

**Berea College
Ecological Sustainability Education (ESE)
Program/Sustainability Coordinator
Spring 2006 Report**



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June 16, 2006**

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Ecological Sustainability Education (ESE) Program/Sustainability Coordinator Spring 2006 Report

Introduction

The Ecological Sustainability Education (ESE or “easy”) Program at Berea College is a two-year program supported by one-time funds from foundations as well as contributions from individuals. As part of the ESE program, Berea College received funding in Fall 2005 from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund for a two-year, full-time Sustainability Coordinator position to provide the necessary level of institutional support for furthering the College’s sustainability initiatives. The College has also committed to continuing at least a half-time coordinator position beyond the two-year grant funded period.

Some key features of the ESE program include: campus programs and community outreach (workshops, seminars, presentations to local schools, annual conferences, etc.), communications and publicity, as well as teaching and learning programs and resources. Part of the Sustainability Coordinator’s work is also to consolidate information on Berea’s sustainability initiatives and share it widely across the campus and beyond.

The following report includes (1) a timeline of primary activities during Short Term and Spring Term 2006, (2) an annotated list of these and other projects and activities, and (3) future goals for continuing and/or expanding ESE Program activities. Some subcategories in this report refer to appendices of actual publicity or products. Due to the length of these appendices alone, they are available in print only with the master notebook version of this report. Otherwise, appendices can be accessed electronically upon request. While this report is written in the first person and primarily represents the contributions of the Sustainability Coordinator position, the ESE Program includes collaborations with various campus offices and programs, which are noted when relevant. For example, all projects in which the student assistants were significantly involved are noted with an asterisk (*) throughout this report.

Timeline of ESE Activities/Accomplishments

December 2005

- December 1, 2005 Start Date as Half-time Sustainability Coordinator (continuing to serve half-time in President’s Office)
- December 13, 2005 Introductory Email to Campus (including office supplies wish list)

January 2006

- January 10, 2006 Battery Recycling Announcement
- January 11, 2006 Request for Best Practices
- January 27, 2006 Oberlin Students Campus Visit
- January 31, 2006 Mars Hill Administration Campus Visit

February 2006

- February 1, 2006 Start Date as Full-time Sustainability Coordinator in New Office
- February 1, 2006 Request for Berea College Sustainability Guide Submissions
- February 3, 2006 Preliminary ESE Website Established
- February 3, 2006 "Lights Out" Vigil: 15 Minutes for 15 Miners (co-sponsored with Campus Christian Center and HEAL/10X10)
- February 17, 2006 Follow-up Town Meeting (in response to July 2004 meeting and duPont proposal/grant)
- February 28, 2006 Recycling Q&A (campus-wide email about new recycling initiatives)

March 2006

- March 2, 2006 Watt's Up with Coal (information table co-sponsored with HEAL/10X10)
- March 3, 2006 Sustainability Coordinator Open House
- March 11, 2006 Western Kentucky Alumni Chapter Meeting

April 2006 (Earth Month)

- April 17-18, 2006 Joint Meeting with Berea College, Furman University, and Warren Wilson College (South Carolina)
- April 19, 2006 Administrative Professionals Day focusing on "Plain and Sustainable Living" (sponsored by People Services)
- April 21-22, 2006 Campus-Community Partnerships for Sustainability Conference
- April 25, 2006 Labor Day Service Project at ASPI
- April 27, 2006 Summary and Distribution of "Green Steps" Pledge at Faculty Meeting
- April 28, 2006 "Greening the Office" Workshop (co-sponsored with "Year of the Ecovillage")

May 2006

- April/May 2006 PowerPoint Display on LFI/MERJ in Hutchins Library
- May 5, 2006 "Taking it Home" Workshop (co-sponsored with "Year of the Ecovillage")
- May 16, 2006 "Sustainability, St. Catharine College and You" Faculty Development Workshop
- May 20, 2006 Lexington Peace Fair Booth
- May 25, 2006 Campus-wide Follow-up Resources for Office/Home Workshops

Annotated List of ESE Projects/Activities

The following list of projects and activities is broken down into the following categories:

- Presentations/Workshops
- Events
- Resources
- Publicity/Outreach
- Consultations
- Regular Meetings
- Office Logistics
- Campus Visits
- Miscellaneous Related Activities
- Future Goals

Each section includes a summary of the particular project/activity, and when relevant, a more detailed list of its features.

Presentations/Workshops

- **Administrative Professionals Day**

The Berea College Office of People Services sponsors an annual celebration of staff for Administrative Professionals Day. One of the seven “Workplace Expectations” is used as the theme for each year’s celebration, and this year’s theme was “Encourage Plain and Sustainable Living.” Mark Nigro, Learning-Training Coordinator, consulted with me to brainstorm the content/organization of the half-day celebration as well as the local food components of the lunch at Boone Tavern. My role during the actual celebration was to serve as the first in a series of three speakers addressing different aspects of the event’s theme. My 20-minute presentation included a brief summary of “plain and sustainable living” as related to the history and mission of Berea College and a PowerPoint slideshow * highlighting various best practices across campus. I also supplied a list of best practices * and a copy of the “Green Steps” sustainability pledge for the notebooks that participants received at the event. (See “Resources” on p. 6 for more information about the pledge; also see Appendix A: Best Practices.)

- **Faculty Development Seminar at St. Catharine College**

St. Catharine College is a small, independent Catholic college located near Springfield, Kentucky. Dr. Dick Shore, Director of St. Catharine’s Ecology and Citizenship Program, organized a faculty development seminar to initiate a conversation about incorporating sustainability into the curriculum. In preparation for the workshop, I forwarded various electronic materials to Dr. Shore, including information about Berea’s Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) program, sample course syllabi, and strategic planning documents. At the workshop, I served as the keynote speaker about the Berea College SENS program. Specifically, I shared information about Berea’s mission, student environmental activism, the strategic planning process that brought about the formal SENS academic program, sustainability in General Studies courses, and Berea’s new sustainability

initiative for a reflective, effective learning and working community. Just before the workshop, I also had the opportunity to have lunch with Dr. Shore and Sister Claire McGowan, Director of New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future, a local non-profit organization. (See Appendix B: St. Catharine Program.)

