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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 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.

School name: Lewis and Clark College

Contact name and title: Jay Odenbaugh Associate Professor Department of Philosophy

Contact phone: 503-957-4674

Contact email: jay@lclark.edu

School’s city and state: Portland, Oregon

Number of students: 1900

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: JPO

DATE: 3/20/10

Category 1: Energy Supply

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>16</u> % Coal	<u>27</u> % Wind	<u> </u> % Biomass
<u>28</u> % Natural Gas	<u> </u> % Solar	<u> </u> % Geothermal
<u> </u> % Nuclear	<u>17</u> % Hydro	<u>14</u> % Other <u>Varies based on market prices</u>

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> </u> % Natural Gas	<u> </u> % Geothermal
<u> </u> % Electricity	<u> </u> % Fuel Oil

If cogeneration, please explain.

Category 2: Efficiency

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.

Though we have not completed any new buildings in the past three years, all new buildings completed since 2001 have gained LEED silver certification. Our most recent construction project, JR Howard Hall, gained LEED gold certification in 2005.

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

50
_____ %

This water is untreated and non-potable, and comes from on-campus wells. In addition, we significantly reduced our water consumption by not watering the lawns this summer.

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)?

90
_____ %

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

_____ %

All new appliances have been Energy-Star rated since 2005.

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

Yes. Since 1991, Lewis & Clark has invested 3.3 million dollars in energy efficiency projects.

Category 3: Food

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

_____ %

Bon Appetit, our food service provider, does not release financial information. However, their web site features a list of local farms that we purchase from and states that "most of the farms from which we purchase are located within a 150-mile radius of Portland, OR, with many being just 50 miles away."

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

_____ %

Bon Appetit is committed to purchasing food that is grown sustainably, but understands that organic certification can be prohibitively expensive for family farms and emphasizes relationships over labels.

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?

Yes. Bon Appetit source seafood deemed sustainable by the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program.

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

40
_____ %

This number is approximate, but there is almost always a vegetarian version of any entree. Bon Appetit does not purchase beef that has been treated with growth hormones or antibiotics. Beef is grass-fed for the first 14-18 months of life. Poultry is not treated with antibiotics unless the animal is ill.

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

Yes, delicious vegetarian and vegan options are always available.

6. Is bottled water sold or distributed on campus?

Yes, but most students, faculty, and staff use reusable water bottles.

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

The school has two student-run campus gardens, one of which is just outside the dorms. Students working in the garden utilize agroecological techniques, and the garden plans to supply some food for the campus dining hall next fall.

Category 4: Academics

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.

Lewis and Clark College offers an Environmental Studies major. The information regarding our major can be found here: https://www.lclark.edu/college/programs/environmental_studies

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.

These topics are covered in our Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Studies departments.

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.

Courses related to the environmental and sustainability are easily found at the Environmental Studies website which includes core courses and breadth courses in different departments.

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

Jim Proctor is the director of the Environmental Studies program. He has published numerous books and articles examining concepts of nature in contemporary environmentalism. He is a senior fellow at The Breakthrough Institute. Jay Odenbaugh is an associated professor in the Department of Philosophy working on issues related to the philosophy of ecology and environmental ethics.

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.

Our Environmental Studies program is innovative and vigorous. This year we are honored to be hosting the national 2010 Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Annual Conference.

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

Our core course, Exploration and Discovery, has varying themes each year but several sections concern the environment.

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

35 %

This number does not adequately represent these themes of course since courses in which these topics are discussed may not be named as such -- this number simply reflects those departments which have courses with 'environment' or 'sustainability' in the title. At Lewis and Clark, sustainability is

Category 5: Purchasing

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

Departments strongly consider the environmental and social impact of purchasing decisions, and factor this into their purchasing decisions. However, given the different goods and services purchased, there is no single sustainable purchasing policy.

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

90 %

Does your school purchase paper that 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.

Not available

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

Formal agreements vary based by department, but all departments consider minimizing waste when making purchasing decisions.

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

Yes, whenever possible.

Category 6: Transportation

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

Lewis and Clark sponsors a shuttle which goes directly to and from downtown Portland hourly in the mornings and evenings. Approximately 600 students use the shuttle each day. Since the shuttle was introduced in 2002, "single occupancy" cars on campus have decreased by 17%. Also, our shuttles are 100% biodiesel.

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

Lewis & Clark has a student-run bike co-op, which is free for all community members. Students adept at bike repair volunteer their time to assist others. The co-op has a set of common bike tools, and offers items such as tubes, lights, and cables for purchase at cost. The school offers convenient showering facilities to encourage commuting to work or school. Lewis & Clark also benefits from its location in Portland, OR, one of the most biker-friendly cities in the United States.

