
PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES FOR ACADEMICS AND RESOURCES COUNCIL (SPARC)

To help guide PCC's sustainability and green technology curricular activities, in 2009 the PCC Cabinet established a district-wide academic sustainability committee, **SPARC**. Members include faculty, staff, and administrators and the Council meets each term with a rotating chair position. The college's Climate Action Plan guides the committee, supports PCC's Core Outcome #2, while faculty members create new initiatives for the committee to develop and implement. SPARC works collaboratively with the college's curriculum office, as well as the grant's office and community education. SPARC is charged to:

- a. Support the design, development and/or revision of curricula that incorporates sustainability
- b. Serve as an advisory board to faculty for sustainability-related curricular and program development.
- c. Encourage the active sharing of information for all curriculum related initiatives
- d. Coordinate potential grant efforts
- e. Maintain a historical record of PCC's efforts in green technologies

7 SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED COURSE OUTCOMES

- 1) Critically examine the complex and interconnected relationship between human behavior and the environment through a lens of sustainability and "the triple bottom line" (people, planet, profit).
- 2) Critically evaluate the root causes of environmental problems, including historical, cultural, ethical, political, economic, social, structural, and/or infrastructural issues, in order to recommend, implement and/or engage in problem-solving to address the challenges and opportunities of promoting sustainable development
- 3) Examine existing and alternative resource use and identify quantitative or qualitative processes to educate and provide services to prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation and increase resource and energy efficiency.
- 4) Express the significance of environmental sustainability in written, oral, artistic, physical, and/or mechanical forms.
- 5) Use an awareness of the impacts of ecological issues and policies on communities of diverse backgrounds, on the local, regional, national, and international level, in order to interact with sensitivity, respect, and a sense of responsibility to others and the future.
- 6) Apply sustainable practices in the workplace and communities, as citizens, and/or in the development of public policy.
- 7) To apply an understanding of basic ecological principles (the interconnectedness of organisms to each other and their environment) to environmental problems and sustainability issues.