- **“Greening the Office” Workshop**

This workshop was co-sponsored with the “Year of the Ecovillage,” and Connie Briggs, Ecovillage Coordinator, and I co-planned and -facilitated both “Green Living” workshops (see “Taking it Home” below). We served brownies and local spring water as basic refreshments for both events. About 18 people attended this “brown-bag lunch” workshop on making the workplace more sustainable, which included information about energy conservation, green office supplies, best practices on campus, and other simple tips. Participants received a resource booklet summarizing the information included in the PowerPoint presentation, a reusable thermal cup, miscellaneous “recycled” office supplies, as well as an Office Depot “Green Book” catalog (which was sent after the workshop). Participants were also given the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions about making the workplace more sustainable. These ideas will be incorporated into the “best practices” database (see “Resources” p. 6). As a follow-up to both “Green Living” workshops, I sent an email to the campus to share the PowerPoint presentation and resources booklet with faculty and staff via the campus network. (See Appendix C: “Greening the Office” PowerPoint and Resource Booklet.)

- **“Taking it Home” Workshop**

Approximately 17 people attended this “brown-bag lunch” workshop on making the home more sustainable, which included information about energy conservation, tax-credits and other incentive programs, and other simple tips. Participants received a resource booklet summarizing the information included in the PowerPoint presentation, a reusable thermal cup, an Ecovillage brochure on gardening, a packet of information about the local solar water heater rebate/loan program, as well as a compact fluorescent light bulb to take home. Participants were also given the opportunity to share their own ideas and tips for sustainable living. (See Appendix D: “Taking It Home” PowerPoint and Resource Booklet.)

- **LFI/MERJ PowerPoint in Hutchins Library**

Hutchins Library provides interactive teaching tools for library patrons to browse, which includes a rotating PowerPoint presentation on a topic of interest by a different faculty or staff member every month or so. The April/May 2006 rotation featured my PowerPoint presentation on the Local Food Initiative (LFI) and MERJ Market, which I formally presented for Campus Sustainability Week in October 2005. (See Appendix E: LFI/MERJ PowerPoint.)

- **Western Kentucky Alumni Chapter**

On March 11, 2006, I served as the Berea College representative and speaker for the Western Kentucky Alumni Chapter meeting in Paducah. About 15 people attended, and my comments focused on the new Sustainability Coordinator position and Berea’s sustainability initiatives in general. After the meeting, I provided Jennifer Mills, Coordinator of Alumni Programs, with follow-up questions from alumni as well as updates for the Western Kentucky contact list.

Events

- **Introductory Email to Campus**

My first official contact with the campus community was an email summarizing (1) my availability during my transition from the President's Office to this new position, (2) how the position came about, and (3) immediate opportunities for community members to engage in the ongoing campus sustainability efforts. I received numerous replies with well-wishes as well as some preliminary suggestions regarding sustainability at Berea College. I also received several responses to my call for office supplies (see "Office Logistics," p. 12).

- **Open House for ESE Office**

After acquiring and moving to my new office in Bruce-Trades, I invited the campus community for an open house visit to learn more about current and upcoming sustainability initiatives and to network with colleagues. Due to illness, the open house was postponed a week and held on March 3, 2006. Approximately 15 people (faculty, staff, and students) attended. For refreshments, I served popcorn grown by a local farmer and water from a local spring in Rockcastle County.

- **Town Meeting**

This "brown-bag-lunch" meeting on February 17, 2006 served as a follow-up to the July 2004 campus-wide meeting on sustainability as well as a summary of the duPont proposal/grant and other ESE funders. Prior to the meeting, participants had the opportunity to review the meeting notes from the previous brainstorming session as well as background information about the Sustainability Coordinator position and the activities funded for the ESE program. About 15 people (faculty, staff, and students) participated in this brainstorming session to revisit the issues addressed in the 2004 meeting, to provide feedback about follow-up sustainability efforts, and to share ideas about moving the campus forward in its commitment to plain and sustainable living. (See Appendix F: Town Meeting Notes.)

- **Campus-Community Partnerships for Sustainability Conference**

Berea College SENS Director Richard Olson began planning the first CCPS conference almost a year ago, prior to the funding of the Sustainability Coordinator position.

- **LFI/MERJ Local Food Dinner**

My primary role in planning the conference, which took place at Berea College on April 21-23, 2006, was to coordinate the local food dinner on April 22. I worked with the Berea College Local Food Initiative (LFI) and the local MERJ Market, as well as conference coordinators Olson and Jason Fults, to provide a meal featuring local ingredients in each dish. Approximately 130 people attended the dinner, during which I also presented a short summary about LFI and MERJ Market. (See Appendix G: CCPS Local Food Menu.)

- **LFI and MERJ Posters**

In addition to my primary responsibility for the local food dinner, I also completed a poster each for both LFI and MERJ for the ongoing poster session at the conference. LFI member Paul Smithson drafted the first LFI poster, which I revised and arranged for printing and lamination. I designed and arranged for printing/lamination of the MERJ poster as well. (See Appendix H: LFI and MERJ Posters.)

- **Eco-Olympics**

I worked with the student-led HEAL/10x10 environmental group to help coordinate an energy conservation and recycling competition for campus residence halls during March/April. Beyond general consultation, my primary role was to help publicize the event through campus-wide emails. I also forwarded relevant information about similar competitions at other colleges/universities to HEAL and the Residence Life Green Team.

