Sustainability and the Greek Experience
Indiana University Office of Sustainability, Bloomington
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Intern

Final Report
Mentors: Michael Goodman and Bill Brown
Introduction:

Impetus-

After spending a year as the Greek Sustainability Intern, I quickly identified a variety of barriers to success. One of those barriers was a pathological tendency of the Sustainability Chairs to lack or avoid an understanding of how they should/could be carrying out their duties. To address this, I confirmed a desire from the Chairs as well as Greek hierarchy to develop a system which would allow for concrete and uniform pathways to progress Greek sustainability initiatives. The answer we came up with was to create an accreditation program for the Greek system at IU Bloomington called the Green Greek Housing Accreditation Program.

Goals-

The goals of my summer centered on drafting this program. This involved a main schema as well as the supporting documents such as guides and surveys for the individual levels. Along with this program, I spent hours working with House Boards and Managers. This was another barrier to success from the '13-'14 academic year where we ran into obstinate managers and boards when trying to implement basic initiatives in-house. My last goal of the summer is to edit and facelift the webpage for the IUOS Greek Initiative as well as the Green Greek Oncourse page and Listserv. I am still working on these items.

Methodology:

To begin the discussion on the Green Greek Housing Accreditation Program, I met with the Sustainability Chairs from IFC and PHA along with the Sustainability Directors and Vice Presidents of Community Involvement from each. We all decided on a general framework to look toward, and I set about trying to identify a model. With Bill Brown’s help, I settled on using the Green Teams framework instead of reinventing the wheel.

Using that framework, Michael Goodman from Student Life and Learning and I rewrote the checklist items to correspond with things which would defer to a Greek chapter. After doing so, the draft was sent to our respective bosses for feedback. At that point I also sent the draft to the Greek hierarchy and to my fellow interns for more feedback. With feedback the
draft is awaiting finalization, and IFC and PHA are both choosing two chapters apiece to run a pilot of the program this coming Fall. After the kinks are worked out, we hope to open the program up to the entire Greek system in the Spring. I am also currently drafting the support guides and surveys for the program.

Recommendations:

For the coming academic year, I recommend the following:

1. IFC AND PHA pilot the Green Greek Housing Accreditation Program with two chapters from each council in the Fall semester and then open it to the entirety of the two councils in the Spring semester
2. IFC and PHA meet as quickly as possible to reassess Sustainability Chair involvement and have a mixer
3. Fifteen Chairs from each IFC and PHA work with SPEP to tailor lessons
4. Create a speaker series for roundtables
Green Greek Housing Accreditation

Green Greek Housing Accreditation is an initiative created by the IU Office of Sustainability (IUOS) and Student Life and Learning (SLL) as a tool to assess chapter facilities and foster sustainable initiatives based upon chapter needs. While involvement is voluntary, documentation of participation will be provided to inter/national organizations, House Corporation Boards, university staff and administrators, and specifically, will be featured on the IU Office of Sustainability and Student Life and Learning webpages. Support will be given to tailor initiatives to suit the needs of chapters.

The Green Greek Housing Accreditation coordination will fall as a responsibility of the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern who will serve as liaison between the IUOS and SLL. Specifically, this individual will work directly with the Panhellenic Association (PHA) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Vice Presidents of Community Involvement and Sustainability Directors.

Under the direction of the Sustainability Directors, Sustainability Chairs within each chapter will be tasked with leading their chapter’s facility initiatives in working toward and achieving accreditation levels. As leaders, the Sustainability Chairs will share knowledge and actively participate between chapters and councils, communicate reliably with appropriate parties, plan strategically, and mobilize their members to advance sustainable initiatives within their organization’s facility.

Members and new members (pledges, new initiates, associates, etc.) in all forms may participate in a chapter’s accreditation process. The more participation the better! Additionally, strategically identifying stakeholders within the chapter who express or exhibit interest in any of the key accreditation areas will better enable the Sustainability Chair to achieve realistic and meaningful goals throughout the year.

To apply to the Green Greek Housing Accreditation Program, chapters must register by filling out an IUOS Greek Housing Sustainability Accreditation Survey. This involves investigating their chapter’s personal motivation toward sustainability initiatives including initiatives already carried out or in place. This survey must be submitted to the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern who will review the chapter’s current practices and work with them to begin the process towards accreditation. Next, chapters will then be provided with updated connections, resources, and personal feedback tailored to that chapter’s structural and environmental needs.

The IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern will also provide chapters with a general guide to success within the Green Greek Housing Accreditation Program. This guide will include resources in the following arenas: Leadership, Meetings and Communication, Generating Interest, Making a Plan, and Increasing Involvement.

Chapters will also be provided structural framework, publicity, and support via the IUOS website. Chapters will also be added to a personalized Green Greek Housing Accreditation Oncourse site and listserv, overseen by the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern. The intern will also provide readily-available resources and toolkits pertaining to the following accreditation areas: Education and Outreach, Resource Use and Recycling,

Once registered, an organization can then begin to pursue accreditation. The Green Greek Housing Accreditation has five levels: Level 1 being the most basic through Level 5 being the most advanced. To attain a level, each chapter must complete a checklist which requires that, at minimum, 80% of the items on the list are completed. Each checklist is divided among the aforementioned accreditation areas, and there are a select number of items on each checklist denoted by an * which are absolutely required to attain at that particular level. All other items can be selectively pursued such that at least the minimum completion requirement is met.

Furthermore, at the bottom of each checklist will be a place for innovation credits. Credits can be unlimited and include initiatives not included in the original checklist but are such that chapters feel they may serve as replacements for other list items. Any replacements through innovation credits must be applied for via application and approval by the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern.

The accreditation areas roughly correspond to the IUOS working groups which will serve as a network of resources for Greek councils, Sustainability Directors, and Sustainability Chairs. These categories also roughly correspond to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) through which the Indiana University Bloomington campus ranks itself. By pursuing accreditation along these areas, Greek chapters will serve as community leaders in fostering involvement on our already award-winning sustainability campus. Simply put, by pursuing the Green Greek Housing Accreditation, chapters will help ensure that Indiana University continues to be regarded as a leader in sustainability.
Level 1

Education & Outreach

*Chapter has contacted the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern at ajcarty@indiana.edu regarding interest in registering the organization

*Chapter has completed and submitted the IUOS Greek Housing Sustainability Accreditation Survey

*Chapter has met with the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern and received formal documentation of registration

*The Sustainability Chair in the chapter is ____________________; this person serves as the main contact with the IUOS

*Sustainability Chair has discussed chapter’s goals with Executive Board and House Manager

Chapter encourages members to bring reusable mugs to meetings, either by including a reminder in the meeting request or by providing reusable mugs at the meeting

Resource Use and Recycling

*A general assessment based on the chapter’s recycling practices has been formed and discussed during a meeting

Chapter has used a building utility report at a meeting to discuss what opportunities exist for water or electricity reduction (i.e., a water bill, electricity bill, etc.)

Sustainable Computing

*A general assessment based on the chapter’s computing practices has been formed and discussed during a meeting

When printing is required, the chapter prints or copies double-sided whenever possible to conserve paper; double-sided is set as the default on the chapter’s office computers and/or the chapter has posted visual prompts near printers and copy machines as reminders to print or copy double-sided

Chapter has a dedicated tray to collect scrap paper and one-sided prints near the main printer/copier

Energy & Built Environment

*A general assessment based on the chapter’s energy use practices has been formed and discussed in a meeting
Chapter has signed up to participate in the upcoming Energy Challenge
Chapter contacts maintenance if heating or cooling systems are not properly functioning
Chapter maintains plants in common areas to improve air quality and aesthetics

**Transportation**

*A general assessment based on the chapter’s transportation practices has been formed and discussed in a meeting*

Chapter explained Zipcar and Zimride opportunities to members

**Food**

*A general assessment based on the chapter’s food practices has been formed and discussed in a meeting*

Chapter has made reusable dishware and utensils available in the kitchen

**Innovation**

Insert any innovations related to sustainability not included in the checklist here. An unlimited number of initiatives may be added and counted as part of the checklist. Example innovations include:

- Green Greek Guide for potential and new members
- Keeping copies of sustainability resources, such as magazines and newsletters, in common areas
- “Firsts” – for example, first chapter to purchase solar panels, provide bikes for facility employees and members, etc.
- Hosting a Green Event that coincides with Earth Day

*Denotes a required action

Note: Accreditation is achieved when 80% of total initiatives listed have been pursued (including innovation credits, which can be pursued in place of other initiatives listed if approved)
Level 2

**Education & Outreach**

*Chapter has reviewed all items from Level 1 to ensure practices are still in action*

*The opportunity to participate in chapter sustainability initiatives is mentioned as part of recruitment and new member processes*

