

EVERGREEN

“Sustainability isn’t just a bandwagon we’re hopping onto. It’s woven into the very fabric of our identity, and history, as an institution.” – President Les Purce, 2007

Planning and Leadership

- Talloires Declaration: In 2007 President Purce signed the Talloires Declaration, a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations, and outreach at colleges and universities.
- American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment: President Purce is a member of the Leadership Circle of the Presidents Climate Commitment, an agreement to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality.
- The Evergreen 2007 Updated Strategic Plan, Campus Master Plan, and Long-term Sustainability Plan reflect the institution’s commitment to sustainability. Infrastructure support includes the Sustainability and Justice Academic Planning Group, the Sustainability Task Force, a newly hired Director of Sustainability, an Aramark Sustainability Intern, a Residential and Dining Services Sustainability Coordinator, the Clean Energy Committee, the Print Management Committee, and a Commute Trip Reduction Transportation Coordinator.

Academics, Education, and Student Activities

- Evergreen Ecological Observation Network (EEON) – Beginning in 2005, the EEON project has worked extensively with four major academic programs and four contract students to create baseline estimates of the carbon cycle within the Evergreen State College forest reserve.
- Academic Programs: Faculty designed and produced sustainable teaching gardens both on and off campus; Sustainability Design programs assisted with architectural design and planning for renovation of institutional buildings; Ecological Agricultural programs increased campus food production and partnered with local farmers to bring local produce to campus; and Native American Studies programs focused on survival/sustainability in place-locked communities.
- Clean Energy Initiative: In 2005, Evergreen students voted in favor of a self-imposed clean energy fee. Evergreen now offsets 100% of the institution’s electricity purchases with green, renewable resources.
- Student Climate Change and Sustainability Work: Individual Evergreen students are engaged in a multitude of projects and research efforts including, but not limited to, completion of Tumwater’s carbon inventory and first climate action project; assistance to Centralia College’s carbon inventory; research on the effects on climate change on marine ecosystems; and assistance to the City of Olympia with Inventory and Climate Action Plan.

Facilities and Operations

- Seminar II Building: first public LEED Certified Gold building in Washington; utilizes passive cooling and convective heating; and utilizes green roofs.
- Evergreen Biodiesel Project: converts spent vegetable oil into useable biodiesel, supplies Evergreen’s Organic Farm tractors with renewable fuel.
- Other sustainable features: pesticide and herbicide free, uses only organic fertilizers; single stream recycling – reduced material hauled to landfill by 15% from July through December 2007; purchased electric vehicles and continue to reduce gasoline powered fleet; and purchased more than 42% of food from local and organic sources.