

Below you will find an introduction to this announcement, and

- A description of the purpose and membership of a new President's Sustainability Council
- A statement of the work for our first Sustainability Coordinator
- A record of those who will work in partnership with the Council and Coordinator
- A note on sustainability and strategic planning
- A call for nominations for members of the Council

Introduction

From its ancient witness through the present moment, the Judeo-Christian tradition in which our college stands has proclaimed the deep harmony between human beings and the whole of creation:

The LORD God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that that he became a living creature. . . . The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and look after it. (Genesis 2: 7 and 15)

The vision of humanity as formed from the earth and responsible to care for it, the declaration of the created world as good, the saving grace of the incarnate God, and the representation of men and women as creatures made in the image of their Maker—all these attest to the joy and necessity of our role as stewards of the Earth. Physical, economic, and social resources come to us as a gift that we must sustain for our neighbors and ourselves and for those who will follow us.

Concordia has been fortunate to have so many students, faculty, and staff who have proclaimed the centrality of this good work:

- The past and present members of the Sustainability Task Force, whose diligence has enabled significant progress in sustainability in college operations and in the creation of opportunities for learning about sustainability across our campus
- The members of our sustainability working groups—on buildings, curriculum, food, transportation, waste and water—whose insight and continued labor in conjunction with the Task Force have sparked our imagination and lifted our hopes
- The past and present members of Student Environmental Alliance and of Student Government Association, whose vision and devotion have challenged us to do better and more consistent work
- The talented, professional Facilities Management staff of the college who have led the way in conservation of energy resources
- Our colleagues at the Concordia Language Villages, and in particular those who envisioned, created, and maintain the *Waldsee BioHaus*, a singular example of unifying energy conservation and environmental education.

I know that everyone in our college community will join me in thanking these stewards of our resources at Concordia.

President's Sustainability Council

Purpose: This November, I will appoint a ten-person Sustainability Council, an ongoing working group chaired by a member of our faculty and reporting to me as president. In concert with the college community, the Council will build a vision for sustainability consistent with the mission of Concordia College to “influence the affairs of the world by sending into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.”

A more detailed account of the committee's charge will be published once its membership has been finalized, but here is a summary:

- To advise the president on forming policies for environmental sustainability in college operations and to work with the president in the effective implementation of such policies
- To establish across the college a compelling unity of environmental and fiscal sustainability
- To work with faculty, staff, and students in integrating learning about sustainability into our daily life, within the college curriculum and beyond it
- To advise the president on establishing effective partnerships with our educational, business, and residential neighbors, as well as with other institutions of higher learning
- To consider in conjunction with other college leaders how we can best develop the resources needed for our sustainability commitments and how we can best tell the story of our accomplishments in environmental and fiscal stewardship.

Membership: The membership of the Council will be as follows:

- Faculty Chair, and two other faculty members (One of the three faculty must teach in the Environmental Studies program.)
- Administrative Director: the Sustainability Coordinator
- Representative of the President: the Provost
- Representative of Student Life: TBD
- Representative of Facilities: the Director of Facilities Management
- Representative of Finance: TBD
- Two Students: TBD (One of the students must be a member of the Student Environmental Alliance; one must serve as a liaison to the Student Government Association.)

Faculty members will be appointed for renewable three-year terms, staggered to insure continuity of knowledge and engagement. Student members will be appointed for two-year terms when possible, once again staggered to insure that at least one student in any given year has prior experience on the Council. Administrative members will serve on the Council at the discretion of the president.

Concordia's Sustainability Coordinator

A search for our first Sustainability Coordinator is now underway. The Coordinator will bring together ideas and initiatives from across the college for defining and achieving Concordia's goals for sustainability in college operations and in student learning. He or she will serve as Administrative Director of the President's Sustainability Council, will report to the provost, and will meet regularly with the president. For a detailed account of the coordinator's responsibilities, follow this link to our HR site:

<https://hr.cord.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1319570300235>

Partners in Sustainability

Sustainability Working Groups: The five working groups noted above, acting under the leadership of the Sustainability Coordinator, and as appropriate, in concert with the Faculty Chair of the Sustainability Council, will continue their work so that their ideas, energy, and commitment support the sustainability policies and practices of the college. The focus and composition of these groups may change over time as needs and initiatives dictate, but they will remain a vital part of Concordia's sustainability endeavors.

Student, Faculty, Administrative, and Board Support: The following will play an ongoing part in the sustainability efforts of Concordia College:

- The Student Environmental Alliance
- The Student Government Association
- The Environmental Studies Program
- The Global Studies Program
- The Concordia Language Villages
- The Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Dean of the Offutt School of Business, and the Associate Dean for Global Learning
- The Office of Ministry
- The Vice Presidents for Advancement, Enrollment, Finance, and the Concordia Language Villages
- The Director of Communications and Marketing
- The Concordia Board of Regents

Sustainability and College Planning

In the course of this year's review of the strategic plan for 2010-15, sustainability will play a significant part: in operations, in teaching and learning, and in our relations with our neighbors beyond the campus.

Nominations

All members of the community are invited to send nominations for the three faculty and the two student positions on the Sustainability Council. Please send them, no later than Friday, November 4, to president@cord.edu.

I look forward to working with you all in this commitment so deeply tied to the mission of our college.

William J. Craft
President