*Chapter’s Sustainability Chair holds regular meetings for members actively participating or interested in sustainability initiatives*

*Chapter has contacted other chapters in our council to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration*

*Chapter has invited the Greek Life Sustainability Peer Educator to speak during at least one chapter meeting*

Chapter has created a personal Green Greek Housing Accreditation bulletin board or webpage

Chapter has created a personal email list or listserv for targeted communication within the chapter

**Resource Use and Recycling**

*Chapter has verified that clearly labeled recycling bins have been located near trash bins within all common areas*

Chapter has established a central location for collection and re-distribution of school supplies

**Sustainable Computing**

*Chapter reduces paper margins in order to decrease the length of printed documents*

If chapter publishes a newsletter, an additional electronic version is offered, which readers can select in lieu of a hard copy

**Energy and the Built Environment**

*The chapter has designated an individual responsible for sending out an extended break checklist to all members and staff prior to the holidays*

Chapter unplugs electronic appliances, such as microwaves, toasters, and coffee makers overnight or when not in use to avoid phantom energy loss

Power strips are utilized for easy access to unplug several appliances at once
During cold weather, chapter encourages individuals to close their blinds at night.

Chapter utilizes natural daylight in rooms with windows as much as possible, turning off unneeded overhead lighting.

**Transportation**

*Chapter has verified adequate bike parking or storage near or in chapter facility*

Chapter has sought out members who are interested in creating a chapter-wide carpool program.

**Food**

*Reusable cups, mugs, silverware and dishware are available in common rooms and kitchens*

If chapter supplies paper products, napkins, or paper towels in-house, products purchased contain at least 30% recycled content.

**Events**

*Chapter’s Sustainability Chair attended at least 80% of required Sustainability Chair meetings*

At chapter events and meetings, individuals use reusable cups, dishware, and utensils whenever possible; if appropriate, chapter includes a reminder in the meeting request.

**Innovation**

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- Keeping copies of sustainability resources, such as magazines and newsletters, in common areas
- “Firsts” – for example, first chapter to purchase solar panels, provide bikes for facility employees and members, etc.
- Hosting a Green Event that coincides with Earth Day

*Denotes a required action

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Level 3

**Education & Outreach**

*Chapter has reviewed all items from Level 2 to ensure practices are still in action

*A centralized location or email listserv with green tips, action ideas, and events has been created and members have been informed of its existence

*Chapter has reached out to a chapter in another Greek council to ask if they would be interested in assisting with some of the organization’s planned initiatives

Updates and/or green tips are presented during regular meetings

Chapter has hosted a “lunch and learn” meeting in the chapter facility for all members to learn about sustainability and/or sustainable actions undertaken in the chapter

**Resource Use and Recycling**

*Chapter is on a recycling service

*Chapter has donated to Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale

*Every waste bin in chapter facility is coupled with a recycling bin

**Sustainable Computing**

*Chapter turns off computer monitors at night

*Chapter sends computers into energy-saving mode (standby/hibernate) when not in use during the day

**Energy and the Built Environment**

*Chapter has posted energy conservation prompts on light switches, prompts to encourage members to unplug appliances when not in use, and has placed water usage prompts in relevant areas

*Chapter has worked with facilities manager or House Corporation Board to utilize utilities information to complete an unofficial audit of facility water and electricity usage

*Lighting fixtures that could be either replaced with more efficient bulbs or removed from the facility have been identified either by someone in our chapter or from IUOS
Chapter has identified the entity that controls the facility thermostat and determined that it is working and set correctly

Chapter has recorded the daily facility temperature for thirty consecutive days (Monday-Friday)

All lights are turned off when not in use during the day and at night, including in common areas such as kitchens, common areas, storage closets, and bathrooms

Chapter has consulted with facility staff about the possibility of inserting energy-efficient bulbs into lighting fixtures and to remove unneeded lighting fixtures whenever possible

**Transportation**

Chapter has shared “green travel” options, such as carpooling, hybrid or high-mpg vehicle rental, airport shuttle transportation, Bloomington bus transit, campus bus, Zipcar, Zimride, biking, carpooling, and rural transit with all members

**Food**

*Chapter volunteers at least once per year at the campus garden with 10% of each new member class in attendance*

*Chapter has met with the person(s) in charge of purchasing to inquire about the possibility of stocking the kitchen(s) with Green Seal certified cleaning products*

*Chapter has met with the person(s) in charge of purchasing to inquire about the possibility of stocking/using in the kitchen(s) locally grown food products*

