Environmental Activism on Campus
Fall 2014

Projects developed and implemented by students in POLS 255 Global Political Ecology in Fall 2014

Instructor: Pablo Toral
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Sustainable Marketing Initiative
Final Report

Koont Htar
Brandon Diop
Problem

- Beloit College uses a substantial amount of paper on marketing campus events every year.
- Organizations use average amount of 30-40 pages per event.
- Approximately 23,000 posters per academic year.
- Overlapping posters on the bulletin boards make it inefficient even if we use the resources of a minimum of $8197.70.
- A lack, effective alternative to paper posting- that is democratic.
- People do not care about the amount of paper they waste or do not realize.

Goals

- Reduce amount of paper postings on bulletin boards while reducing the reliance on paper marketing on campus and diversify.
- Get more responses on surveys; gain data.
- Have BSC adopt club public relations training.

Strategies

- Present project to clubs and students, Beloit Student Congress and our Global Political Ecology class
- Seek policy changes
- Seek ways to change the campus norm
- Send ICS survey through club email lists and Stu-Board
- Analyze data
- Posted on stuboard and Sustainability Department’s facebook page

Challenges

- Working with Beloit Student Council Clubs and Organizations Oversight Assembly.
- Clubs are holding future discount principle to reduce the use of paper.
- Group Work throughout the whole semester.
- Connecting with the clubs and the people who are responsible for the clubs.

Accomplishments
- Responses on Internal Communications survey went from 140 to 338 responses from September.
- See a visible change on campus- less posters/ organize, clean posting areas/more event collaborations and use of social media/ see alternative advertising being used.
- PR training for club representatives.

Advice for the future

- Lindsay Chapman/ Sustainability Conference/ app that uses GIS mapping/a computer system designed to capture, store, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data
- Build Sustainable Marketing Initiative/ FB group
  - Clean up cluttered boards/ fallen paper
  - Follow BC posting rules
  - Beloit App
  - Recycling Plant
- Meeting with the other group member on the regular basic of time and helping each other with tasks.
- Make a clear master calendar at the start of the seemster.
- Try to cooperate with an institution but also try to set some goals which who can achieve by the team itself.
Appendix.

Project Timeline:
Survey Results

Faculty

Where does most of your knowledge of campus news and events come from?

- Social media (Twitter)
- B-Link
- Main campus website
- Terrarium email distribution
- Terrarium website
- All-campus "Announcements"
- The Round Table
- Posters, paper fliers
- Word of mouth
- Meetings
- Other

Students

Where does most of your knowledge of campus news and events come from?

- Social media (Twitter)
- B-Link
- Main campus website
- Terrarium email distribution
- Terrarium website
- All-campus "Announcements"
- The Round Table
- Posters, paper fliers
- Word of mouth
- Meetings
- Other
Staff

Where does most of your knowledge of campus news and events come from?

- Social media (Twitter)
- B-Link
- Main campus website
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- Terrarium website
- All-campus *Announcements*
- The Round Table
- Posters, paper flyers
- Word of mouth
- Meetings
- Other

Students specific question about their perception of paper use

Have you seen a difference in communication of events on campus from last year?

- Yes, less paper is printed
- Yes, more paper is printed
- No change
- Other

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>82</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10%</td>
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No change [82]
Beloit Bike Project

Final Report
by
Adam Beardsley, Amelia Diehl, Skylar Miller, Maren Schermer

Global Political Ecology
Fall 2014

Presented December 9, 2014
The Problem

- **Transition:** As Bike Club was undergoing a change in leadership, this meant a steep drop in skill base and motivation to keep Bike Club going, and a lack of available bikes to be distributed. On the survey we sent out to all students, 81% of respondents did not feel that there was easy access to bikes on campus, and 87% said that if there was easy access to bikes, that they would use them (Appendix A). This showed that there was significant demand on campus for bike rentals, but insufficient supply.

Goals

- **Our original goal:** was to revitalize Bike Club, possibly by ending its club status, to improve accessibility of bike rentals. The new format would be integrated into the school by adding bike rentals to the duties of an existing organization or job on campus. We would require more participation of those who took advantage of the services. In the past, the club relied on **freeriding**, which is when, as Anthony Giddens says in *The Politics of Climate Change*, "collective outcomes hinge on decisions taken by individual actors."¹ The earlier model relied on a few students who repaired the bikes, but this meant that only a few had the knowledge base to complete the tasks, and once they were gone, we lost that momentum. We wanted to change that policy so that everyone would be held responsible for maintenance, and could learn the valuable skills they can use later in life. We would also have students give a down payment to cover any repair costs. Though this meant asking for a greater commitment, it also fits in with the principle of **positive incentives.** As Giddens says, people respond best when it’s not just about avoiding future problems; they also need “some more positive goals to aim for.”² Students would be more likely to agree to help out with repairs when they know they get something out of it, like a bike, rather than emphasizing that if they don’t help out they don’t get a bike. Group rides would also continue. Success would be coordinating a group of students who met regularly to fix and ride bikes, and fixing a decent supply of bikes to provide rentals to campus.

- **New goal:** there was not enough interest or knowledge -- it seemed -- to realistically reach our goals within a semester’s time. We therefore revised our goal to provide a basic infrastructure with resources for future students to take advantage of if interest comes up. This involved: keeping Bike Club’s status as a club, improving existing supplies, reaching out to relevant actors, including students and administration and community members, and overall raising awareness about the existence of Bike Club. We hoped to use the principle of **foregrounding** to keep bike club and environmentalism a “front-of-the-mind issue.”³ We hope that Bike Club provide an awareness that developing bicycle-related habits does avoid contributing to climate change (mostly ideologically, but it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions in small amounts).

Strategies

- **Research:** To gather some ideas, our group researched other bike co-op formats, including at similar, small liberals arts colleges and bigger schools. We compared our methods to theirs and looked at what made most sense for us. For instance, Macalester College has rentals available

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³ Ibid., 73.
through the library, and Lewis and Clark College rents bikes from the Office of Student Affairs. We also explored different funding models by conducting cost-benefit analysis, to “compare alternative proposals to determine which is more economically desirable,” as Walter Rosenbaum describes in *Environmental Politics and Policy*. In our original model, students would primarily fund the service, and directly receive a benefit (bikes, access to tools). There would be a cost of time management for students to do repairs. For our new goal, we decided not to enforce a certain model of charging, in the hopes that Bike Club can take advantage of student government funds. These funds come from student activity fees, so in that way, students are indirectly paying for Bike Club services.

- **Make connections:** key actors were allies, providing advice.
  - *Lindsay Chapman and Matt McKay:* Sustainability Coordinators Lindsay Chapman and Matt McKay are are focused on finding ways to implement sustainability into the institution.
  - *Chuck Lewis:* As the official faculty sponsor of Bike Club, Chuck Lewis was an important connection to maintain. He was eager to go on group rides, and knew a lot about rides in the area.
  - *John Winkelmann:* As Head of Residential Life for the College, John Winkelmann is concerned with making sure student projects do not hinder administrative interests.
  - *Greg Wicklund:* As the owner of Beloit Bicycle Company, the local bike shop, Greg was an important actor as he could provide necessary skills and equipment. We met with him several times, and he offered his support for our project.

- **Campus survey:** In late September, we sent out a survey which asked questions about awareness of Bike Club, interest in renting bikes, and how much of a skill base existed, among other topics. This was used to assess where we should put our efforts in terms of what was most relevant or helpful.

**Challenges**

- **Student participation/interest/awareness:** this was perhaps our biggest challenge, as it forced us to change our goal. Though administration were very receptive to the idea of revitalizing Bike Club, there was not enough interest or motivation from students to make the club as successful as it could be. And ultimately, it was up to students to make this happen.

- **Meeting times:** It could be difficult to schedule meetings that worked for everyone, including with administration and students. Meeting all together in person was not always necessary, but it helped to brainstorm ideas; we communicated a lot over email and text as well.

- **Limited funding:** Since Bike Club was put on probation last semester, its budget, allotted from student government was reduced to $50. This was not enough to fix the bikes we already had, or to purchase new bikes. With more money, we could have purchased the necessary supplies and could have

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● **Lack of other resources:** Related to funding, there was also a lack of other resources, such as a skill base for bike maintenance and repair, and the necessary supplies. Though some students knew about bike maintenance, it wasn’t enough to fix everything and provide enough bikes for campus.

● **Time restrictions of semester:** This project would have benefitted from having a longer time frame to fully explore other ideas and options, recruit more students and act on decisions. Especially with the timing of the semester, having winter arriving during the time we would be starting to implement the bike-share part of the project restricts what we have been able to do. Had the warmer months been at the end of the semester, we could have had demand to start short-term lending to students.

### Accomplishments

● **Kept club status:** Bike Club has kept its club status with a COO representative (Clubs and Organizations Oversight assembly), which is required of all clubs. This means that Bike Club has a default infrastructure to rely on, as student government can provide resources such as money, a forum for interpersonal connections and information about other campus resources. Bike Club will not need to reapply for club status, and will also have its name out there, which will help other students notice it.

