

Center for Sustainability – Semester Grant Program
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Student Projects focused on Campus Sustainability Issues

The Center for Sustainability is initiating a semester grant program to encourage student exploration into campus sustainability issues directly related to the development of a Climate Action Plan through the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. Campus sustainability is an excellent theme for motivated student inquiry, as these issues directly impact the entire BSC community. Furthermore, finding the answers to campus sustainability questions will develop critical thinking skills, may involve a multidisciplinary approach, and could lead to extended student research projects, honors theses, and community-based research.

Broad campus participation from all academic disciplines is strongly encouraged! To promote engagement and collaboration from diverse disciplinary areas, the approach to these projects may include (but are not limited to): individual, research group, and whole-class projects; cost-benefit and SWOT analyses; lab and field research; education research; writing composition; audio and/or visual documentary; editorial writing; mathematical/computational modeling; etc.

Project Topics. There are abundant opportunities for student engagement on sustainability projects that have the potential to impact the entire BSC community. Although general project topics are listed below, students are encouraged to formulate their own specific research questions and then fit these into a context appropriate to the student's interests, desired impact, and intended audience. Under this Call for Proposals, the following general topics are being targeted for funding:

- Energy Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Energy & Water Audits
- Bottled water issues
- Recycling
- Composting
- Sustainable Dining and Food Systems
- Fair Trade Policy
- Community gardens
- Biking on campus
- Transportation/commuting issues
- Biodiesel from waste cooking oil
- Investing in carbon offsets
- Renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal)
- Paper use and reduction
- Green computing
- Green purchasing policy
- Green building construction
- Sustainability metrics
- Sustainability courses, curriculum and programs
- Sustainability and Community Outreach
- Sustainability and campus culture
- Sustainability and Social Justice
- Sustainability and ethics

If students have a question about whether their topic and/or research question is suitable under this grant program, we encourage you to run your ideas by the Center for Sustainability coordinators: Dr. Ed Brush, brush@bridgew.edu, x2116, or Dr. Michele Wakin, mwakin@bridgew.edu, x2514.

*BSC is among over 600 U.S. institutions that have signed on to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). The ultimate goal of the ACUPCC is for the signee institutions to develop and implement a campus Climate Action Plan focused on neutralizing green house gas emissions, and to accelerate research and educational efforts to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate.
Campus wide discussions at BSC will begin in October 2009.*