



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

prepared by Environmental & Forestry Advisory Council (EFAC) *last edited 12.08.10*

CHALLENGE AREAS AND STATEMENTS	OBJECTIVES
<p>STUDENTS</p> <p>Believing that students are the very heart of our mission and the purpose for our existence, Maryville College students will graduate with an understanding of and ethic for environmental sustainability, as suggested in the Maryville College Covenant, “ We commit ourselves to honor the worth, dignity, and freedom of ourselves and all creation...”.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The College curriculum will include a four-year program of curricular and co-curricular experiences that support the development of an environmental sustainability ethic. 2. Our graduating seniors will be invited to sign the Maryville College Graduation Pledge for Social and Environmental Justice.
<p>COLLEGE WOODS AND GROUNDS</p> <p>The MC Woods and campus grounds will make visible the college’s commitment to sustainable land use and maintenance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive management plans for the College Woods and campus grounds, including leased properties, will consider the ecological value of the campus. 2. The College Woods will have permanent protection status, identified geographically in different stages (eco-zoning.)
<p>ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND WASTE REDUCTION</p> <p>Careful use of all non-renewable resources is the fundamental standard for fulfilling the seven generations principle. Energy consumption as well as energy production from renewable sources will change over time to reduce the college’s carbon footprint by 15% by 2015.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An annual audit will measure and report utility consumption by facility. 2. Progress toward energy independence will be marked by targeted reductions in consumption and projects that develop renewable energy sources 4. When waste is unavoidable, practical and easy composting, recycling, and reuse opportunities will be provided.
<p>EDUCATION AND THE CURRICULUM</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Every student will engage in sustainability-related service learning

<p>Historically the Maryville College experience has fostered a desire for a sustainable learning community at the College. Looking forward, by 2017 Maryville College will be distinguished as a learning community that encourages and equips faculty, students, staff, and members of the larger community to live in ever more environmentally sustainable ways.</p>	<p>through existing core curriculum courses.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Each academic division will identify new opportunities to integrate environmental sustainability into the curriculum, such as (but not limited to) coursework, internships, and practica to support a major and minor in environmental studies. 3. Faculty will engage environmental sustainability as a deliberate theme through teaching methods, practices, and evaluations. 4. The faculty will approve a certificate program in environmental sustainability.
<p>TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL</p> <p>Because College-related and personal transportation by members of the campus community utilize a large amount of fossil fuel energy, Maryville College citizens will learn to employ practices that use less fuel or alternative fuels to move about.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-motored means of transportation will be promoted on campus. 2. Fuel efficient and low emission vehicles will be selected as replacements in the College fleet. 3. Energy consumption will be a consideration when planning College travel.
<p>COLLEGE ADVANCMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS</p> <p>Maryville College will be a visible model of environmental stewardship to its neighbors, alumni, prospective students, peer institutions, and East Tennessee.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The College will be identified by sustainable branding including a visible logo. 2. Regular communication to alumni and other external constituents will emphasize a campus value for sustainability. 3. Grants, donors, endowments and other external resources will financially support the College's sustainability efforts. 4. The College's website will host an updated record of data describing energy use, water use, and recycling reports on a rolling basis.
<p>BUSINESS PRACTICES, VENDORS, PARTNERS</p> <p>Every management decision will be made through the lens of environmental sustainability, and business partnerships will be shaped by this ethic.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual divisional and program area goals will reflect an ethic of environmental stewardship. 2. The College will provide training opportunities for senior and mid-level managers on sustainable business practices. 3. The College will select vendors who practice environmental

	sustainability.
<p>COLLEGE BUILDINGS</p> <p>The built environment of a campus – its residence halls, classrooms and support facilities – is among the most visible expression of a college’s values. By 2017, Maryville College will build and sustainably maintain all of its buildings, using an independently-verified “sustainable” building certification system.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any renovation or new construction will meet an industry standard of green certification and a goal to improve these ratings over time. 2. Renewable energy sources will be used in at least two campus buildings. 3. A survey of other institutions will inform the development of MC’s sustainable building and renovation standards. 4. All campus buildings will efficiently maintain optimum interior climate.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

SUSTAINABILITY - Meeting the economic, ecological and social needs of the day without impairing the chances or development of future generations. (UN-Conference, Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

RENEWABLE ENERGY - Energy obtained from sources that are inexhaustible, unlike fossil fuels, which are finite. Renewable energy sources include: biomass, geothermal, wind, photovoltaic and solar thermal energy (EPA.GOV).

COMPOSTABLE

A characteristic of a product or packaging element that can biodegrade through the action of a naturally occurring microorganism. According to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in order for a plastic to be considered compostable, it must be able to break down into carbon dioxide, water and biomass at the same rate as paper. It also needs to look like compost, should not produce any toxic material, and should be able to support plant life.

RECYCLABLE

As defined by the EPA, a product or package that can be collected, separated or otherwise recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse. Recyclable is one of the few sustainability terms formally enforced by the FTC on product packaging and advertising. (EPA.GOV)

REUSE

Often, the most sustainable option is to reuse materials and objects already manufactured, either for their original or new purposes, rather than recycle them into other products. This decreases further energy and materials use in recreating them into a new form (Dictionary of Sustainable Management).

WASTE REDUCTION

The process of reducing waste material and energy in manufacturing, use, and disposal by techniques such as dematerialization, transmaterialization, recycling, sustainable design, closed-loop supply chains, etc (Dictionary of Sustainable Management)

FUEL EFFICIENCY

The proportion of the energy released on combustion of a fuel that is converted into useful energy (Environmental Law Glossary).

PERMANENT PROTECTION STATUS

The four status categories can generally be defined as follows (after Scott et al. 1993, Edwards et al. 1995, Crist et al. 1995, http://narsal.uga.edu/gap/conservation_lands.html)

Status 1: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a natural state within which disturbance events (of natural type, frequency, and intensity) are allowed to proceed without interference or are mimicked through management.

Status 2: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation to maintain a primarily natural state, but which may receive use or management practices that degrade the quality of existing natural communities.

Status 3: An area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area, but subject to extractive uses of either a broad, low-intensity type or localized intense type. It also confers protection to federally listed endangered and threatened species throughout the area.

Status 4: Lack of irrevocable easement or mandate to prevent conversion of natural habitat types to anthropogenic habitat types. Allows for intensive use throughout the tract. Also includes those tracts for which the existence of such restrictions or sufficient information to establish a higher status is unknown.

TENNESSEE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS

According to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and the Tennessee Division of Forestry Programs land is identified as part of the Forest Stewardship program if (<https://www.tn.gov/twra/wildlife/habitat/programs-and-grants.html>) it:

- has 10 acres or more of forestland
- obtains and implements a forest stewardship plan
- has at least one secondary management objective in addition to their primary objective
- protects the land from erosion and prevent pollution of streams and lakes
- carries out the plan according to standards which maintain the productivity of forest resources and protect the environment.