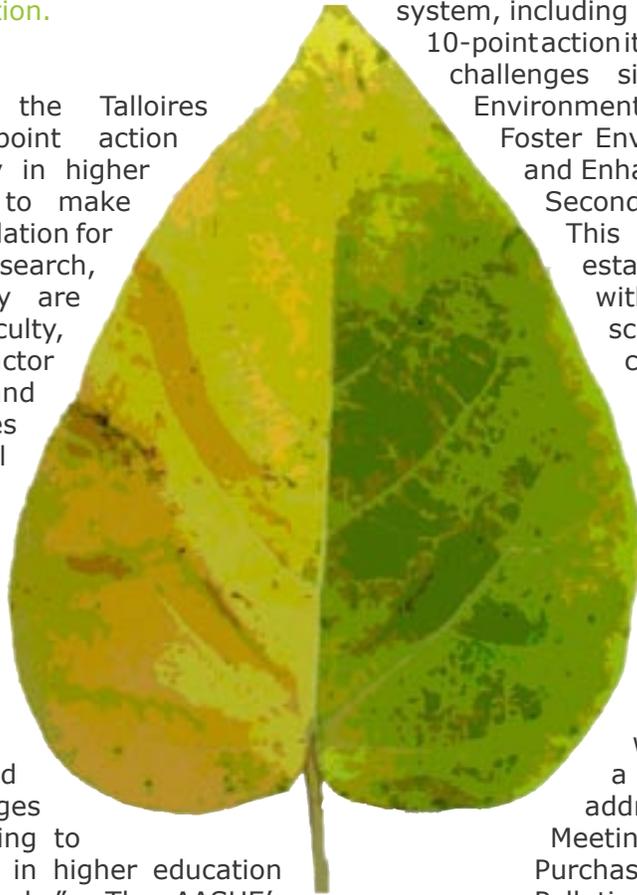


CUST GOES GREEN

The Department of Curriculum Studies Green Plan

In the fall, the Department of Curriculum Studies (CUST) will challenge its members to go green, or more specifically adopt a Green Plan. The proposed Green Plan will be the first department-level Green Plan on campus. The Draft of the Green Plan, written by the Department's Quality of Life Committee, challenges CUST to be a leader in environmental sustainability and conservation. The plan challenges the CUST community to commit to maintaining and extending the sustainability movement on campus as expressed in Policy #5 (Sustainable Development), EcoTrek, the UBC Sustainability Office, and UBC's binding signature to the 1990 Talloires Declaration.

Institutions signing the Talloires Declaration, a 10-point action plan for sustainability in higher education, "pledged to make sustainability the foundation for campus operations, research, and teaching. They are encouraging their faculty, staff, and students to factor ecological, social, and economic consequences into all of their personal and professional decisions" (UBC, 2006, p. 1). UBC is also a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), "a membership-based association of colleges and universities working to advance sustainability in higher education in the U.S. and Canada." The AASHE's mission is to promote sustainability in all sectors of higher education— from governance and operations to curriculum and outreach— through education, communication, research and professional development."



Similarly, students have been taking the Sustainability Pledge since 2002 at UBC:

UBC Sustainability Pledge:

I pledge to explore and take into account the social and ecological consequences of my decisions. Furthermore, I pledge to use the knowledge I gain at UBC to improve the sustainability of the communities in which I live, learn, and work.

As the CUST Green Plan is drafted, the Department is challenged to commit to leadership in sustainability on campus and in the educational system, including higher education. Among its

10-point action items, the Talloires Declaration challenges signatories to Educate for

Environmentally Responsible Citizenship, Foster Environmental Literacy For All, and Enhance Capacity of Primary and Secondary Schools (see Appendix).

This last item is defined as establishing "partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development."

These challenges are significant for Faculty, Staff and Students, but more locally are challenges to put CUST in sustainable order.

A five-point Action plan, which will be circulated in a newsletter during the fall, addresses Conserving Resources, Meeting Ethical and Environmental Purchasing Standards, Reducing Pollution, Greening the Curriculum, and Being Accountable.

*Department of Curriculum Studies
Quality Of Life Committee*