● **Administration is involved:** By meeting with key actors we have revitalized those connections, which can always be used later on for future projects. All of the administrative personnel that we talked with were very interested in the project and supported our efforts.
  ○ Lindsay Chapman and Matt McKay agreed that it was very much in the college’s value system of sustainability to be promoting a Bike Club on campus.
  ○ John Winkelmann is also hugely supportive of the project, though he has a few administrative concerns. In particular, he is concerned about safety risks associated with providing bikes on campus, which is an example of risk assessment.\(^7\) Though John is interested in student initiatives, he does not want our group or the College to be responsible for any safety violations. Also, he also offered to look into finding available and accessible locations where the bikes could possibly be stored.
  ○ Chuck Lewis is also excited about the club and eager to go on group rides.

● **Community is involved:** Greg Wicklund expressed his support for our project, and offered his knowledge to help repair the existing bikes, so we can build up resources for the club. To begin this process, he came to French House to diagnose the current bikes that we have, and we made arrangements for him to help fix them up. He has also offered to donate some used parts. Greg has been very supportive, and it will be important to maintain this relationship until the club infrastructure becomes stronger.

● **Students are involved:** We reached out to people who expressed interest in bike club and have set the revival of the club in motion. This is an example of backcasting, which Giddens describes as “asking what changes have to be made in the present in order to arrive at alternative future states.”\(^8\) By talking to students (and other actors), we could develop a vision for the future of Bike Club based on what students wanted (while incorporating the interests of other actors), take stock

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of resources and see what else needs to be done. Bike Club has started to hold meetings, and there should be more activity in future semesters now that this infrastructure is back in place, and at least a handful of students are motivated. Most of the students who expressed interest are also in their first or second year of college, meaning there is time to continue recruiting to avoid any gaps in leadership.

Advice for the Future

● **Start earlier with everything:** as mentioned, one of the big challenges was feeling rushed with only a semester to accomplish everything. We could have accomplished more of our goals had we started earlier and reached out to resources right away to start gathering ideas. This would have also given us more time to decide which goals would be most feasible within one semester, and this would have saved us time revising our goals later on.

● **Recruitment:** though Bike Club remains visible, listed on the College’s list of clubs, and students were made more aware of it from the survey, we could have reached out to campus more consistently. One main challenge that we faced in achieving our goals was a lack of solid bike club membership, so recruitment will be an important step for future groups looking to make bike club more sustainable.

Conclusion

● Overall, we were able to maintain Bike Club and its status, while improving club resources, connections and participation. We faced obstacles along the way, which required us to revise our goals to consider what we could realistically achieve in a semester. In the end, apathy from students proved to be a main limiting factor. Politics was not an issue, as administration was very supportive of the initiative. Economics was not a major issue with the assistance of Greg Wicklund to help us build up Bike Club’s fleet of bikes. Also, science and ethics supported our proposal, since biking is beneficial for personal health, reducing carbon emissions, and is consistent with the goals of the Beloit College Sustainability Program. The long-term sustainability of Bike Club is ultimately contingent on the motivation and participation of students. Our project was able to build a new core membership for the club, which is vital for its success. However, student participation will have to continue for the club to keep improving in the future.

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Bibliography


Appendix A

Survey Summary

This was a survey sent out circa October 8, 2014 to all of campus, with data collected circa October 25. There were a total of 32 responses.

What year are you?

1st  7  23%
2nd  9  29%
3rd  3  10%
4th  11 35%

Did you bring a bike to school?

Yes  11  35%
No  19
Do you feel there is easy access to bikes on campus if you don't have one?

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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>61%</td>
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If there was easy access to a bike would you use it?

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<td>Yes</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
When borrowing bikes, how long would you like to be able to have them at a time?

- 1-3 days: 7 (23%)
- Week+: 11 (35%)
- Semester: 11 (35%)
- Year: 1 (3%)

How often would you like to have access to a bike?

- 1-3 times a week: 10 (32%)
- 4-7 times a week: 13 (42%)
- 1-3 times a month: 7 (23%)
- Less: 0 (0%)
If a bike share were present on campus how much would you be willing to pay to have easy access for a bike?

|$0$ | $12$ | $16\%$  
| Up to $10$ | $12$ | $39\%$  
| Up to $20$ | $7$ | $23\%$  
| Up to $25$ | $2$ | $6\%$  
| Up to $30$ | $4$ | $13\%$  

Describe the amount of experience you have working with bikes. (bike repair and maintenance)

zero
Average user experience
Fair amount
N/A
Minimal
Moderate - inflating tires, general tune ups (oiling and such), putting chains back on
None
None.
Little
little
none
A fair amount
None, when I have problems with my bike I google how to fix it and figure it out.
a little bit
little, can change a flat
a tiny bit
Almost none
Not much
zip zero nada

Would you be willing to trade work hours fixing bikes for access to borrowing them?

Yes [15] 48%
No [15] 48%

If yes above, how much time would you be willing to work each semester?

8-10
An hour or two a week
once a week
1 hour a month
A few times a month if you teach me how to do stuff!
3
1-2 hours/week
1 hour/2 weeks
20
1 hr/week
about an hour per week
an hour during the weekend
30 hours throughout the semester. Possibly more
1-3 hours per week
Half my allotted hours.
Would you be interested in organized group bike rides?

Yes  20  65%
No   11  35%
Appendix B

May 27
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Hey Lady,

I hope you are having a great summer! I was wondering if you know who will be in charge of the Beloit Bike Co-Op next year?

Thanks,
Arianna
------
July 31
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Do you think bike club will be active this semester? Tryna get a riiiiiiide.

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August 31
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Dear Amelia Diehl,
My name's Alex and I just transferred in as a sophomore. I was just browsing through BLink and I came across the page for the Beloit Bike Co-op. As a casual biker, I am interested in borrowing a bicycle and especially exploring the area around Beloit. I would love to meet people who want to do the same. There's still a week to go till the Involvement Fair, but I just want to know more about the club.
Regards,
Alex.

August 31
sent to: Alex Cheong

Hey Alex,
Thanks for reaching out! I'm glad you're interested in Bike Club. To be perfectly transparent, the club is undergoing somewhat of a major transition right now in terms of leadership/activity, and we have some big ideas about how to change it. Our primary goal is to provide bikes for students, and we're working on getting more momentum for fixing bikes; we also want to organize group rides in the area. Right now we're a little short on supplies, but we are definitely working on it. We'll have posters up and get an email list going soon, and yeah, we should be at the Involvement Fair.

Feel free to let me or Sam Kindler (I cc'ed her on this email; she is the other "leader") know if you have any more questions!

August 31
Dear Amelia,

Thank you so much for your reply! I look forward to seeing more news of the club from you and Sam.

Just wondering, would it possible for me to get a head start on borrowing a bike? I do know a few people who are interested to do that as well.

Regards,
Alex.

September 14
sent to: Alex Cheong

Hey again Alex,

Wow, I totally forgot to reply to your last email, sorry! So, for one of my classes (Global Political Ecology) we're doing an activism project for the campus, and I'm working with some other students to revitalize/change the way bike club is run. So it might be a few weeks till we get things up and running. But - would you be interested in contributing ideas to reformatting it? It doesn't have to be a big commitment, but we might run some things by you for your opinion. And could you give me the names/emails of the people you know who are also interested in getting a bike?

Thanks,
Amelia

September 28
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Hi Amelia,

Oh, you're fine! Look at my delay... I just saw your new email about meeting at 3pm today, and I have to tell you that I can't make it, because I'm actually meeting up with a friend to go biking.

I'm not sure about other times, but please don't change the time just for me. I'm new here so I don't really know much about how bike club was before, but I am interested to see how you and your group are going to develop the club. Keep me posted!

My friends who are interested in the club are a few of the exchange students who wanted to explore the fields in light of the beautiful weather we have been having. Honestly, the phrase "free bike" just caught our eye. I'll ask them first before getting back to you regarding their names.

Regards,
Alex.

September 29
sent to: Alex Cheong
Hey Alex,

That's awesome you were biking! At the meeting we talked about what the next steps could be for the club. I think it'd be good to organize a group ride this weekend - would you be interested in helping to organize that? I think Chuck Lewis (the club advisor) knows some cool trails around here, and if you know any that's great. Maybe Sunday afternoon?

Thanks,
Amelia

----

September 7
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Hello, this is Denys, I'm a freshman this year. I was wondering when the next ride will happen and if you have bikes available for loan if someone wants to participate but does not have a bike on campus. Also, I was wondering if you ever collaborate with OEC to do any longer touring/camping rides.

September 14
sent to: Denys

Hey Denys,

I believe you emailed me through B-Link a few weeks ago asking about Bike Club and getting a bike. Sorry for getting back to you so late. For one of my classes (Global Political Ecology) I'm actually working with a group on an activism project to revitalize/change the club. It might not be a few weeks until we can get you a bike, but in the meantime, would you be interested at all in contributing ideas about how you'd like a bike program to work on campus? In terms of doing longer trips with OEC, they may have happened in the past, but I know they haven't happened recently. It's definitely something we could look into. Also - do you happen to know any bike maintenance stuff, like how to do simple (or complex) repairs?