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?

Yes. Monthly bus passes are half-off through the school, and carpools pay half-price for parking passes.

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

25 %

Based on parking permit sales and enrollment for the undergraduate campus, law school, and graduate school.

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

70 %

A significant number of faculty and staff carpool or ride bicycles. This is so even though our campus is located in the Southwest hills and it is difficult to get to given our location and topography.

Category 7: Waste Management

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

58 %

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes, Lewis & Clark campus dining composts. Vermiculture composting takes place in some dorms, while other collect compost to take to the compost bins in the campus gardens.

5. Is your school committed to waste-reduction goals, such as zero waste? Please explain.

We continue to improve our recycling programs and enact policies that discourage waste.

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?

At the end of the year, students run Critical Blast, a party with music, food, activities, and a place to trade clothing and other goods. Anything that remains is donated to a charitable organization.

Category 8: Administration

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. Sustainability is an important element of one of the five core values articulated in the 2006 report of our Planning Task Force (http://legacy.lclark.edu/org/lc2be/objects/ptf_final_report.pdf) -- the value we describe as "Northwest heritage." As the document states, "The Pacific Northwest is an unparalleled learning environment for exploring issues such as globalization, urban planning, urban/rural tensions, land use, resource and ecosystem management, conservation, and sustainability." As this statement indicates, sustainability is an essential part of who we are. You will find these values manifested in our nationally recognized environmental studies program, our law school's No. 1-ranked environmental law program, and the pioneering ecopsychology program in our Graduate School of Education and Counseling.

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?

The school has a Sustainability Council consisting of student, faculty, staff, and administrative representatives. The Sustainability Council funds one part-time sustainability position.

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 2007 Lewis & Clark was one of 100 schools to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, pledging to be completely carbon neutral by 2050. For more information about how we plan to achieve this goal, please see our Climate Neutral Action Plan: <https://moodle.lclark.edu/mod/resource/view.php?id=39886>

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

Yes, Lewis & Clark has tracked emissions over the past five years. The results can be found here: <http://www.lclark.edu/livewhale/download/?id=1361>

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

We are committed to cutting carbon emissions by 2% per year, but in recent years we have done even more than that. From the 2007-2008 fiscal year to the 2008-2009 fiscal year, we reduced our total carbon emissions by approximately 5%.

Category 9: Financial Investments

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

Anyone interested in information regarding Lewis and Clark's endowment should contact Carl Vance, V. P. for Business and Finance/Treasurer (cvance@lclark.edu) or Michael Waddell (waddell@lclark.edu). who is more than happy to discuss such matters .

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

All of Lewis and Clark's financial decisions take sustainability into consideration. That is, we consider how our financial issues affect equity, economics, and ecology here.

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

As mentioned above, all of Lewis and Clark's financial decisions take sustainability into consideration.

Category 10: Other Initiatives

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 with his or her name, accomplishments, and contact information.)

For example, Junior Rachel Young is the co-founder and Outreach Director for the Show Me Democracy Campaign, a nationwide campaign started by students to influence policy around climate change in the Senate. She was also the leader of the Cascade Climate Network UNFCCC COP 15 delegation in Copenhagen in December 2010.

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? Students participate in Eco-Olympics, a campus-wide energy saving challenge in which dorms compete against one another to reduce electricity consumption and engage in environmental activism.

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.

The school is adjacent to Tryon Creek State Natural Area, and approximately 35% of our property is either conserved or protected as part of the Tryon Creek watershed. The watershed serves a place for recreation and as a natural laboratory.

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.

Yes. 70% of our cleaning supplies are green seal certified.

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. The school features a College Outdoors program, which regularly offers weekend trips for the Lewis & Clark community to the mountains, beaches and forests that make Oregon proud. The program also features more intensive Breakaway Adventures, so that incoming freshman can explore their new backyard before starting school. Fieldwork at Tryon is a core component of many of programs including biology and environmental studies.

Category 10: Other Initiatives, continued

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

In addition to ongoing efforts to increase energy-efficiency, the school has installed solar panels on top of the sports facilities, created a brand-new campus community garden, and started vermiculture composting in some dorms. In addition, the school was selected to host a national environmental studies conference.

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

The school also features a student-run co-op, which is a unique meeting space that features a fair-trade coffee shop and free store where students can donate their unwanted goods and exchange them with others. All cafes on campus feature coffee that is fairly traded and organic.