- **“Lights Out” Vigil/Watt’s Up with Coal ***

A couple of different people on campus informed me about a “Lights Out” vigil at Michigan State University, which was an expression of solidarity and condolence for coal miners who died in Appalachian mine explosions, and they encouraged me to organize something similar at Berea College given its commitment to Appalachia. Under my direction, student assistant Mary Johnson worked with the Campus Christian Center and HEAL to coordinate the “Lights Out” vigil in memory of these coal miners. This event consisted of 15 minutes of darkness at noon on February 3, 2006 as well as ongoing access to the chapel for prayer and lighting candles. Mary also worked with HEAL to coordinate a follow-up “Watt’s Up with Coal” educational event for students in the alumni building on March 2, 2006. They provided multi-media information (including a brief DVD presentation by an Appalshop filmmaker) about coal, electricity, and renewable energy. Also, approximately 50 students signed the Berea College “Green Steps” pledge at the table. (See “Resources: Pledge” on p. 7 for more information about the pledge.)

Resources

- **Best Practices on Campus**

On January 11, 2006, I sent a campus-wide email asking staff members to share their sustainability best practices. Student assistant Mary Johnson helped collect and organize numerous examples of creative and innovative sustainability best practices from individuals and departments across campus. Mary created a database, took digital photographs, and made a PowerPoint presentation of some of these best practices, which was used in the Administrative Professionals Day presentation. Some of the photos and ideas were also used in the “Greening the Office” Workshop (see “Presentations/Workshops” on p. 3). Collection of best practices will be ongoing and will eventually be made available online. (See Appendix A: Best Practices.)

- **Guide to Sustainability at Berea College**

On February 1, 2006, I sent a campus-wide email requesting information about specific people and programs on campus for a “Guide to Sustainability at Berea College” in order to provide basic information about Berea’s sustainability initiatives for various constituents both on and off campus. Over the course of the semester, student assistant Mary Johnson assisted with the collection and preliminary compilation of submission forms primarily from formal sustainability-related programs or activities at Berea College. In addition to requesting basic contact information, the submission form included regular activities, recent accomplishments, and the basic constituents that the program serves. The Guide will be formally distributed to the campus community in Fall 2006, but it will also serve as the basic framework for expanding the ESE website (in collaboration with the Web Team) as well as creating a new informational brochure on sustainability at Berea College (in collaboration with Public Relations) during Summer 2006. (See Appendix I: Guide to Sustainability at Berea College.)

- **“Green Steps” Pledge**

The “Green Steps” sustainability pledge, which is modeled after the “emPower Harvard” pledge used at Harvard University, was created to educate the campus community about simple ways to conserve energy/resources as well as to document the specific efforts and number of individuals engaged in sustainable practices at Berea College. The pledge was printed on the blank side of discarded paper and distributed to students (“Watt’s up With Coal” and Eco-Olympics), staff (Town Meeting, Administrative Professionals Day, and Green Living Workshops), and faculty (faculty meeting). More than 70 pledges have been collected and digitally scanned so far, and the pledge will again be distributed to students, faculty, and staff during orientation sessions in Fall 2006. (See Appendix J: Green Steps Pledge.)

- **Printer Cartridge/Battery Recycling**

In his role as student assistant, Michael Hilterbrand worked closely with Recycling Coordinator Kevin Long and the Residence Life Green Team in order to optimize recycling in residence halls by increasing the visibility of signage and ensuring that recycling facilities are always readily available. Also, the collection of batteries for recycling was initiated; collection of inkjet cartridges was implemented; and five new outdoor recycling receptacles were recently placed around the campus quad.

- **Research Mini-Grants**

The 2-year grant-funded ESE Program includes a sustainability research mini-grant cycle for each of the two years of the program. Because the search for the Sustainability Coordinator position occurred during Fall 2005, a full mini-grant program has not yet been established. However, research and planning for implementing the program within the next year have begun. Two excellent models include a “service-learning” mini-grant that is administered by the Berea College Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS) and the sustainability mini-grants at Middlebury College. These are good models because they are similar in scope in terms of the monetary support and desired goals for Berea’s sustainability mini-grants. I also utilized the “Green Schools” list-serve to which I belong to poll sustainability coordinators/programs at other schools for similar examples that might help us initiate and streamline the sustainability mini-grants at Berea College. I received several responses that will likewise prove useful for developing/implementing this program by Fall 2006 or Short Term 2007.

- **Watts Up Pro**

The “Watts Up Pro” is a power analyzer and data logger for monitoring electricity usage. It can display the cost of electricity in dollars and cents, and information can be downloaded to a computer for graphing and charting. I purchased one of these devices for campus use. I plan to learn more about the operation of this device over the summer so that I can make it available to collect information about energy usage in residence halls, offices, etc.

Publicity/Outreach

I have engaged in various forms of publicity/outreach on behalf of sustainability initiatives and programs at Berea College. Most of these are intentional efforts to promote Berea’s sustainability-related activities, but there is also a list of articles written by third parties that have appeared in local and national publications.

- **Academics and Activists Book Chapter**

In Fall 2004, I was asked to write a chapter for an upcoming anthology entitled, *Academics and Activists: Confronting Ecological and Community Crisis in Appalachia*. In February 2005, I participated in an authors' conference for the book-in-progress. Richard Olson, SENS Director, has consulted and co-authored portions of this book chapter as well. The timeline for completing the book has been extended, so the editors have asked the contributors for completed chapters by the end of Summer 2006. My chapter, which is already 21 pages in its rough draft, is entitled, "Sustainability in Berea, Kentucky: College and Community Perspectives," and focuses on the parallel and sometimes overlapping sustainability initiatives at Berea College as well as in the broader community. (See Appendix K: A&A Book Prospectus.)