Thanks,
Amelia

September 25
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Hi! Sorry, this email kind of got lost in the deluge of emails. I would be interested in helping to make a bike co-op program thing work. I hope that Cook got in touch with you, as he knows how to maintain bikes. I am interested in learning, though, and I have a little background with tools and gears and such (I mechanically restored a vintage car as my senior project). And, as I have done the financial training, I can write a capital fund proposal if you need certain tools. Here's hoping we can get bikeclub rolling!
-----

September 10
sent to: Chuck, Sam, Lindsay, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

Hi everyone,

I've been meaning to reach out for a while (ever since we got back to school, really) but finally got around
to it. Would people be available to meet tomorrow at 4pm? It shouldn't be a terribly long meeting. I
wanted to talk about what we envision for the semester/year, and maybe plan a group ride. One big thing
is that I'm taking Pablo Toral's Global Political Ecology class, wherein we work on an activism project.
I'm in a group with Skylar Miller, Maren Schermer and Adam Beardsley (all cc'ed here), and we're
focusing on improving the bike co-op on campus. This would possibly mean reconsidering the co-op as a
club, and perhaps changing the format to be more institutionalized. If tomorrow at 4pm doesn't work for
people, we can definitely look into alternatives, but it'd be great to have a meeting tomorrow or Friday to
get things rolling. Let me know!

I hope you're all having a great week!

Thanks,
Amelia

September 10
sent to: Amelia, Chuck, Sam, Lindsay, Tim, Maren, Adam

I have a meeting tomorrow at 4:30 so that wouldn't give us much time. What about tomorrow
evening/after supper?

September 10
sent to: Amelia, Sam, Lindsay, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

I can't make tomorrow afternoon or evening. Friday afternoon might work. Or maybe a Sunday afternoon
ride and chat?

September 11
sent to: Amelia, Sam, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

I also cannot make today at 4pm or anytime thereafter. Feel free to meet without me though--I'm the
assistant coach for the women's soccer team, so I'll be at an away game on Sunday as well. Amelia, I'll be
visiting Pablo's class next Tuesday to hear about the ideas, so could speak with your team afterwards if
need be.

Looking forward to the ideas!
September 11
sent to: Amelia, Lindsay, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

I could meet tomorrow afternoon, or possibly on Sunday.

September 11
sent to: Amelia, Sam, Lindsay, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Adam

I’m also free tomorrow (Friday) afternoon and most of Sunday.

September 11
sent to: Sam, Lindsay, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

Let's meet tomorrow at 4pm. I think Java Joint will be in use at that time, so maybe we could go into the Weeks lounge in Pearsons?

September 11
sent to: Amelia, Lindsay, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

There is no "Let's Get Real" session tomorrow, so as far as I know the space should be free. But we can meet wherever.

September 11
sent to: Sam, Lindsay, Chuck, Tim, Skylar, Maren, Adam

Oh okay. So yeah, let's say Java Joint.

----

September 12
sent to: Chuck Lewis

Hi Chuck,

Were you able to make the bike club meeting today? Just wanted to check in.

September 12
sent to: Amelia Diehl

No. As I mentioned, Friday afternoon was not going to work for me. I hope whoever went had a good discussion. I thought that was a time that you planned to be there.

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September 28
sent to: Denys, Alex, Preston
Hey you guys!

So you have all expressed interest in being involved in some capacity with Bike Club, which is great! As I may have mentioned, the Club is going through a big transition and there will be some significant structural changes. I'm working with a group in one of my classes to change the Club, but we also want to involve everyone we can, and we're not the ultimate authority - it's your club as much as ours.

That being said, would any of you be available to get together for a meeting (it will be short!) today at 3pm in Java Joint? We can tell you about what our group is working on, and we could hear your ideas, and also figure out student government stuff. If that time doesn't work, is there a better time today or later next week? And if you know anyone else who would be interested, definitely let them know/give me their email!

Feel free to text me - (734) 757-3578.

Thanks!

September 28
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Will there be another meeting anytime soon?

September 28
sent to: Preston

oh yeah, don’t worry. we’ll figure it out
----

October 8
sent to: Greg Wicklund

Dear Greg,

My name is Maren and I am part of a group of students trying to revitalize the bike club at Beloit College. We used to have a fairly strong bike club and bike share program here, but because of student turnover, over time the club lost participation and leadership.

Currently, we have a small collection of bikes to lend out and many other bikes that are either incomplete or aren't in working condition. Unfortunately, there isn't enough know-how left in the club to fix up some of the remaining bikes to build a bigger program.

We would love to work with you in this process. A member of our group, Skylar Miller, was hoping to meet with you sometime next week to talk about this possibility. If you want to contact him, he can be reached at millersh@beloit.edu
Thank you,

Maren Schermer

October 9
sent to: Maren Schermer

Maren,
We can get together anytime next week.
Let me know when you would like to stop by

Greg Wicklund
Beloit Bicycle Company
110 W. Grand Ave.
Beloit WI 53511
608-362-8735

November 10
sent to: Greg Wicklund

Hi Greg,

It was great to talk to you on Friday; thanks for being so open to working with Bike Club. After talking with the rest of the group, we decided good times for you to come in and look at the bikes we have would be Wednesday at 8 or Friday at 7; does one of those work better for you? From there we can continue discussing the other ideas about doing maintenance workshops and so forth.

Hope you have a great Monday!

Thanks again,
Amelia

November 10
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Friday would be fine…

November 13
sent to: Greg Wicklund

Hi Greg,
Awesome! If you could come to French House (837 College Street) around 7 that would be great. It's a big sort of light brown house. If you need help finding it feel free to call/text me at (734) 757-3578.

See you soon!

November 14
sent to: Amelia Diehl

Ill be there
-----
Action Plan: Beloit Green Certification

By:
Halley Baars, Sara Sherrard, Emma Canny
Fall 2014
The Problem

Beloit college students often avoid making environmentally friendly choices, overlooking future consequences. Students often leave lights on at night, leave appliances plugged in when not in use, take extensively long showers, and mix recyclable and non recyclable waste, just to name a few instances. This problem, know as future discounting, can be easily avoided with the use of education and increased incentives. The result of the actions of Beloit college students is incredible water, energy, and physical waste.

Goals

The overarching goal for our project was to conceive of a way to increase sustainability and reduce waste on Beloit College campus. Though our project evolved over time, we eventually landed on the “Beloit Green Certification Project”. The aim of this project was to create a certification program that would offer students a clear set of criteria that if fulfilled would brand their living space as “green”. The project has initially been limited to students living in on-campus Greek houses, however, it is our hope that as the project evolves it will be expanded to all students living on campus. Within this, our specific goals were:

- **To create a manual** listing a clear set of criteria necessary for “green” status
- **To establish a line of communication** with representatives from each Greek organization, as well receiving a commitment of participation from each representative.
- **Institutionalization** of the “Beloit Green Certification Project” via Intra-fraternal PanHellenic Council (IFPC).
- For Greek organizations to become environmental leaders on campus, and pave the way for a campus wide certification project in the future.
- **To address the lack of initiative and leadership** on campus regarding environmental awareness.

Strategies

- Meeting with John Winkleman in order to get a clear picture of what were the main problems regarding sustainability and waste on campus. Furthermore, he also helped us identify the limitations and feasibility of our project.
- Communicate with representatives from each Greek house in order to establish direct line of communication with targeted audience.
- Meeting with representative from Physical Plant to acquire information regarding water and energy usage respective to each Greek house.
- Present to Intra-fraternal Pan-Hellenic Council (IFPC) to pursue institutionalization.
- Conduct house checks for each Greek organization, and account for number of public use appliances, number of showers and toilets in house, number of people in house, and public light fixtures.
- Utilizing group members’ leadership positions and influence in both IFPC and Greek organizations.
- Maintaining flexibility in our goals and definition of success.
Challenges

This project had many challenges during the implementation process. Some of the challenges we have had include:

- **Communication with Greek houses** was one of our biggest challenges in this project. Many times we have had no response to emails that we have sent to presidents of houses requesting meeting time and cooperation with the project. This is was probably due to the fact that presidents of houses get many emails a day and therefore may have skipped over our messages.

- The question of whether or not the program would be sustainable here at Beloit College was a major challenge we faced. We wanted to make sure that the certification program was constructed the right way in order to fit the needs of the campus. We wanted to also make sure that the implementation of the project was done in the right way in order for it to be sustainable for years to come. We successfully identified bodies that were willing to undertake the program as one of its goals for the future.

- We learned through our research that the Greek houses run off one main electric meter, and therefore setting goals for reducing electricity became difficult to estimate. This was a large milestone that we faced because it made us rethink the whole perspective of the project and how we formatted the certification process.

- Our goals at the beginning for the project were very large, and we struggled with consolidating our goals and changing our definition of success in order to better fit the situation. This was crucial in order to fully succeed in implementation of the Certification program.

- One of our original team members was undergoing decisions about whether or not she wanted to stay at Beloit and her communication to us was very unclear and commitment to the project was limited. It was hard to efficiently plan and assign tasks to her and therefore we collectively were doing a large portion of the project.

- The Intra-Fraternal Panhellenic Council (IFPC), the main political body that we collaborated with, was undergoing leadership changes and therefore long term progress was halted and we had to compromise by having short term goals met. This was definitely not one of our largest challenges but was difficult to manage with at various times. This was due to the fact that IFPC had many tasks on their plate.

- Different houses had varying concerns on how they would handle their house certification programs and so therefore finding compromises on different areas in order to make the
manual universally applicable to all houses was a challenge we faced in the early stages of our project.

