

Principia Center for Sustainability

Charter¹

The mission of the Principia Center for Sustainability is to educate, promote, and inspire Principia College's students, faculty and staff to become more responsible local and global environmental citizens.

A guiding principle of the Principia Center for Sustainability (PCS) activities is a holistic approach to sustainability education, including the integration of interdisciplinary experiential learning, service, and applied community-based problem solving. The center will also help assess Principia's environmental performance and incorporate sustainability in planning processes.

Objectives of the Center are to:

- Advance the academic curricula towards sustainability, including advising academic degree programs in sustainability
- Develop opportunities for effective communication among campus groups with sustainability-focused goals
- Encourage students to become involved with innovative projects (including both work experiences and volunteer service) which promote problem solving and develop leadership skills
- Be a resource for faculty development aimed at infusing sustainable concepts and content into courses
- Support faculty and student research on sustainability
- Help to assess college-level sustainability performance, and to incorporate sustainability in planning and implementation processes
- Promote Principia as a leader for sustainability in higher education
- Provide training for future career opportunities and résumé building
- Capture external funding, such as grants and donor support
- Coordinate collaboration with organizations with related goals, such as the Higher Education Advocacy Sub-committee of the St Louis Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, the St Louis Higher Education Sustainability Consortium, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

Organization

The PCS will be managed by a Director reporting directly to the College Dean of Academics, and serving as a member of the academic division heads, the President's College Leadership Team, and the Principia Sustainability Council.

Director of the Principia Center for Sustainability

The Director will:

- Have budget authorization over and responsibility for PCS funds, and will organize, manage, plan, account for, and effectively apply Principia College resources toward responsible and active sustainability academics

¹ Updated 24 September 2012

- Support and promote the College Academic Strategic Plan
- Develop, coordinate, and assess sustainability degree programs (currently an academic minor, but gearing toward a future sustainability major and graduate program)
- Raise campus awareness on sustainability issues, including organizing education and outreach programs on sustainability
- Guide the design, implementation, and evaluation of student-led sustainability research and action plans
- Participate in the Principia Sustainability Council, working closely with key staff (e.g., Director of Facilities, Director of Dining Services) on campus sustainability issues, including efforts to incorporate sustainability into planning and implementation processes
- Participate in college-level assessments of sustainability performance
- Be an expert resource for faculty, students, and staff on sustainability issues
- Teach sustainability courses as needed and as qualified to teach
- Represent Principia College academics to external constituencies in the field of sustainability in higher education
- Provide daily metaphysical support for the PCS and The Principia

Sustainability Council

The Sustainability Council will meet a minimum of once each academic semester to invite greater coordination, collaboration, and dialogue on sustainability plans, implementation actions, and assessments. This group is self-governing with representation from all sectors of the Principia community with an interest or stake in campus ‘greening’. The Council will take the lead in formulating a vision for a sustainable Principia, monitor progress toward sustainability goals, encourage and help to coordinate campus (and, to the extent practicable, Principia-wide) greening efforts, and oversee the development of a *Sustainability at The Principia* annual (or biannual) report.

Council representation may include but not be limited to:

- Principia Center for Sustainability
- Student government and appropriate student groups/clubs
- Facilities
- Dining services
- Contracts/Purchasing
- Office of Student Life
- Faculty-at-Large
- Lands Stewardship Office
- Advancement Office

Approved by:

Scott Schneberger, Dean of Academics _____ Date _____

Karen Grimmer, Dean of Administration _____ Date _____