- **Bluegrass Green Living Directory**

The Bluegrass Green Living Directory is "a one-stop source for businesses and other resources that can help people and communities move toward a more healthy, sustainable and prosperous future." The directory is "an outgrowth of the Bluegrass Energy & Green Living Expo" and a project of Appalachia—Science in the Public Interest (ASPI). Five thousand free copies of the directory will be distributed around Central Kentucky, and the directory will also be available online. I submitted a Green Partner listing on behalf of Berea College for this year's directory, and Public Relations purchased and developed a one-page ad to highlight sustainability at Berea College as well. (See Appendix L: Bluegrass Green Living Directory Entry and Berea College Ad.)

- **Lexington Peace Fair**

The Peace and Justice Coalition, a student group at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, held the first annual "Lexington Peace Fair" on May 20, 2006. The event, which was co-sponsored by various organizations committed to social and ecological justice, offered "Music, art, locally grown food, workshops, and themed booths ... aimed at raising awareness of the peaceful possibilities for a socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable future." I staffed a booth with information on Berea College's sustainability initiatives and spoke with numerous visitors throughout the day. Most people I talked to had already heard about the SENS program and/or the Ecovillage, and one person expressed interest in attending Berea College. (See Appendix M: Lexington Peace Fair Flyer.)

- **On- & Off-campus Publicity**

I have assisted with publicizing various sustainability-related activities, typically through forwarding email flyers or posting information on the Outlook public folders, to ensure that the campus community and other individuals are aware of these opportunities. For example, I have assisted HEAL and SENS students by sending campus-wide emails about the Eco-Olympics and Natural Building Workshops. I have also forwarded information to faculty and staff about such community events as the county "scrap metal" pick-up and the "Missing Mountains" event hosted by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. Similarly, I have strived to inform the broader community about College resources (i.e., the CCPS conference, Natural Building Workshops, Ecovillage yard sales and other events, Agriculture Department freezer meat, etc.) as well as other regional activities such as ECU "Earth Days on the Cumberland" events, the Lexington Peace Fair, and the Bluegrass Green Living directory. In addition to sharing information electronically, I have also assisted with posting flyers on campus and in the community.

- **Preliminary ESE Website**

When I began serving full-time in February, I immediately contacted Web Team member Cary Hazelwood to establish the preliminary web presence for the Ecological Sustainability Education (ESE) program (www.berea.edu/ease). This website includes basic information about the program and staff (including student assistants) as well as the menu of existing links from the SENS website: Ecovillage, Sustainability Initiatives, Sustainability and the Great Commitments, Green Steps, Local Food Initiative, Resources, and the *Sustainable Campus* Newsletter. (See “Future Goals” on p. 16 for plans for expanding the website.)

- **Published Articles about Berea Sustainability**

In addition to the targeted outreach efforts of the ESE office, several articles about sustainability at Berea College have also been written by third parties. The following list includes recent articles that have appeared in local and national publications.

- “Lights Go Out at Berea,” by Joice Biazoto, *Richmond Register*, February 2, 2006 [re: “Lights Out” Vigil].
- “New Coordinator at Berea College to Strengthen Campus ‘Green’ Programs,” PR News Release, *Richmond Register*, March 1, 2006.
- “Workshop Teaches Residents to Make Homes ‘Sustainable’,” by Joice Biazoto, *Richmond Register*, May 8, 2006 [re: “Taking it Home” Workshop].
- “Will Sustainability Take Root?” by Karla Hignite, *NACUBO Business Officer Magazine*, April 2006 [re: sustainability initiatives in higher education].

Consultations

Through the course of the semester, I have been approached by several on- and off-campus constituents seeking information on various sustainability-related issues. These consultations have usually been initiated by telephone and email contact, but some have also resulted from spontaneous interactions with people on campus. With the exception of a couple of campus groups that I planned to meet with (*noted in italics below*), most of the individuals and groups initiated contact with me. The following two tables include both on- and off-campus consultations and list the names of the individuals/groups, their status and/or location (off-campus), and the relevant topic.

On-Campus Consultations

Name	Status	Topic
<i>Jeff Amburgey (VP for Finance), Diane Kerby (VP for Business & Administration)</i>	Administration	Next steps for Berea College Local Food Initiative (BCLFI)
Jennifer Adkins	Student	Campus cleaning supplies
Katie Basham	Staff	Recycled mugs for Campus Christian Center
Kathryn Bissmeyer	Student	Article for <i>Berea College Magazine</i>
Aurelia Brandenburg	Staff	Panel presentation on sustainability for purchasing conference

Sarah Broomfield	Staff/student	Sustainable crafts (student pilot project)
George Brosi	Staff	Book project on places in Kentucky
Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service	Faculty/staff	Basic office tips
College and Public Relations (Normandi Ellis, Phyllis Hughes, Colleen Payne)	Staff	Campus sustainability literature
Cathy Cotrell	Student	Missing Mountains event notice
Patrick Crum	Student	"Lights Out" vigil
<i>Ecovillage Steering Committee</i>	Faculty/staff	ESE budget/projects
Ecovillage SENS House Directors (Anita Goodrich, Wes Lowe, Dan Pray)	Students	Labor projects (including Ecovillage website)
Betty Hibler	Staff	Religion and ecology resources
Denise Scheler	Student	Compost questions
William Freeman	Student	Sustainability pledge
Margaret Greene	Student	Summer labor with community organizations
HEAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berea Bikes (Tahz Walker) • 10X10 Campaign (Maya Benami, Danielle Capillo, Liz Nolan) • Corrie Spelman 	Students	General ideas for expanding/promoting projects related to community bike program, renewable energy at Berea College, fair trade coffee, etc.
Jamie Helle	Student	Transportation (for journalism class)
Stephanie Henry	Student	Labor Day project
Don Hudson	Faculty	Battery recycling
<i>Information Systems and Services (IS&S)</i>	Staff	Miscellaneous issues including energy conservation, technology recycling, etc.
Diane Kerby, Carolyn Newton, Harold Rhodus, Mike Ross	Administration/staff	Campus energy strategies
Mike Kolokowsky	Staff	Ethanol question
Aisulu Masyllanova	Student	Berea sustainability pledge
Tenzin Nangkyi	Student	Campus-Community Partnerships for Sustainability (CCPS) Conference
Tenzin Nangyal	Student	General environmental concerns
Mark Nigro	Staff	Administrative Professionals Day
Jan Pearce	Faculty	Berea sustainability pledge (as related to class project)
Kateryna Peremanova	Student	Greenpeace posting on public folder
Nancy Ryan	Staff	Toner cartridge recycling
SENS 100 Class (Paul Smithson, et al.)	Students/faculty	Ideas for student projects