**Accomplishments**

- **Connections made with key players** We were able to connect to many people on campus. We talked to John Winkelmann, head of residential life, and we were able to convince him that our project would benefit the school economically. We talked to many people from Greek houses, especially those on the International Panhellenic Council. These connections will help support our project in future semesters. Our conversations and emails raised awareness and education about limiting use of our resources. We have started a very important conversation.

- **Comprehensive Certification Manual Created** We created a manual based on the manual used by students at UPENN. The manual includes many actions, a block of actions are required, and a majority of the actions are optional. The manual lays out different levels of certification, Gold, Silver, and Bronze based on the number of actions you take. We adapted this model to fit Beloit better. We added in information about where to recycle on campus, and groups on campus the houses may work with. The manual also includes information about how much waste we create, to account for loss aversion.

- **Institutionalization** One area we focused on was institutionalization, or the continuing of our project after this semester. Our fear was that knowledge about how the manual works would be lost after we leave. We brought our ideas to IFPC, a group that set standards for all Greek houses. We suggested that they make being part of our Green Certification Program a mandatory aspect of IFPC. The group read over our manual, and made small suggests for changes that would be more fitting with their mission. The group is currently seriously thinking about implementing our program, but they will wait until next semester, spring 2015, to decide. The implementation of the program would mean that the houses would have to follow the mandatory components of our programs, fill in some of the optional requirements, and choose a specific person from each house to insure that the actions are completed.

**Advice for the Future**

- **Start Early** There are many benefits to getting an early start on your project. In order to institutionalize projects teams should work with groups and faculty that will continue to work at Beloit, even after we leave. Starting early allows all parties to understand how they can help each other, gaining political convergence between both parties. Starting early also allowed our group to change our mission in reaction to what was feasible on campus.
• **Set Clear Goals** Our group was greatly influenced by the people we worked with on campus. We were forced to have a great deal of flexibility during this process. As we shifted our focus we also changed our goals, in order to hold on to a direction and focus. Our goals narrowed as we worked on our project, we starting by thinking about a vague composting program. We ended with very a specific goal, to have a certification manual put in place by the Interfraternal Panhellenic Council (IFPC). We understood that we needed a measurement of our progress, and a clear point of completion.

• **Communicate** Whether it be with faculty, staff, students, or fellow group members, communication is key. We used email to communicate with Physical plant, set up meetings with Reslife, work with the IFPC and communicate with representatives from Greek houses. We found it helpful to approach people in person to create more accountability when emails were not returned. We also reached out through our contacts in Greek houses and on IFPC.

• **Create Incentives** One trick we used to insure that people on campus would get on board with our project was to create incentives. We targeted Greek life specifically because this population is constantly working to present a positive image to the faculty and fellow students. Our certification manual includes different levels of certification, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. We predicted that Greek houses would be more competitive with their green standards, creating a better result. We needed Greek houses to see the political convergence in our project; our project would also help Greek houses reach their goals.

**Ethics**

In the initial stages of our project we met with John Winkelmann, the head of residential life at Beloit college. We asked him to name the problems that students have with being environmentally friendly. The area that he wished us to focus on was recycling specifically. He claimed that students mix non recyclable items in with the recycling the whole bin can no longer be recycled. Instead, the items end up in a landfill. This problem is two fold for the college. Not only does Winkelmann mourn the inefficient use of resource, he also deals with the raising cost of landfill charges.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, a simple mantra that most Beloit students grew up with. Yet, the importance of these three words often drops from the student’s mind. According to the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) website the benefits of recycling include, conservation of natural resources (such as timber, water, and minerals), reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and reduction in energy use. Recycling has had a significant influence on the amount of waste produced in the United States. As the EPA websites states, "in 2012, Americans recovered over 65 million tons of MSW [municipal solid waste] through recycling"[10]. The total amount of MSW generated in 2012 still stacked up at 251 million tons.[11]

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11 [http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/landfill.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/landfill.htm)
The question remains, why do Beloit students avoid recycling, and other energy efficient practices, like turning off light switches, or unplugging gadgets? The students lack of action may be pinned to the Giddens paradox, and future discounting. Giddens paradox says that global warming feels far enough away that people will not change their actions until it is too late. Future discounting is a similar theory, it says that people find it hard to account for the future. Students who are throwing their greasy pizza boxes in the recycling bin, or tossing aluminum cans in the trash, are simple concerned with their current ease instead of long term consequences. Our project provides an added incentive for students to respond to the environment. By focusing on reducing energy, water, and material waste we hope to reduce the students’ impact on the environment.

**Politics**

In order to fully accomplish our project, we must outline who will bear the cost of the project and also benefit from it. For the cost, we as a group can appeal to the Intrafraternal Panhellenic Council (IFPC). They will deal with the primary management of the project. Representatives from each house will report back to IFPC with the progress of the project, so they will also individually bear the cost as well. The benefits will go to the Greek houses, who can aim for the certification of a “green house”. The benefits can also be extended to Residential Life, who will spend less money on paying for landfill fines and can appropriate that money elsewhere. The beneficiaries of this project included also the Sustainable Marketing group in the class, who had part of their project implemented into the manual. The Greek houses would benefit from a public relations standpoint to promote themselves as “green” and an active part of the Beloit College community. The Admissions department can also use the “green” certification as a point on admission tours and draw in students who would be very interested in environmental studies. This shows a political convergence between the multiple beneficiaries of the project.

There are a number of individuals we needed to meet with and have support from in order to make this project happen. We need to meet with the House Managers and the Presidents of all the houses to evaluate the possibility of this project in their house. This was difficult to do because of a lack of communication. This is evident of the loss aversion principle, where presidents choose not to undergo project in favor of the status quo. We met with the Intrafraternal Panhellenic Council (IFPC), the student-led group that monitors Greek life, in order to further cement and legitimize the requirements for a “green house”. Emma Canny, as a member of IFPC for Kappa Delta Sorority, presented to them on behalf of the team. She also went through the necessary channels in order to have the project implemented. There was a lot of relation to the percentage principle where IFPC had to outweigh the costs against the benefits in making their decision to undergo the project. We met with John Winkelmann, the head of Residential Life, and to check and see if the project needed to meet certain rules in order to be accomplished.

**Economics**

For the economics side of our project our goal was to set up sufficient incentive for the houses to be more environmentally friendly and pursue the certification. We concluded that the best plan of action was to create a program for the Greek houses to complete use as a guideline for the future. The incentive is that when they complete the program they are branded with a badge of green approval to be hung on or in their house. This idea plays off of the healthy
competition between different Greek houses. This was also a great incentive for national organizations because they would be able to promote this feature to their nationals. We also thought it would be a beneficial feature to add to the Greek houses specifically as they are a highlight on every tour down College street. This would be a way for the houses to show that they care about things other than partying or doing volunteer work. This is a form of economic convergence.

From our original idea we knew that we needed to be specific about what we were asking from the houses. We came up with a manual (see Appendix). The tasks are designed to be simple, many houses already have resources to carry out these elements. The idea of our project is to enact simple things that will not have a heavy impact on everyday life, but get people thinking about their actions. We would also eliminate a mandatory financial cost to the project, as many houses have limited budgets. Houses can take on additional tasks that require financial costs as an extra part of the program.

In the activism project in 2009 a group of three students worked to promote more environmental practices at Kappa Delta, in a project titled, “Kappa Delta Goes Green”. Although every girl living in the house in 2009 does not currently live in Kappa Delta, and the house itself has in fact changed, the statistics may still help us to understand one population we would be working with. The house was using 68% incandescent light bulbs, meaning it would already meet the requirement. 97% of Kappa Delta’s surveyed only somethings unplugged their electronics. 13% of Kappa Delta’s surveyed limited their water consumption by limiting their time in the shower. This helps us to understand what the Kappa Delta’s were doing, and see that there is room for further growth. The group had a hard time getting the girls to follow the program, my hope is that the incentive with help them to be more eager to pitch in.

On the economics side of our project the next steps are clear. We need to get the funding for the small changes to the house, we need to finalize a list of requirements, we need to create the badge of approval. These steps are all contingent of the politics of the project, and on doing more research into energy use so that we can prove to each house that there is a clear problem.

**Natural Sciences**

After our meeting with John Winkleman, we identified mixed recycling as the biggest burden on the college in terms of sustainability. On Beloit College campus, there are numerous recycling bins spread out around the campus. Acceptable materials for these bins are metal (predominantly aluminum), plastic, cardboard, and paper. These items must be “clean”, for instance, a pizza box, though it is cardboard, cannot go into the bin because it is dirty. However, Beloit students often place items into the bins, such as dirty pizza boxes, that don’t belong there. The waste then goes to the recycling plant, but since it doesn’t comply with city ordinances, the waste must be redirected to the city landfill. Moreover, in order to place the waste in the landfill, Beloit College must pay a landfill tax. Not only is this violating the College’s commitment to preserve the environment, but the college is wasting funds on mismanaged recycling.

