new plantations to old-growth Douglas firs exists. The main forest is generally secure and reasonably vandal-free, making research investments relatively easy.

4. Does your school adhere to an indoor air-quality policy (e.g., the mandated use of nontoxic cleaning supplies)? If yes, describe the policy.

The University's Custodial Service Departments on all campuses have established policies and procedures regarding the use of environmentally responsible cleaning products. In recognition of these achievements the University was awarded the Green Cleaning Award for Schools and Universities in 2007: <http://www.washington.edu/facilities/custodial/files/documents/GreenPolicy.pdf>

5. Does your school offer outdoor- or nature-based programs, classes, or extracurricular activities to students and/or faculty? If yes, please list and describe.

Yes, several of the courses offered by the College of the Environment allow students and faculty to visit natural habitat environments for course study and research opportunities.

The UW Farm is a campus center for the practice and exploration of urban agriculture and sustainability. The farm serves as an educational resource integrating students, staff and faculty to pursue productive urban landscapes. This is a UW collaboration that uses the campus urban space for sustainable ecological relationships. More information can be found at: <http://students.washington.edu/uwfarm/>

6. What specific actions has your school taken to improve its environmental sustainability since spring 2009? Please list all improvements.

**Building audits:**

There is a program underway to audit existing campus buildings for energy and water conservation opportunities. Opportunities that have been identified and are moving forward are as follows: The provision and replacement of variable frequency drive motors for air handling units and pumps, cleaning air handling heating and cooling coils to improve efficiencies, providing electrical sub-meters to analyze and maintain mechanical systems, retrofitting high pressure sodium street and pathway lights to LED, re-commissioning ventilation control systems and incorporating demand control ventilation with CO2 sensors, providing and revising temperature reset and time schedules for optimum ventilation and heating system operations, converting single-pass water systems, rebalancing laboratory ventilation systems, and working with the IT Computing group to measure and identify electrical power and mechanical cooling reductions due to utilization of virtualization and clouding technologies for the campus computer servers.

**ESCO Initiatives:**

UW works with ESCO contracting agencies to enhance building efficiencies. These initiatives include assessments that would identify opportunities for campus facilities projects such as energy conservation efforts. A review of UW facilities sustainability efforts can be found on: [http://www.washington.edu/facilities/orgrel/files/documents/FS\\_Focus\\_on\\_Sustainability\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.washington.edu/facilities/orgrel/files/documents/FS_Focus_on_Sustainability_lowres.pdf)

**Styrofoam block recycling:**

Recycling & Solid Waste is piloting a program for collection of block Styrofoam within the Magnuson Health Sciences Center. The material is recycled by a local business that uses densification technology to produce smaller, heavier blocks that can be economically shipped to a manufacturer that produces new products.

**Self-service desk-side trash:**

Recycling & Solid Waste offers a mini (3-quart) desk-side, self-service waste bin. The self-service model is meant to build awareness around recycling, promote personal responsibility for waste generation, and allow custodians to direct their time to essential cleaning tasks. The mini bins are unlined, which significantly reduces the number of plastic liner bags going to the landfill.

**Carpet recycling:** The Flooring Shop recycles carpet they remove from campus buildings through a local resource recovery facility. Higher-grade fibers and backing are turned into new carpet. Lower-grade fibers are sent to vendors for repurposing into construction components, such as insulation and fill. The Flooring Shop also offers material selections made partially or entirely from reclaimed carpet that, when removed, can be made into new carpet.

**Consolidated recyclable materials:**

Recycling & Solid Waste transitioned the campus to a zero-sort, cart-based collection system for paper. The placement of mixed paper collection carts at loading docks and the collection of cardboard and mixed paper into a single collection vehicle has reduced the number of service stops and vehicle trips to and from collection sites.

**Mini Waste Sort (Trash In 2010):**

Recycling & Solid Waste conducted a sort of garbage from 7 designated buildings on the University's main Seattle campus. A total of 1,058 lbs of garbage was sorted as follows: 42% compostables (food

scraps, compostable serviceware, and food-soiled paper); 8% mixed containers (bottles, cans, dairy tubs, drink cartons, and aseptic packages); 11% mixed paper (boxboard, cardboard, white paper, colored paper, and newspaper); 2% other recyclables; and 37% garbage (all non-recyclable and non-compostable material). Results from this event will be used to build awareness and inform future marketing and diversion efforts.

7. Please use this space to address any other unique or interesting sustainability initiatives that have not been previously mentioned.

#### Pipette Recycling Program Pilot:

The University is establishing pipette tip box and rack recycling programs throughout the University to address a category of #5 plastics that are not currently being recycled. Reports will be developed to measure the impact of this initiative.

#### UW Smart Grid Project:

The University of Washington campus will be part of a regional test of smart grids, electrical transmission systems that incorporate information technology and allow two-way communication between energy providers and energy users. A regional initiative announced today will include a demonstration on the UW campus in Seattle that includes deploying smart-grid technology in two residence halls as well as other campus buildings. UW engineers will be investigating issues of user interface and cyber-security.

#### UW Farm and Housing & Food Services Collaboration:

UW Housing & Food Services has developed a close relationship with a campus student farming group (UW Farm), assisting them in procuring space for growing food on campus and during future harvest periods. We will incorporate the harvest into our food production and menu offerings to the campus community.

#### Zero-Waste Initiative

UW Housing & Food Services continues to work on our "Striving for Zero Waste" initiative in our food service areas. In January 2010, we introduced a compostable hot cup lid, produced by International Paper, for our hot beverage program. The UW was selected as the site for the lid's focus group testing, and piloted the use of some of the early versions of the lid before it was released internationally. We are currently collaborating with International Paper to introduce compostable soup cup lids, which should be available by June of this year. We worked with our compostable cutlery manufacturer this past year to produce a more heat-resistant type of compostable cutlery for our region of the country and were involved with early prototype testing of several versions in our food service operations. The new cutlery was introduced in early January in all of our operations and is now being distributed to many food service venues across our region.

#### Campus "green teams"

UW encourages 'campus green teams' who actively raise awareness about greening practices and energy conservation for the campus. The Environmental Stewards, Student Fiscal Services Green Team, Health Science Building Green Team, UW Tower Green Team, UW Educational & Outreach Green Team and Sustainability Task Force are a few of the campus green teams that provide information and resources related to sustainability on campus. Campus green groups meet on a periodic basis through "Green Bag Network Luncheons" where best practices and ideas about tangible sustainable practices are shared amongst the campus groups.

#### Husky Green Award

UW is rolling out the "Husky Green Award" that recognizes an exemplary achievement of a member or team from the UW community demonstrating initiative, leadership and dedication to sustainability at the University.

### Husky Green Fund

The Husky Green Fund catalyzes university sustainability initiatives, such as activities that are set out in the UW Climate Action Plan that was submitted to the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. This is a collaboration development fund working towards university-wide enrichment activities that bring students, faculty and staff together to achieve campus sustainability at all UW campuses. This fund is focused on supporting the activities that continue the University's vision and leadership for environmental stewardship.

### Sustainability Pledge

To educate and engage students, faculty and staff about sustainability, an online resource is available to promote positive behavior change such as, saving energy, promoting sustainable food, conserving water, protecting green space, increasing recycling, and reducing reliance on polluting modes of transportation. The pledge is available on the UW Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability website:

<http://green.washington.edu/pledge>