Sustainable Appalachian Communities Class (Anita Goodrich, Phil Hawn, Billy Schumann)	Students/faculty	Ideas/follow-up for student projects
<i>Web Team</i>	Staff	Plans for website expansion
<i>Judith Weckman</i> (Office of Institutional Research and Assessment)	Faculty/staff	Assessment ideas
<i>Denise Won</i>	Student	Campus sustainability literature

Off-Campus Consultations

Name	Location	Topic
Kate Andersson	University of British Columbia (student)	Berea College Local Food Initiative (BCLFI)
Chris Cordell	EKU (student)	Local food
Nicole Edmison	Humboldt State University (student)	Berea's sustainability coordinator position
Tim Fagan	Indiana	Natural building workshop
Jim Feldman	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	Dorm energy competitions
Karla Hignite	<i>Business Officer</i> Senior Editor	Interview for NACUBO <i>Business Officer Magazine</i>
Glendon Lunsford	Berea, Kentucky	Berea's sustainability initiatives
Steve Price	Georgetown, Kentucky	Natural building workshop
Renee Resop	University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (student & campus sustainability coordinator)	Berea's sustainability coordinator position
Jill Rex	Kalamazoo College	Green purchasing
Dick Shore	St. Catharine College	Sustainability in the curriculum
John Stoddard	Oregon Center for Environmental Health	BCLFI and food policy
Daniel Schwartz	Northeastern University student journalist	Sustainability coordinator position

Regular Meetings

- **Local Food Initiative**

I have served on the Berea College Local Food Initiative (LFI) Steering Committee since its inception in Fall 2004 (www.berea.edu/localfoodinitiative). The LFI mission is "to promote the participation of Berea College in the development of a sustainable food system." The steering committee, which meets about every two weeks, is composed of faculty, staff, and student volunteers with a student chair. While the LFI does not play a formal role in the College governance system, the group submitted a comprehensive report and set of recommendations to the Administrative Committee (AC) in Fall 2005. The AC responded with a motion to accept the LFI recommendations in principle and incorporate more local foods, including College-grown produce/livestock, into the College dining services and

Boone Tavern (see Appendix N: AC Motion for LFI). In addition to following up on this motion, the LFI participated in the Campus-Community Partnerships for Sustainability (CCPS) conference in April (see "Events" on p. 5).

- **Green Team ***

The Green Team is composed of members of the Berea College Residence Life Collegium and serves as a "link between students in the residence halls and the various campus organizations doing sustainability related work." Student assistant Michael Hilterbrand served as a liaison to the Green Team throughout the duration of his 2005-06 labor position by attending their meetings and assisting with brainstorming and programming.

- **Recycling ***

In his role as student assistant, Michael Hilterbrand also served as a liaison to the College Recycling Program. He worked closely with Recycling Coordinator Kevin Long and the Residence Life Green Team in order to optimize recycling in residence halls by increasing the visibility of signage and ensuring that recycling facilities are always readily available. He also helped initiate the collection of batteries for recycling, the collection of inkjet cartridges, as well as the purchase of five new outdoor recycling receptacles.

Office Logistics

- **Office Supplies Wish List**

In my introductory email to the campus, I included a request for surplus office supplies to begin setting up my own new office. I received about 20 responses from various individuals/offices across campus and collected enough basic supplies that I still have not had to place an Office Depot order (the only supplies I have purchased are College letterhead, envelopes, business cards, and recycled paper from College Printing Services). Ultimately, there are more supplies available than I can use, so I hope to find an efficient way to direct these surplus resources to other campus offices. Several people have expressed interest in such internal resources sharing as well as having access to a central location for the collection and distribution of supplies (see "Future Goals" on p. 16).

- **Miscellaneous Campus Literature/Documents**

Before I formally began serving in this position, I started collecting various forms of campus literature and other documents that pertain in some way to sustainability at Berea College. Most of these materials were available electronically, and others I have scanned into electronic form. Many of these documents are stored in my network folder for campus access, and I have directed people to appropriate resources when consulting on various issues. As I continue to collect more information, I also plan to establish a clear and organized file structure for sharing these documents with campus constituents. Many of these documents will also be made available online as the website is expanded (see "Future Goals," p. 16).

- **Student Labor**

My two student assistants, Mary Johnson and Michael Hilterbrand, were invaluable throughout the first semester of the ESE program. They both began working in Fall 2005 before the Sustainability Coordinator position was filled, so they were both very self-motivated and creative with the use of their time. In addition to taking responsibility for following through on key projects (e.g., best practices on campus, battery recycling, etc.),

they also maintained liaisons with various campus groups such as the Residence Life Green Team, the Recycling Program, and the Ecovillage/CDL. (As previously noted, all projects in which the student assistants were significantly involved are noted with an asterisk * throughout this report.) Without the aid of regular staff, the student assistants are truly an essential component of the overall success of the ESE program. At the end of the spring semester, I hired Amanda Hensley and Mikala Rollins as the new student assistants for the 2006-07 academic year, and both students bring valuable administrative skills and networking contacts with them. Amanda, a biology/pre-med major, has office experience, good computer skills, and is working for the College Farms during Summer 2006. Mikala, a sociology major, has substantial administrative experience through her previous labor position with the Berea College Habitat for Humanity chapter, and she also worked for the recycling program during Summer 2005. Both are interested in environmental issues in general and are looking forward to working on sustainability initiatives at Berea College in particular.