In order to address this problem, our group created the “Beloit Green Certification Project” in the hopes to address mixed recycling as well as other issues. Considering both proactive adaptation and climate change positives it is important to address the increasing problem of climate change, even if it is at a small scale. The climate change positives principle dictates positive political, economic and social goals be instituted for combating climate change, while proactive adaptation says that given that climate change will happen whatever we do from now
onwards, politics of adaptation will have to be worked out alongside that of climate change mitigation. Our project addresses both of these principles by creating a system where we address the impact caused by Beloit College students while also attempting to reduce or mitigate future contributions to climate change. Furthermore, by encouraging students to be responsible for their own waste, we address the principle of polluter pays.

**Conclusion**

Upon the completion of this project, members of our group have learned valuable lessons regarding what it takes to address climate change. Though this project was done at a very small scale, the experience has shown us the difficulties and challenges faced when attempting to address an issue such as climate change. One of the main lessons learned was the challenge of working with unwilling participants, as well as attempting to change the behavior of said participants. Second, dealing with bureaucracy and people in positions with the power either to approve or turn down our project. Finally, the experience taught us the importance of remaining flexible and willing to alter one’s initial plan, as well as the value of tradeoffs and compromises.

Now that our project has been adopted by IFPC as a potential requirement for Greek organizations, we hope that next semester all Greek organizations will strive to achieve the highest certification possible. By becoming ambassadors of sorts for our projects, we hope Greeks will be environmental leaders on campus, and pave the way for a campus wide certification project in the future.
Appendices

- Beloit Green Certification Manual
- Emails & Correspondence

Appendix A: Beloit Green Certification Manual

Beloit Green Certification Manual

The Beloit Green Certification Project provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their own impact on the environment and to recognize the importance of their daily decisions on the environment. Furthermore, it gives students the opportunity to participate in a hands-on experience that will have a positive impact on our campus.

Each organization must have an Eco-Rep who will be responsible for monitoring the actions and tallying points. Each organization will decide amongst themselves who will be assigned this position. While this process is partially reliant on the honor system, the Eco-Reps will be tasked with reporting back to IFPC.

There are three different levels of certification:
- Gold Level: 15 points
- Silver Level: 12 points
- Bronze Level: 8 points

A) Required Action

- Recycle
  Recycling is one of the most effective ways to help protect the environment and reduce the amount of waste entering landfills. Separate all paper, bottles, cans, etc. from other trash. Place it out front of lawn in blue bin.

- Turn off all lights in house at night
  This may seem simple, but it’s easy to forget to switch off the lights when leaving a room. Lighting accounts for 14% of all electricity consumption in homes.\(^\text{12}\)

- Practice Sustainable marketing
  Using Blink, reducing number of posters printed, using social media and word of mouth

- Encourage all members of house to be educated about best environmental practices
  Using recycling posters, having workshops during chapter, have reminder posters about turning off lights and water consumption in shower areas.

\(^\text{12}\) [http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=99&t=3]
B) Optional Actions

- Make sure all sinks and showers do not leak (2 pts)
  One faucet dripping every six seconds wastes nearly 350 gallons of water per year. Contact Physical Plant if there are any leaks in house.

- Carpooling system for house (2 pts)
  Reducing use of cars will limit use of fossil fuels, and CO2 emissions.

- “Give-Take” box (2 pts)
  A give-take box reduces a need to purchase new clothing, and the amount of waste going to landfills. It is up to the Eco-Rep to make sure the “Give-Take” box is emptied at the end of term. Suggested ways are through donations or give-take event within chapter.

- Use dish rag instead of paper towels in kitchen (2pts, no paper towels at all 3 pts)
  Use of paper towels increases waste in kitchen, while dish rags can be reused dozens of times. The production of one ton of paper towels requires the use of 17 trees and 20,000 gallons of water. Every day in the US alone, over 3,000 tons of paper towel waste is produced.

- Add additional recycling bins (2 pts)
  More recycling bins allow for better access and capacity for products.

- Unplug everything before break (3 pts)
  Many residents forget to take these simple steps before leaving campus, resulting in an unnecessary waste of energy for days or weeks at a time.

- Use only reusable cups (3 pts)
  Low recycling rates and long decomposition times mean that plastics can take centuries to biodegrade, leaching chemicals into groundwater and posing threats on wildlife. Using reusable dishware helps avoid environmental problems associated with one-time use plastic ware.

- Using only the communal fridge (3 pts)
  Of all resident appliances, mini fridges consume by far the most electricity. It is important to utilize this knowledge and condense usage of mini fridge when possible.

C) Small purchases

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13 http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/indoor.html
14 http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/Basement.htm
15 http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/plastics.htm#facts
• **Switch to Fluorescent light bulbs** (1 pt per light bulb)
  Fluorescent lights last longer than other light bulbs, reducing energy use.

• **Shower timers** (2 pts per shower)
  By making your showers 5 minutes shorter every day, you can reduce your yearly water consumption by over 2700 gallons.\(^\text{16}\)

• **Environmentally friendly cleaning supplies** (2 pts)
  Environmentally friendly cleaning products are less toxic, promote better indoor air quality, and use less energy in their production.

• **Drying rack** (3 pts)
  According to the EPA, washing and drying clothes is one of the most energy intensive chores in a household.\(^\text{17}\) Air-drying laundry saves energy and also helps clothes last longer.

**D) Outside Involvement**

- Participating in Outdoor Environmental Club or any other school environmental organization event (1pt per member)
- Volunteer at the Beloit Urban Garden (2pts)
- Philanthropy event based around environmental awareness (2pts)
- Cooperating with non-Greek organization to organize event in order to bring more environmental awareness to campus (2pts)
- Having member join the Outdoor Environmental Club or any other school environmental organization (2pts per member)
- Hosting an environmental education event open to all of campus (3pts)

Our manual was based on a project conducted by UPENN students, here is their manual:


**Appendix B: Emails and Correspondence**

**Update on Project details from class**

\(^\text{16}\) http://epa.gov/WaterSense/products/showerheads.html
\(^\text{17}\) http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pubs/indoor.html
Meeting Regarding a Compost Pile for POLS 255 Project

Emily Francesca Canny <canny@beloit.edu>
to John, Catherine, Sara, Chloe

Hi John,

Hope you are doing well!

Currently, I am in the middle of a project for my Global Political Ecology class with Pablo Toral which requires us to accomplish an environmental activism project on campus. My group decided to start a small scale project where we would like to start creating a compost pile on the plot of land between Theta Pi Gamma's house and French/Hallanguage House as a part of a "green" certification program for special interest houses. We were planning on starting our compost area of our project by acquiring waste from Theta Pi Gammas and Kappa Delta personally ourselves.

I am emailing you because I wanted to check in to see if this project is possible and/or if it would be more beneficial for us to use bins to compost in to survive during the winter. We wanted to explore options for this project but wanted to make sure that it was okay with Residential Life.

We were also wondering if you had access to the water/electricity bills of the Greek houses and if we could use data from them for our project.

We appreciate any help you can give us.

Thanks!

Emma

John Winkelmann <winkel@beloit.edu>
to Residential, me

Emma,

We really need to talk about this... lots of current issues around composting especially around the houses.

We are ready to pull out many of the dead piles.

I'll ask Elise to call to find a good time.

Emma Canny <canny@beloit.edu>
to John

Hi John,

Sounds good, we've actually conveniently pulled out composting from our plan so perhaps we can discuss the logistics of our new project which would involve a "green" certification program for the Greek houses. What this would mean is we'd try to limit water and energy usage in the houses by starting initiatives within the houses to turn off lights when they're not being used and using timers to help raise consciousness about the water usage in their house.

We can discuss more of this during a meeting. Please let me know what works for you

Thanks!

Emma

Residential Life <reslife@beloit.edu>
to me

Morning Emma,

John forwarded me your email to find an appointment time for you... Can you send me chunks of time that you are available and I can then see what John has available?

I will wait to hear from you,

Else

Res Life

From John Winkelmann <winkel@beloit.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 9:55 PM
To: Emily Francesca Canny
Cc: Residential Life
Subject: Re: Meeting Regarding a Compost Pile for POLS 255 Project

Emily Francesca Canny <canny@beloit.edu>
to Residential

Hi Else,

I'm free after 1 on MW and 2 - 2 on Tues/Weds.

Thanks!

Emma

Residential Life <reslife@beloit.edu>
to me

Morning Emma,

I do not make meetings for John between noon and 1:30 pm. So, based on your availability, John has 1:30 pm next Monday, 9/29/14.

Will this work? Otherwise please give me a call so we can try to find another time for you.

Else

40
Setting up meeting with John Winkelmann, Head of Residential Life/Greek Life Advisor

Halley Baars <baarso@beloit.edu>  Sep 18

to physicalplant

Greetings,

I am in a class this semester called Global Political Ecology, and our goal is to make the college more sustainable. I am interested in knowing the energy and water use of every Greek house on Campus (Theta, Kappa Delta, AST, TKE, Sig Chi, and Phi-Psi). Would it be possible for me to view the water and energy bills from these locations?

best,

Halley Baars

LeeAnn Ryan <ryan@beloit.edu>  Sep 19

to me, physicalplant

Yes. Come to see me in the Smith building and I can give you access to the energy bills. I am available today between 7am and 3:30pm. I will not be available between 10 and 12 due to a meeting and my lunch. Otherwise you can stop by at any time.
Halley Baars <baarsc@beloilt.edu>  Sep 19

to LeeAnn

Hello,

Thank you for your quick response. Unfortunately I will not be able to come by today, is it at all possible for me to come by on Monday?

