

To: Radford University Campus Community

From: Penelope W. Kyle  
President

Date: October 21, 2008

During Convocation this year I called for the formation of a Sustainability Steering Committee that would recommend to me and to the Radford University Board of Visitors ways that we can make RU one the greenest campuses in the Commonwealth. The twelve-person Steering Committee has been formed representing faculty, staff, and students from across all the areas of the University, and I have named Dean Dennis Grady as the chair of this Committee and as the leader of all of our sustainability efforts. During the Committee's first meeting in early October, I charged them to be creative, innovative, and bold in recommending a course of action that will reduce our environmental footprint and bring recognition to our University as a leader in sustainability.

At this first meeting, the Committee recommended establishing a set of subcommittees that can focus more effectively on specific areas of sustainability. This subcommittee structure allows for broad participation by the entire campus community. Their purpose is to harness the talents, creativity, energy, and knowledge of faculty, staff, and students in proposing specific projects, policies, and procedures. These subcommittees will be the workhorses of the RU Sustainability effort.

Below is the list of sub-committees, a brief description of their respective tasks, and the contact information for the person who is leading that area. I would ask that, if you are interested in participating in this very important initiative, you contact the person(s) leading the area or areas in which you have an interest. S/he will then notify you of the subcommittee's first organizational meeting.

The Board and I take seriously our responsibility to be effective environmental stewards. This is especially true during these trying economic times when conserving our resources and generating new resources is more important than ever before. I am convinced that we can move forward in a more sustainable manner if we draw upon the incredible talents of our faculty, staff, and students. To that end I am committed. I hope you will join with me, the Board, and the Sustainability Steering Committee to that end as well.

### ***RU Sustainability Subcommittees***

The purpose of the subcommittee structure is to have interested individuals from the RU community focus on specific areas of sustainability. The subcommittees will:

- identify sustainability issues within their respective domains;
- conduct research on the current condition at RU pertaining to those issues;
- review the literature on "best practices" addressing those issues;
- recommend to the Steering Committee policies, procedures, courses of action, or other measures to address those issues.

## Subcommittees

**New Construction and Renovations** – examine issues related to levels of LEED certification and other “green” building practices or renovations. Chair - Roy Saville; [rsaville@radford.edu](mailto:rsaville@radford.edu), x 7812.

**Curriculum** – examine how sustainable education programs might be developed and how environmental literacy could be interwoven across the curriculum. Chair – Judy Guinan; [jaguinan@radford.edu](mailto:jaguinan@radford.edu), x 5222.

**Measurement** – develop data and metrics to measure and report on GHG emissions and other sustainability indicators. Chair – Debra Templeton; [drtemplet@radford.edu](mailto:drtemplet@radford.edu), x 5099.

**Energy/Water Conservation and Use** – look at ways to increase energy efficiency programs across campus and recommend campus-wide policies for reducing electrical demand. Chair - Tommy Manning; [tmanning@radford.edu](mailto:tmanning@radford.edu), x 7802

**Recycling** – examine ways to increase the amount of waste recycled and policies reducing the amount of waste produced. Chair – Julio Stephens; [wrstephe@radford.edu](mailto:wrstephe@radford.edu), x 7800

**Grounds/Habitats** – examine ways that the campus’ natural assets can be tended in a more sustainable manner. Co-chairs – Judy Guinan and Tommy Manning; [jaguinan@radford.edu](mailto:jaguinan@radford.edu), x 5222; [tmanning@radford.edu](mailto:tmanning@radford.edu), x 7802

**Transportation** – examine ways to increase fuel efficiency of motor fleet, use of alternative fuels/vehicles, and reduction of VMT by students, faculty, and staff. Chair – Tommy Manning; [tmanning@radford.edu](mailto:tmanning@radford.edu), x 7802

**Purchasing** – exploring ways to increase local food in food contract, green product purchasing, and holding vendors to higher levels of sustainability. Chair-Gary Tilley; [gtilley@radford.edu](mailto:gtilley@radford.edu), x 6097

**Food Services** – exploring ways to reduce waste and water usage under our contract with Chartwells. Chair – Bill Dalton; [wdalton@radford.edu](mailto:wdalton@radford.edu), x 5760

**Student Involvement** – looking at best practices and programs for involving students as drivers of campus sustainability. Co-Chairs – Trae Cotton, Katherine Lavinder, Brittany Christian, Sarah Heintzelman; [ttcotton@radford.edu](mailto:ttcotton@radford.edu), x 5321, [kawhitfie@radford.edu](mailto:kawhitfie@radford.edu), x 5376, [bchristia2@radford.edu](mailto:bchristia2@radford.edu), [saheintze@radford.edu](mailto:sahaintze@radford.edu)

**Investments** – examining how the University invests its portfolio in socially responsible companies and funds. Chair – TBD

**Public Awareness** – publicizing the work on-going regarding sustainability activities on campus. Chair - TBD