Campus Visits

I participated in and/or helped facilitate visits to Berea's campus for a couple of different groups that were interested in learning more about the College's sustainability initiatives. These visits are noted as "on-campus." I also participated in a visit to another campus with other Berea College representatives, which is noted as "off-campus."

- **Oberlin College (On-campus)**

Two student representatives from Oberlin College's Environmental Sustainability Committee visited Berea on January 27, 2006 for the final leg of their six-college tour. I worked with student assistant Michael Hilterbrand to create the itinerary for their visit. They met with key College representatives (including the Vice President for Business and Finance, the Recycling Coordinator, etc.) and took a tour of Draper and Lincoln Halls and the Ecovillage. (See Appendix O: Oberlin Itinerary.)

- **Mars Hill College (On-campus)**

Administrators from Mars Hill visited Berea College on January 31, 2006. Teresa Jefferson coordinated a "local lunch" at Boone Tavern for the visitors and campus representatives (including the VP for Business and Finance, Appalachian Center Director, etc.). I met with the visitors at the lunch and was scheduled to help lead a tour of Draper and Lincoln Halls along with Randy Adams, but we missed them when they returned from their Ecovillage tour. (See Appendix P: Mars Hill Itinerary.)

- **Furman University (Off-campus)**

On April 17-18, 2006, I participated in a joint meeting with Berea College, Furman University, and Warren Wilson College on Furman's campus in South Carolina. Other Berea representatives included Stephanie Browner (Dean of the Faculty), Carolyn Newton (Academic Vice President and Provost), Mike Ross (Director of Facilities Management), Larry Shinn (President), and Paul Smithson (Chemistry/SENS professor). The visit included tours of a LEED building, the student-run bio-diesel facility, and other sustainable campus features as well as meals incorporating as much local and/or organic produce as possible. The meeting, which is the third of a series of annual meetings that have been hosted on each college's campus, provided a forum for representatives to share insights and lessons from sustainability initiatives at their respective institutions. (See Appendix Q: Furman Itinerary.)

Miscellaneous Related Activities

- **Ecofeminism Course**

In Fall 2004, I had the opportunity to participate in the Berea College Center for Excellence in Learning Through Service (CELTS) Faculty Fellowship in Service-Learning. The fellowship provides a seminar format for faculty to develop a new or modify an existing course to include a significant service-learning component, and one requirement for participating is to teach the course within a year of the fellowship. I was originally scheduled to teach a service-learning course on ecofeminism during Spring 2005, but I did not get sufficient enrollment to offer the course. Therefore, I was already approved to teach the course in Spring 2006 when I began working as Sustainability Coordinator. Because the course was cross-listed for credit in both Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS) and women's studies, the Provost agreed that the course was relevant to my work, and we agreed that I would pursue it in addition to my regular full-time responsibilities as Sustainability Coordinator. A total of six students (including one auditor) enrolled in the course, which included basic readings on ecofeminism and environmental activism, and they each completed a service-project with our community partner MERJ Market, a local non-profit organization focusing on sustainable community development. Projects included a permaculture gardening workshop; a creek clean-up/inventory; research on Foodstamp/WIC acceptance for the MERJ farmers' market; a MERJ summary for membership packets; a recycling/craft workshop for children; and a membership/volunteer database. On Berea's Labor Day (April), the class also took a field trip to Appalachia—Science in the Public Interest (ASPI), a local non-profit focusing on affordable appropriate technology, where they took a tour of the facility and worked on garden beds as a service project. (See Appendix R: Ecofeminism Syllabus.)

- **List-serves**

I belong to (and in a couple of cases manage) about 15 list-serves that provide an ongoing networking forum for sharing information and practical advice related to sustainability. Some of these focus specifically on sustainability in higher education (AASHE, Green Schools, etc.), and others focus on more general environmental issues and/or tips for sustainable living (Ideal Bite, E!, Environmental News Service, etc.). I frequently forward issue-specific information from these list-serves to various campus constituents (faculty, staff, students) for use in their respective responsibilities/activities. In addition, for the past 3-4 years, I have managed three local sustainability-related list-serves through which I also publicize Berea College activities to the broader public. Following is a list of the current list-serves to which I belong and/or manage (*the latter of which are noted in italics*).

List-serve	Topic	Scope
<i>Berea Garden Party</i>	Sustainability-related knowledge/skills sharing	Local
Campus-Ecology	Sustainability in higher education	National
E! Environmental Magazine	General environmental issues	National
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)	Sustainability in higher education	National
Environmental News Service	General environmental issues	National/global

Fostering Sustainable Behavior	Behavior change programs that support sustainability	National
Green Schools	Sustainability in higher education	National
Ideal Bite	Daily eco-living tips	National
<i>MERJ Market</i>	Sustainable agriculture/community development	Local
Organic Consumers Association	Sustainable food/agriculture	National
Origo	Business and social innovation, including sustainability	National
Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)	"Efficient and restorative use of resources"	National
Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)	Strategic/facilities planning (including sustainability issues)	National
Southern Higher Education Sustainability Network	Sustainability in higher education	Regional
<i>SustainNetwork</i>	Sustainability-related events/information	Local/regional

- ***Sustainable Campus Article***

The Berea College *Sustainable Campus Newsletter* is a project of the SENS program and is produced by a student SENS House Director as part of the College labor program. The newsletter addresses both sustainability initiatives on campus as well as more national and global environmental issues. With the help of Michael Hilterbrand, one of my student assistants, I wrote a brief article on the ESE program for the upcoming issue of the newsletter. The article summarizes some of the preliminary accomplishments and especially highlights the contributions of both student assistants to the effectiveness of the program. I also wrote an article on the Berea College Local Food Initiative (LFI) for the inaugural issue of the newsletter in August 2005 (www.berea.edu/sens/sustainablecampus/documents/August-05.pdf).