Thanks again,

LeeAnn Ryan <ryanl@beloilt.edu>  Sep 19

to me

Monday is fine. I will be in the office and available anytime between 7:00 and 3:30. My lunch is 11:30 - 12:00 but otherwise I have not meetings scheduled that day.

Halley Baars <baarsc@beloilt.edu>  Sep 22

to LeeAnn

Hello,

I plan to come in today at 1, hope that works for you!

LeeAnn Ryan <ryanl@beloilt.edu>  Sep 22

to me

1:00 will work fine. See you then.

Setting up meeting with LeeAnn Ryan, Physical Plant
First email to Kappa Delta President Lexi Sughroue and House Manager Willow Macy

Emily Francesca Canny <canny@beloit.edu>  
Sep 16

Hey Lexi,

I am writing to you because I am a part of the POLS 255 Global Political Ecology class which requires an environmental activism project on campus. We were planning on creating a "green" certification system which requires a few initiatives in the house:

-25% LED lightbulbs in the house
-Reducing water and energy consumption
-Morning showers in the hallways and bathrooms
-Shower timers to regulate amount of time in showers
-Recycling and composting. (not in the house don't worry)

My group was wondering if we could use KD as a part of the project. I could see it being very beneficial for our image on campus, for recruitment, and as a cool project to National. Members from my group would love to come and present to the chapter on any Tuesday that's possible for us and discuss the project, if it is okay with both of you that we do this project.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

AOE
Emme

Alexa Sughroue <sughroue@beloit.edu>
Sep 18

Hey Emme:

Emma,

I think this would be a great project to implement in the house. I have no problem with you and your group using KD for the project, but I do have a couple of questions. Will all of the materials be provided to us in order for us to go "green"? Also, will you be doing all of the recording and documentation of the lights and shower times?

Thanks,

Lexi

Emily Francesca Canny <canny@beloit.edu>
Sep 18

Hey Lexi:

Yes, don't worry, we're covering the labor and cost of it. We were planning on doing an audit of the house to document the amount of lights and showers but we were planning to use the honor code for these dates. We were planning on using the shower timers as an awareness tool in addition to the data from the water bill. We're going to (haha) to see if there will be a decrease in usage.

But to answer your question, we will be taking up the labor cost of the project. We would most likely put up posters and flyers in the bathroom regarding water usage statistics in addition to that, but primarily it would be a non-invasive project.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Emme
Follow up email to Kappa Delta President Lexi Sughroue and First email to all Greek Presidents

Re: Presentation of Green House Project

Emily Francesca Canney <canney@beloit.edu>
to Alex, Matthew, Maria, Thomas, Michael, Sara, Chloe, Catherine

Hi Presidents,
Hope this week is going well for all of you. Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this project!
As a part of the Green House Initiative project, we would love to present our project to your chapter at a time that is convenient for you all. I understand that there are some limitations on us presenting during your chapters, so if need be, we can send along a presentation that you could share with your chapter in another form such as a chapter-wide email.
Please let us know what works best for you! As always, let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you very much,
Emily

Second email and third email requesting meeting time with all Greek chapters

Fwd: Energy Meters

Sara Sherrard <sherrard@beloit.edu>
to Chloe, me, Catherine

Hi Sara,
Unfortunately the energy meters I have are for individual appliances and things that plug into electrical outlets. I am working on a proposal to purchase submeters which can monitor the energy of an entire house but these won’t be available until next year.
One alternative to knowing the actual energy consumption would be to offer certification to houses with only CFL and led bulbs and energy star appliances and heating and cooling systems. Also offer points for weather stripping on doors/windows. Offer big points for having an energy audit done to identify air leaks and of course seal the air leaks afterwards. Also check for redundant appliances—minimize it in bedrooms, unnecessary lamps, that sort of thing. I hope this helps and I’m looking forward to the great certification. I am hoping that it will be successful and we can roll it out to the other special interest houses.

On Oct 23, 2014 9:42 PM, "Sara Sherrard <sherrard@beloit.edu>" wrote:

Dear Linda,

I’m in Polisi’s Global Political Ecology class, and for our activism project my group is working on a Green Living Certification Program with greek houses. I recall you mentioned when you come to our class that there are energy meters available for use. Our goal is to know energy usage for greek houses (Phi Psi, Kappa Delta, TKE, Sigma Chi, Theta) on an individual basis. We had a meeting with Physical Plant and they told us that it wasn’t possible to get an individual bill. We were wondering if the energy meters could be used to measure the energy usage for the whole house.

Please let us know as soon as possible. I’d really appreciate! Thank you!

Regards,
Sara Sherrard

Email to Lindsay Chapman asking if she had electric meters to estimate electricity usage for an entire house
Email sending out manual to all Greek IFPC representatives
Unplug Beloit: Reducing Phantom Energy on Campus

Global Political Ecology Fall 2014
Simone Harstead, Alexandra Kurpiel, Mattea Wallace

Presented on: 9 December 2014
Problem

- Our activism group in Pablo Toral’s Global Political Ecology class focused on the phenomenon commonly called “standby power” as a way to reduce energy consumption on the Beloit College campus. Standby power occurs when an electrical device or appliance uses electrical power even while turned off if it is still plugged in.\(^\text{18}\) We believe that this excess of power consumption can be easily solved. Some students are unaware of this phenomenon, others have heard of it but fail to take necessary steps or do not know how to combat it, and some are simply unconcerned with their energy consumption. These findings are based on peer observation, personal experience, and responses taken from online surveys. Though the amount of energy consumed by dormant appliances may be proportionately small, the issue is still widely unaddressed considering it is easy to combat by unplugging devices, using a power strip, or buying Energy Star model appliances, which are designed to use 50% less standby power.\(^\text{19}\) While recognizing these behaviors and the lack of knowledge on the Beloit College campus, we believe that phantom energy is a problem in energy efficiency which deserves further investigating.

- There are few daily reminders or apparent information about energy consumption realities on the Beloit College campus; based on observation, there are light switch stickers in a small number of academic buildings reminding users to turn them off. Otherwise, our group attempted to address the lack of information by creating educational initiatives to spread energy reduction techniques.

- People need to be reminded about their energy consumption habits, especially when considering the Gidden’s Paradox, an environmental policy principle which addresses the lack of public concern for global climate change since the effects are not readily visible or tangible.

- In the U.S., a large portion of energy consumed is created through oil, coal, and natural gas, which are all forms of fossil fuels. These fossil fuels result in the degradation of air and water quality, the generation of solid waste, land resource use, and various other environmentally harmful practices.\(^\text{20}\) In any community, energy consumption has many negative ecological implications and are costly as well. It is important to reduce energy usage and consumption levels wherever possible to address these environmental problems.

Goal

- The group’s main goal was to significantly reduce the consumption of electrical energy from standby power by providing audits, information, and recommendations to portions of Beloit College students. Lindsay Chapman, the sustainability coordinator at Beloit College, provided our group with the electric bills for Art House, Music House, Women’s Center, and the Outdoor Environmental Club (OEC). In order to measure our success, we researched the prevalence of standby power in the average home on the Alliant Energy website and found that it accounts for 5-10% of the electricity bill. Based on this, our goal was to reduce the cost of the October Alliant Energy bill for these four interest houses by 6-8% from 2013 to 2014. We hope that by taking these steps, the environmental incentives will eventually spread to the rest of the student body.

Strategies

\(^{18}\) “Standby Power” (accessed September 14, 2014)


\(^{20}\) “How Does Electricity Affect the Environment?” (accessed September 14, 2014)
- **Holy Diamond:** The main strategy for Unplug Beloit was to analyze the four corners of the Holy Diamond to address all of the necessary aspects of our identified problem.

- **Science:** we researched that approximately 5-10% of a home’s energy bill comes from phantom energy.\(^{21}\) We measured appliances with a Kill-A-Watt meter to show the residents of the special interest houses how much idle energy their appliances were using.

- **Economics:** our project required relatively no funding since we were able to borrow Kill-A-Watt meters from Lindsay Chapman.

- **Ethics:** Beloit College puts a great deal of emphasis on being sustainable. We discussed the consequences of the way power plants produce energy and how even wasting 5% of monthly electricity can have awful effects on the environment with the special interest houses. Future discounting was common in our discoveries, with people not doing anything to help the environment now because they do not know for sure what will happen in the future.\(^{22}\)

- **Politics:** we needed to get approval from the RAs of the special interest houses and from the students whose rooms we were going to monitor, but our group members were the only ones involved with measuring the energy use and talking to the houses.

- **House Meetings:** We emailed the RAs of the special interest houses to set up a time to talk to all of their residents about our project and gauge interest.\(^{23}\) At the meetings we explained what phantom energy was, how they can change their habits to reduce their phantom energy use.

- **Surveys:** We sent out a survey to each resident of the houses to see who had previously known about phantom energy, if they were willing to work with us, and then a time we could visit.\(^{24}\)

- **Posters:** We created a poster with information specific to each of the special interest houses.\(^{25}\) The posters would serve as a constant reminder to unplug things when not in use and think about ways to help the environment in general. They served as a way to prevent the problem of availability heuristic where people do not care about an issue unless it is brought forward to them.\(^{26}\) We printed the posters on paper found in recycling bins to be even more sustainable.

