

The Sustainability Council of Ventura County

Equitable Society, Sound Economy, Healthy Environment
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Date: November 5, 1997
To: Dr. Robert Peyton, Academic Planner
California State University, Channel Islands
From: Sustainability Council, New University Task Force
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Subject: A Sustainable University

The Sustainability Council is a county-wide community group whose main goal is public education about how we as a society can meet our own needs today while preserving natural resources for the future. Such an effort involves a comprehensive and integrated regional plan for living with the environment in equitable societies that have sound economies. This holistic approach to solving resource problems requires the collaborative efforts of people from all walks of life, from activists and business people, to artists, planners, scientists, environmentalists, architects, teachers, government leaders, farmers, citizens, and students.

We believe California State University, Channel Islands presents the Ventura County community and the region with an exciting opportunity to become a source of sustainable practices that can serve as the focus of the University's mission and enhance the quality of life in our region and the state for years to come.

We outline below our suggestions for making Cal State Channel Islands a "sustainable university" both in its own use of land and buildings and in its curricular goals and strategies.

GENERAL A University Based On And Actively Promoting Sustainable Principles Can:

- * focus on regional applications of the most progressive and global approach to improving the quality of life available to us.
- *bring relevant, interdisciplinary education to the needs of the region to counter the fragmented consciousness and torn social fabric we live in now.
- *integrate public and private, town and gown interests in building and preserving the region, and thereby become a source of connection between traditionally opposed groups.
- *focus on our four ecologies: marine, agricultural, urban, wild.
- *become a demonstration model for sustainable practices and thus serve as a model community for the application of cost effective, integrative learning as well as a ceremonial and cultural center.
- *build upon and develop a technically educated work force.

Sustainability Council Steering Committee : roma armbrust. jerry beckerman. robert chianese. todd collart.
scott ellinwood. harry gaskill. steve kinney. paul mattson. gail pringle. adele schmalenberger. jon sharkey. debra west.

CURRICULUM A University Based On And Actively Promoting Sustainable Principles can:

- *serve as a comprehensive university with a thematic focus.
- *provide a home for the integration of traditional and new fields of study.
- provide an integrative, thematic basis for General Education.
- *found a Center for Sustainable Studies for interdisciplinary majors, drawing upon the region's business and technological resources.
- *promote multi-cultural, democratic education that focuses on the integration of personal, social, aesthetic, fiscal, and environmental health.
- *provide the region with a new, generalist and pragmatic educational center rather than a polytechnic with discrete fields of study.
- provide a ready-made rationale for the acquisition and up-grading of advanced technology involved in the study of various subjects and in the teaching process itself.
- *create a new paradigm for learning where students help build and renovate the campus itself and thereby translate theories and ideas into constructive actions.
- *provide training for teachers who will have to incorporate technology, social issues, and global factors into their curricula and pedagogic approaches.

PHYSICAL CAMPUS A University Based On And Actively Promoting Sustainable Principles Can:

- *develop the new campus according to the principles of sustainability.
- * adaptively re-use existing buildings and site to demonstrate appropriate, pragmatic, sustainable building concepts including daylighting, recycled and recyclable building materials, healthy materials, alternative energy systems, water conservation and reclamation.
- *demonstrate in new structures state of the art sustainable building and energy technology
- *demonstrate in site development and planning sustainable concepts such as xeriscape, permaculture, edible landscape, composting, recycled & reclaimed materials, graywater irrigation
- *teach and provide a model for sustainable agriculture for Ventura County.
- *reclaim or recycle all campus waste - including waste water.
- *develop sustainable modes of transportation to connect the campus to the community, such as electric shuttles [photovoltaically re-charged] connecting the campus to park & ride lots around the county
- *use electronic technology to minimize waste [a paperless campus?] and minimize transportation [distance learning].
- *use public-private partnerships to develop sustainable technology for the economic benefit of both the university and private companies.