- **Sustainability in the Curriculum**

Although I do not have primary responsibility for the academic program in Sustainability and Environmental Studies (SENS), I have interacted with various sustainability courses during Spring 2006. I consulted with professors and students about ideas for student projects that would be useful for the overall goals of the ESE program and the College as a whole (see "On-Campus Consultations" on p. 9). I also plan to contact faculty members in Fall 2006 and offer similar consultations and/or presentations on Berea sustainability for their courses. Off campus, I served as the keynote speaker for the faculty development workshop at St. Catharine College and shared information about sustainability in the curriculum at Berea College (see "Presentations/Workshops" on p. 3). I have started collating a master list and collecting syllabi of sustainability courses at Berea College, which will be posted to the expanded ESE website, and plan to work with the Dean's Office to continue gathering and updating this information (see Appendix S: Sustainability Courses at Berea College). In addition, Ashley Cochrane, Service-Learning Coordinator, put together "A Sampling of Service-Learning Projects Focused on Sustainability" for the Campus-Community Partnerships for Sustainability (CCPS) conference in April (see Appendix T: Sampling).

- **Staff Development Workshop**

On March 22, 2006, I participated in a half-day Berea College staff development workshop called "Sharing the Load Effectively." The workshop focused on delegation skills for sharing "work so that the work gets done well, and in the process we help others grow." This was an excellent opportunity to interact with colleagues from various campus programs/departments and share experiences and insights about effective delegation. This workshop was especially pertinent to the Sustainability Coordinator position because the nature of the job is to help connect people with resources that are relevant to their own areas of expertise/responsibility. It also provided valuable tools for utilizing student labor effectively.

Future Goals

Future plans for the ESE program include the continuation of ongoing activities included in this report as well as the establishment of other components of the original proposal. Some of the key areas that will be emphasized include assessment measures/materials, expanded publicity/outreach, networking opportunities with other institutions, and the institutional integration of the ESE program.

- **Assessment Materials**

In March 2006, I met with Judith Weckman, Director of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA), to discuss existing assessment measures and other potential models for documenting the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives at Berea College. In preparation, I collected and examined assessment reports from other institutions, compared them to Berea's Ecological Sustainability Indicators report that is produced by the Campus Environmental Policy Committee (CEPC), and determined some additional categories that might be useful for assessment at Berea. For example, one of the most obvious categories for future inclusion is the academic program, which would include sustainability in the curriculum (both SENS and General Studies), research/scholarship, faculty/staff development, and outreach and service. I plan to meet with the Dean of the Faculty and other relevant administrators to find out what information is already collected and how it might be incorporated into the indicators or another report.

The "Sustainability Assessment Questionnaire for Colleges and Universities" (SAQ) produced by University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (ULSF), "is designed to ... [assess] the extent to which [a] college or university is sustainable in its teaching, research, operations and outreach." Another potentially useful broad-based assessment, though not specifically focused on higher education, provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating overall community sustainability. The "Community Sustainability Assessment," developed by the Global Ecovillage Network, uses the three categories of ecological, social, and spiritual sustainability in a comprehensive checklist for scoring. I plan to work with OIRA and other relevant offices on campus to use or modify these and other assessment measures to continue gathering valuable data about the effectiveness of Berea's sustainability initiatives.

- **Publicity/Outreach**

There are several important avenues for expanding publicity/outreach efforts on campus. For example, while a preliminary ESE website was established when I became Sustainability Coordinator, there is a clear need for a more comprehensive online presence to serve both on- and off-campus constituents. Using the "Guide to Sustainability" as the basic framework, the expanded ESE website will collate in a single location the various

sustainability initiatives of the College as well as resources to assist members of the campus community with their particular areas of interest/responsibility. I have met with members of the College Web Team a couple of times during the spring semester to discuss the Summer 2006 timeline for the website as well as ideas about the content and appearance of the website.

Another important goal for promoting Berea's sustainability initiatives both on and off campus is the creation of updated literature. I met with representatives from College Relations/Development and Public Relations (PR) in late February to discuss the needs for their particular audiences as well as the campus community. It was agreed that the "Guide" would similarly serve as the framework for highlighting the formal sustainability initiatives/programs at Berea with summaries, "case studies," and graphics that would most effectively represent the College's and individuals' efforts. I recently met with a student who will be working on this project for Public Relations this summer. I informed her about the aforementioned meeting and provided her with the "Guide" and other informational resources to help get her begin her work. The goal is to create a comprehensive document that can be easily updated year by year to include new accomplishments, case studies, and graphics. I will continue to work with this student, PR, and College Relations/Development on this important project throughout the summer.

In terms of communicating with the Berea College community, I also plan to utilize campus publications to share important accomplishments and resources. The *Pinnacle*, Berea's student newspaper, has expressed interest in a regular column with eco-tips and information about sustainability at Berea. Before the end of the spring semester, student assistant Michael Hilterbrand helped draft a couple of brief columns for use in future newspapers, and I anticipate that this will continue to be a component of student labor responsibilities in the future as well. I plan to work with the *Pinnacle* editor and staff when they return in Fall 2006 to incorporate this regular feature in the student newspaper. This eco-column could also be shared with a wider audience through *BCNow*, the College's online news service.