- **DKs Art Installation:** One way we wanted to educate the school about phantom energy was putting up an installation of posters in DKs. It is a high traffic area and we could reach many people with information and strategies to combat phantom energy. Unfortunately, Ken Hnilo, the General Manager of DKs, never responded to our email about putting the installation up.\(^{27}\)

### Challenges

- **Lack of Responses/Cooperation:** The biggest challenge for our project was getting the residents of the special interest houses and RAs to respond to our emails and participate.

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\(^{21}\) "Standby Power." (Accessed 14 September 2014)


\(^{23}\) Appendix E

\(^{24}\) Appendix B

\(^{25}\) Appendix C


\(^{27}\) Appendix D
Many did not come to the house meetings or take the survey in a timely matter. To mitigate this issue, we sent follow-up emails to the participants so that they would schedule meetings and take the survey.

- **Finding Things Without Phantom Energy:** The Kill-A-Watt meters we had were unable to pick up small traces of phantom energy being used on a few smaller appliances.
- **Project Sustainability:** Project sustainability was problematic; we created the posters so that the houses could keep it up, but we were unable to find a way to institutionalize our project.
- **Other Factors:** The weather could have differed from last year, causing the residents to use different amounts of electricity on either heating or AC. There are also new residents in the houses this year who could have different levels of electrical consumption.

**Accomplishments**

- Our main goal was to reduce energy bills by 6-8% from October 2013 to October 2014. After receiving the energy bills for these houses, we calculated the differences in price and kilowatt-hours. In both Music House and Women’s Center, our goal was met. OEC also used less energy, but only by 4.6%. Art House’s energy bill, on the other hand, increased by 20.5%. Overall, we were pleased with the changes in three out of the four interest houses, who managed to reduce their energy usage. Unfortunately, the decreases in Music House, OEC, and Women’s Center were not enough to compensate for the significant increase of Art House. One important component of the project was the economic convergence, because the lifestyle changes that we wanted to happen also lower the college’s cost, and green incentives are good for all industries.

- We successfully facilitated the online survey, encouraged the use of power strips, and explained the benefits of using Energy Star model appliances. The first two strategies made a difference, but students do not have the resources to change the appliances in their houses.

- Our second goal was to educate residents about phantom energy in order to make the initiative more sustainable. We created posters for each special interest house which included energy usage statistics and facts. We were not able to accomplish the project at DKs because we did not receive any responses to our emails in time to complete it.

- Our third goal was to measure the phantom energy output of appliances in the houses to determine whether or not it makes a significant difference in the energy bill. We found that many appliances used a lot of phantom energy, whereas others did not.

- Our fourth idea is a long term goal in which the entire campus’ energy bill decreases by 6-8% over time. This we can not measure at this point, as the time frame has not ended. This is a good representation of incrementalism, or evolution over revolution. We did not intend for their to be a stark difference so quickly, but for the usage to go down over time.

**Advice for the future**

- One main issue we ran into was a lack of cooperation from the interest houses we were monitoring. It would have been more effective if we had only gathered information from two houses. This way, we could have found out what works more quickly. Instead, we spent more time than necessary tracking down RAs, setting up meeting, and waiting for survey responses.

- A similar point is that we should have reached out to our participants earlier on. We thought that we were starting early enough, but we did not take into consideration the fact that many

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28 Appendix A  
30 Appendix F
people do not respond to emails. This left us low on time and we were not able to spread awareness to the extent that we had wanted to before the houses tried to lower their energy bill for October.

- We encountered difficulties when trying to get the residents motivated about the project. We had originally thought people would be very receptive to our project because it is not a large undertaking; however, for many people, not unplugging their device is a hard habit to break. We should have incentivized through something such as a reward, food, or some sort of recognition.

This project would have been more successful if we had found a way to make it sustainable, which was one of the most difficult things we faced. We accomplished this somewhat just through the educational aspect of our project, but we unfortunately cannot guarantee that energy bill costs will continue decreasing or that everyone on campus is aware of what phantom energy is. For the future it would be imperative for there to be a more sustainable aspect of the initiative.
### A.

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<td>Art House</td>
<td>149.94</td>
<td>1272</td>
<td>180.73</td>
<td>1425</td>
<td>+ 30.79</td>
<td>+20.5</td>
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<td>Music House</td>
<td>101.36</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>94.55</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>- 6.81</td>
<td>-6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>OEC</td>
<td>151.39</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>144.28</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>- 7.11</td>
<td>-4.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Center</td>
<td>211.11</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>195.73</td>
<td>1570</td>
<td>- 15.38</td>
<td>-7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>613.80</strong></td>
<td><strong>5267</strong></td>
<td><strong>615.29</strong></td>
<td><strong>4836</strong></td>
<td><strong>+0.24%</strong></td>
<td><strong>-8.18%</strong></td>
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</table>

### i. Table of the Average Responses to the Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC72SY](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC72SY)

19 Responses Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Average Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you previously heard of phantom energy?</td>
<td>74% said yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many appliances do you usually have plugged in?</td>
<td>5.7 on average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long are most of the appliances plugged in for?</td>
<td>Most said 24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you okay with us coming in to monitor your energy consumption with a Kill-A-Watt meter?</td>
<td>95% said yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### i. Posters
i. Email to Ken Hnilo
Hello,

I am a Sophomore here at Beloit College and am in a class called Global Political Ecology where we working on environmental activism projects. Our group is focusing on energy consumption on campus and are trying to figure out ways in which we can effectively educate the student body. We want to refrain from printing out multiple posters, flyers, or table tents to spread information (for environmental reasons) and therefore considered the possibility of creating an educational exhibit to be displayed at DK’s. We have seen various projects displayed in DK’s and were wondering if we could somehow reserve a space and time to spread important energy information in DK’s.

Is this a possibility? Are you the appropriate person to contact about this? If not, may we be directed to whoever has the authority to permit such an installation? Please let me know. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Mattea

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i. Email Correspondence with RAs

**IMPORTANT!!! Student Activism Project**

Sent: Sep 24

**Simone Catherine Harstead**<harsteas@beloit.edu>

To: Amelia, Mattea, Alexandra

Greetings RA of Art/Music House!

Mattea, Alex, and I are working on an activism project on campus for Pablo Toral’s Global Political Ecology class. Our project focuses on the phenomenon of standby/phantom power, and our success relies heavily on the participation of your interest houses!

We would like to track and study the energy usage and habits of your residents. We will need to talk to them about the project to ensure their participation, so we would like to request a mandatory floor meeting to take place as soon as possible where we can come and discuss our efforts with the residents. If you have these weekly, or if the house has another gathering time (e.g. house cleaning), we could always stop by then as well so that they don’t have to go out of their way for this.

Our goal is to track the energy usage of October 2014, and reduce the use of phantom energy in the interest houses. That means that we would like to meet before the 1st of October. It would mean so much to us if you could help us in our efforts to make Beloit College a more sustainable campus and to do well on our project!!!!

Best,

Simone, Mattea, and Alex
Simone Catherine Harstead <harstead@beloit.edu>  Oct 7

Hey Women's Center!

We visited your house last week and here is a follow-up email with extra information and a link to the survey that we need everyone to complete ASAP.

For Pablo Tora’s Global Political Ecology class, we are focusing on phantom energy, which is the idle energy being drawn from a turned off appliance which is still plugged in. This happens when phone chargers are plugged in when not in use, etc. It’s easy to cut back on the amount of phantom energy that is being drawn, and saves you money!

The first step of our project is to monitor phantom energy usage that is present in your interest house. The majority of the commitment that we need from you will happen in the beginning stages of this assessment. Beyond the survey (attached) and a small amount time in which we can check the devices in your room. Not much else is needed in this first step.

We are going to compare past energy bills with the bill for October, so we will be measuring devices during this time. To be more specific, we are looking to reduce phantom energy, which means that we hope you guys will try to alter your habits and hopefully make a change!

Thank you for your participation! Until further notice, this is all we need from you. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Here is the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC725Y

Best,

Simone, Mattea, and Alex

Alexandra Kurpiel <kurpielar@beloit.edu>  Oct 1

Hi Residents of Music House!

We are doing an environmental activism project for Pablo Tora’s Global Political Ecology class. For this project, each group is trying to find a way to make campus more sustainable. We are focusing on phantom energy, which is the idle energy being drawn from a turned off appliance which is still plugged in. This happens when phone chargers are plugged in when not in use, etc. It’s easy to cut back on the amount of phantom energy that is being drawn, and saves you money!

The first step of our project is to monitor phantom energy usage that is present in your interest house. The majority of the commitment that we need from you will happen in the beginning stages of this assessment. Beyond the survey (attached) and a small amount time in which we can check the devices in your room. Not much else is needed in this first step.

We are going to compare past energy bills with the bill for October, so we will be measuring devices during this time. We would really appreciate it if you were to fill out this survey so that the test can start by the beginning of October. We will follow up with the information collected by developing simple strategies in which you can reduce your phantom energy consumption.

Thank you for your participation! Until further notice, this is all we need from you.

Here is the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC725Y

Best,

Simone, Mattea, and Alex
REMINDER: Un-Plug Beloit Activism

Simone Catherine Harstead <harsteads@beloit.edu>  Oct 6
Hey residents of OEC and Music and Art Houses!

We recently emailed y'all a survey for our environmental activism project on campus, which is about reducing phantom energy. Our project really depends on your participation, so please fill out the survey attached ASAP! It really only takes a few minutes.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC72SY

If you have any questions or cannot answer the survey for any reason, please contact us.

Thank you so much,

Simone, Mattea, and Alexandra

Important: Unplug Beloit (Environmental Activism Project)

Simone Catherine Harstead <harsteads@beloit.edu>  Oct 2
Hi Residents of OEC!

We spoke to a few members of the house yesterday but we figured we should follow it up with an email so everyone is aware.

We are doing an environmental activism project for Pablo Toral’s Global Political Ecology class. For this project, each group is trying to find a way to make campus more sustainable. We are focusing on phantom energy, which is the idle energy being drawn from a turned off appliance which is still plugged in. This happens when phone chargers are plugged in when not in use, etc. It’s easy to cut back on the amount of phantom energy that is being drawn, and saves you money!

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Thank you for your participation! Until further notice, this is all we need from you.

Here is the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DKC72SY

Best,

Simone, Mattea, and Alex
i. Kill-a-Watt monitoring of different appliances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount of phantom energy (W)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamp</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power strip</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microwave</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer charger</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Works Cited


“How Does Electricity Affect the Environment?” (accessed September 14, 2014)


Beloit Urban Garden Revitalization Project

Group Members:
Clare Harper, Kiara Caruso, Sabina Van Tilburg, Lane Gooding

Presented on:
9 December 2014
**Goals:**

The original purpose of the Beloit Urban Garden (BUG) Revitalization Project was to help the BUG complete some of its unfinished goals, focusing on extending the growing season of the garden by providing its members with a hoop house (also known as a polytunnel) and the accompanying materials and knowledge to make it useful, including hay for insulation and instructions of how to properly care for a hoop house. We also intended to grow seedlings in the college greenhouse during the winter to provide the hoop house with crops upon its installation.

The goals shifted over the course of the project to best suit the needs of BUG and to help it continue. The way we addressed our final goals was to drop the ideas of supplying the garden with “stuff” and contributed by meeting more pressing needs. This involved working to winterize the garden, order and lay compost, and communicate with club members about sustaining the club. This will help the garden to reach its goals by promoting a long-term, sustainable membership of the club, and by rescuing the garden that would have gone without care for seasons without our help. Keeping the garden in working order may be the most useful thing, because without that key piece, none of the goals of BUG would be met.

**Strategies:**

**Diagnosing a Problem**

As the summer growing season comes to a close and the frigid conditions of a temperate Beloit climate set in, the Beloit Urban Garden (BUG) ceases supplying Bon Appetit with fresh local produce at Commons. This forces Bon Appetit to seek out other produce suppliers farther from Beloit. The company also strives to “buy at least 20% of their ingredients from small farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food producers within 150 miles of their kitchens”\(^{31}\). This percentage which fluctuates with availability and the client’s location, is the lowest during winter season. The costs, both economic and environmental, of purchasing and transporting food from non-local sources are large. By decreasing their overall percentage of local incoming food, Bon Appetit models after the precautionary principle\(^ {32}\), creating steps to help them succeed during winter months so that they can still provide local food to their clients. Bon Appetit’s goal is to create “food service for a sustainable future”\(^ {33}\) and shipping produce from out of state when Beloit Urban Garden’s growing season could just be extended is not sustainable. The BUG also has yet to fulfilled its initial ideals, including maximizing Wisconsin’s growing season and becoming financially self-sufficient.

**Objectives**

This project aims to limit the time that Bon Appetit has to resort to importing non-local produce. We aspire to increase the amount of food BUG produces for Bon Appetit by extending the growing season through use of a polytunnel or hoop house.

**What success means to us**

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The Beloit Urban Garden made a list of 13 goals that it hopes to fulfill:
- Be close to college campus
- Be economically self-sufficient
- Enhance the college’s reputation
- Engage the broader Beloit community
- Offer opportunities for experiential learning
- Put the liberal arts into practice
- Be student run and managed
- Be connected to the college curriculum
- Be connected to the campus food provider
- Maximize Wisconsin’s growing seasons
- Have a space for experimental use
- Produce ecologically sound food
- Be aesthetically pleasing 34

For this project to be successful, we will help complete the original goals of the Beloit Urban Garden by extending BUG’s growing season and working towards making it more “economically self-sufficient” through funding and purchasing a hoop house and its accompanying materials such as insulation (hay bales) and tools for construction. We will also be germinating needed seedlings in the campus greenhouse to be used in the hoop house early in the growing season. We will be providing a write-up of useful directions about the hoop house and extending the growing season for the members of BUG to use as soon as the hoop house can be erected. Because this class is during the fall semester, we will use the winter months to plan and provide the garden with all the steps and supplies it needs to move forward and complete their list of goals by “maximizing Wisconsin’s growing season”.

**Challenges:**

Our main challenge was the stability of the institution of BUG. The club was not able to meet its basic goals this semester due to student availability and management, and so the installation of an aquaponics system or even a hoop house was too ambitious considering the state of the club.

Another challenge was ordering the compost. After multiple emails and voice messages, LEAFLAN, the local compost provider and green waste disposal center, did not reply. This issue was due to their website and voicemail system being down. After talking with their employees, this challenge was an example of system neglect35 because LEAFLAN employees were afraid to touch the answering system and website because of the risk involved in disrupting the current systems. To overcome this challenge, additional plans were made to drive down to the actual offices near Monroe to order the compost in person.

**Achievements:**

**Hoop House Approval**


Getting hoop house approval from BUG Club Members and making connections with club members and leaders was successful. While we did not end up building a hoop house, these connections were important.

**Compost**
The ordering and dispersing of 3 cubic yards of compost was completed through the help of LEAFLAN, a local green waste disposal and provider, Elizabeth Brewer, BUG Faculty Advisor, BUG members, and volunteers. We were able to successfully prepare the garden for the winter, a form of proactive adaptation\textsuperscript{36} to Wisconsin’s extreme winters.

**Putting Bug to Bed Event**
An event (advertised campus-wide and open to all interested students to volunteer), was held on November 9 to winterize BUG. This entailed pulling out dead plants, weeding the garden, transplanting some plants and bushes, removing hoses, brick labels and fencing around the garden, and spreading compost over the whole plot. This was all successfully accomplished during our event. This event was crucial to the success of BUG on our campus. Without proper winterization, the garden would not be ready for planting season in the spring and therefore bear no crops next year. In order for the garden to continue, winterization was essential. This event would not have been possible without our activism group and project because the club was not prepared to undertake the winterization of BUG and Betsy Brewer (the BUG faculty moderator) was not in the position to organize or run the event. Therefore, without our action, BUG would not have survived this semester and would be inactive in the next growing season. We were able to save and revitalize the garden (and even to some extent the club). There is hope for a more robust club next semester.

**Advice for the Future**
For future projects dealing with BUG and food sustainability on campus, we believe the best plan of action is going directly to faculty, like Elizabeth Brewer, BUG’s faculty advisor, rather than going to club meetings. In this situation, Elizabeth Brewer was able to give us a more concrete updates on the stability of BUG and it’s internal communications.

Another piece of advice is to create a detailed timeline with personal deadlines and update it and change it as goals or measures of success change. Timelines can help to map out the progress made by the group and can visually show how much work the group has accomplished and not accomplished. Because this project is assigned during the school semester, to students with other, equally important projects and classes, a timeline with personal deadlines and due dates can help keep the group responsible and accountable.

Assigning team tasks is another useful lesson we learned. When we split up the work with specific tasks for each group member we were a lot more successful than when we had general objectives for everyone to work on.

\textsuperscript{36} Giddens, Anthony “Proactive Adaptation”, The Politics of Climate Change, Polity Press, MA. 2011. pg. 164
Appendix

Figure 1: Correspondence prior to ordering compost

Oct 28

I was able to go to the garden this weekend and measure the beds to get an estimate of how much compost would be needed.

First bed, closest to the street: 720 sq ft (16X45)
Back bed: 2,095 sq ft (41X50)
Smaller brick raised beds: 4 4X4 beds = 64 sq ft
Total garden space: 2,834 sq ft = 314.9 sq yards

I would love to order the compost this week and have it delivered on Nov 2 but I was curious as to how I would pay for the compost. Should I just get a receipt for reimbursement or is there a specific way to access BUG funds to pay for things like this?

Thank you very much!

Oct 28

[Response]

HI,

has access to BUG funds. Check with him to make sure there is enough money in the account (there should be more than enough). You can get a receipt to turn into accounting for reimbursement. You are also going to need tools, such as rakes and shovels, gloves, and a wheelbarrow. BUG has some of these but you may need to borrow some so everyone who comes can work. Tim has the key to the BUG garden shed - or at least did over the summer.

Is your group building new raised beds? If so, you'll need compost for them as well.

If you can't find , he does not respond to email, try his phone:
Bibliography

CLC Public Relations and Marketing, “New hoophouses extend growing season, serve as teaching tools,” College of Lake County, 29 July 2014.