Another on-campus outreach opportunity is the orientation of new students, faculty, and staff. There are regular orientation activities for each of these groups that would be an excellent forum for communicating the College's commitment to sustainability from the outset. Over the summer, I plan to meet with the different offices that are responsible for these respective orientations to discuss incorporating some informational component such as a brochure or brief presentation. I have already been in contact with Academic Services about being included in Freshman Orientation in Fall 2006, and I agreed to host an ESE booth at the orientation "Community Mixer" planned for August 27, 2006.

- **Conferences/Campus Visits**

Because I began my role as Sustainability Coordinator in the middle of the 2005-06 academic year, I focused on outreach/networking within the campus community during the spring semester. In Fall 2006, I plan to travel and pursue broader off-campus networking opportunities that will offer first-hand knowledge about the successes and challenges of similar programs at other schools.

There are several national associations/conferences that focus on sustainability in higher education and that provide excellent opportunities for networking with other professionals and practitioners. One especially pertinent conference is the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference in October 2006, which is entitled, "The Role of Higher Education in Creating a Sustainable World." There will be a special meeting at the conference for Sustainability Coordinators/Directors/Managers, which will likely include a roundtable discussion and the possible participation of a

videographer for a documentary. I also plan to submit my book chapter on “Sustainability in Berea, Kentucky: College and Community Perspectives” for presentation at the conference (see “Publicity/Outreach: Book Chapter” on p. 8).

In addition to attending the AASHE and other relevant conferences, I also plan to visit other colleges and universities with similar and/or innovative sustainability initiatives. Based on the joint meeting with Furman University and Warren Wilson College as well as online research, I would like to visit many if not all of the following key institutions: Appalachian State University (North Carolina), Cornell University (New York), Ithaca College (New York), Middlebury College (Vermont), Oberlin College (Ohio), Portland State University (Oregon), and Warren Wilson College (North Carolina). Where possible, I plan to combine travel to multiple schools in similar regional areas. Also, I have been asked to serve as the Berea representative for Berea College Alumni Chapter meetings in North Carolina and Southern California in Fall 2006, which will provide a key opportunity for exploring programs at schools in those geographical areas. In addition, I hope to return to St. Catharine College during Summer 2006 to visit the adjacent Dominican Earth Center, “a model ecological learning center, committed to earth spirituality and sustainable living.”

- **Integration of ESE Program**

Because of the 2-year timeline for the full-time Sustainability Coordinator position, it is important to consider opportunities for integrating/delegating certain aspects of the ESE Program within other existing College offices and programs. Therefore, I have some implementation suggestions for weaving ESE programming into the overall operation and culture of the institution.

- **Surplus Office Supplies**

There are plenty of ongoing examples in which offices and departments have alerted others on campus about the availability of surplus or unneeded office supplies and equipment (e.g., extra hanging files, printer cartridges, etc.). When I sent out my original “wish list” of office supplies to the campus (see “Office Logistics” on p. 12), I not only received support in the form of various needed office supplies, but also encouragement to make surplus supplies available to the campus community on a regular basis. Facilities Management already collects surplus campus furniture and equipment, which is available to the campus community for browsing and later to the broader community in public surplus auctions. I want to help coordinate similar internal resource-sharing by creating some type of repository (actual or virtual) that can serve as a central “warehouse” for items that might be used by others on campus. Such a resource would provide budget savings to individual departments as well as the College as a whole, while also reducing the amount of new resources necessary for daily operations. Thus, in the coming year I plan to discuss the possibility of a collective location for surplus office supplies with Diane Kerby, Vice President for Business and Administration, and Mike Ross, Director of Facilities Management.

- **Green Living Workshops**

The first Green Living Workshops that were offered during Earth Month (April) were fairly well attended, and many members of the campus community who were unable to attend at that time expressed interest in additional opportunities to participate in the future (see “Presentations/Workshops” on p. 3). In addition to tentative plans to offer these workshops again during Summer 2006, I have already discussed the possibility of delegating the ongoing workshops to other appropriate College programs. For example, the “Greening the Office” workshop addresses sustainability in the workplace and would

therefore be a logical component of the regular staff development trainings offered by the Office of People Services. Likewise, the “Taking it Home” workshop focuses on sustainability in residential settings and would be appropriately continued through Ecovillage programming.

- **Ecological Renovation Tours**

In the past 15 years, campus buildings have undergone major renovations that include significant elements of green design and energy conservation. Ecological renovation tours have been offered on a case-by-case basis to campus visitors, and a group of SENS 100 students designed a “Campus Sustainability at a Glance” brochure that was included in the CCPS registration packets. With the increased national publicity of the College’s sustainability efforts, there is a clear need for a more formal structure to offer regular tours. Regular Ecovillage tours are now offered by students and/or the Ecovillage Coordinator every Thursday (10:30 a.m.) and Saturday (1:30 p.m.), and the Berea College Visitors Center offers almost hourly campus tours on weekdays and Saturday. Also, Facilities Management Project Manager Randy Adams has led several ecological renovation tours in the past due to his extensive knowledge of the various ecological renovations (including the Ecovillage, Lincoln Hall, and Draper Hall). However, it is not logistically feasible for him to assume this as an ongoing responsibility. Given the abovementioned resources, there is already a substantial foundation for the establishment of a regular tour and/or a self-guided tour brochure. Therefore, I plan to collaborate with these programs and individuals in the next semester to organize existing information and resources and design a regular ecological renovation tour of the campus.

- **Student Labor**

As stated previously in this report (see “Office Logistics” on p. 12), the student assistants to the Sustainability Coordinator comprise the basic support staff for the ESE program, and their contributions have already proven to be invaluable. The allocation of two 10-hour/week student assistants seems to be adequate for the current configuration of the 2-year full-time Coordinator position. However, if the College decides to shift to a half-time Coordinator position beyond the 2-year grant period, I believe the program would require additional student labor. Therefore, I suggest that the allocation of *at least* one 10-hour and one 5-hour additional student labor positions to provide sufficient support for maintaining the momentum of the ESE program.