**Events and Meetings**

*Chapter has held a certified Green Event using the IUOS Green Events checklist*

Chapter has a member designated to promote recycling and waste reduction before and during tailgating events

At events, recycled paper products or compostables are used instead of plastic or coated cardboard when reusable dining materials are not available; chapter sets up recycle bins, and if compostables are used, chapter composts them

**Innovation**

Insert any innovations related to sustainability not included in the checklist here. An unlimited number of initiatives may be added and counted as part of the checklist. Example innovations include:

- Green Greek Guide for potential and new members
- Keeping copies of sustainability resources, such as magazines and newsletters, in common areas
• “Firsts” – for example, first chapter to purchase solar panels, provide bikes for facility employees and members, etc.
• Hosting a Green Event that coincides with Earth Day

*Denotes a required action

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Level 4

Education & Outreach

*Chapter has reviewed all items from Level 3 to ensure practices are still in action

*Chapter introduces all new members to the Green Greek Housing Accreditation program and invites them to participate by reviewing the website and checklists

*In conjunction with the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern, chapter has hosted a Green Bag Luncheon (once per semester) located either in the chapter facility or another campus venue (including the Office of Sustainability’s E-house)

*Chapter has reached out to another student organization to ask if they would be interested in assisting with any of the planned initiatives

Chapter worked with the IUOS Sustainability and the Greek Experience Intern to write-up a story on the progress of the chapter (to be used locally or nationally)

Chapter has offered guidance, suggestions, and information about ongoing initiatives to at least one other chapter

Resource Use and Recycling

*Chapter has identified recycling bins that are often contaminated or underutilized and taken corrective action, such as making sure the bins are paired and properly labeled (i.e., recycling container has a trash container next to it)

*Chapter consolidates facility supply orders, rather than ordering one thing at a time, in order to reduce the amount of packing material and transportation energy used in shipping

Chapter recycles packaging when it cannot be reduced
When chapter members receive unsolicited mail, catalogues, or faxes, chapter takes measures to be removed from those mailing lists

A designated collection bin or area for large e-waste (laptops, computers, printers, A/V, office phones) and small e-waste (CDs, audio tapes, cell phones/chargers, PDAs, inkjet printer cartridges) has been publicized via email or at a chapter meeting

Chapter disposes of CFLs in cardboard boxes for proper recycling

Sustainable Computing

*Chapter has reviewed the UITS, “How can I minimize my computer’s impact on the environment?” webpage and plan to follow through with as many recommendations as possible
A list of actions that can be taken to minimize one’s computer’s impact on the environment has been posted in relevant locations (i.e., common printing areas, common study areas)

**Energy and the Build Environment**

*Chapter has installed dimmers

*Chapter facilities use CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) or LED’s (light emitting diodes)

Chapter has shared a 30-day chapter facility temperature report with those who control the thermostat, and have asked that the thermostat be set within the recommended setting range (maximum of 68°F in winter and minimum of 76°F in summer)

Microwaves, coffee makers, and other small appliances are unplugged when not in use or at night, or are programmed to shut off through a timer

**Transportation**

*Chapter publicizes a “Green Transit Day” at least once per semester, encouraging members to carpool, take public transportation, bike or walk to campus

**Food:**

*Chapter has established an on-site kitchen compost bin

**Events and Meetings**

*Chapter has hosted a Green Greek Event open to all councils and chapters

*Chapter has an organized cleaning rotation for all members to assist in ensuring their tailgate lot is left without waste

**Innovation**

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Example innovations include:

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- Keeping copies of sustainability resources, such as magazines and newsletters, in common areas
- “Firsts” – for example, first chapter to purchase solar panels, provide bikes for facility employees and members, etc.
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*Denotes a required action
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Level 5

Education & Outreach

*Chapter has reviewed all items from Level 4 to ensure practices are still in action

*After introducing new members to the Green Greek Housing Accreditation program, chapter encourages interested members to sign a written commitment to take action

*Chapter has explored possible service-learning opportunities for students related to sustainability and the environment

*Chapter volunteers with a Bloomington community agency at least twice per academic year

Resource Use and Recycling

*Chapter uses 100% recycled content paper for printing at the chapter facility

*Chapter attempts to provide paperless (electronic) publications

*Once per academic year, chapter participates in a chapter-wide supplies exchange and donates excess materials

*To reduce transportation emissions and packaging, chapter combines delivery orders for supplies and equipment whenever possible

Rather than being part of a general e-waste recycle bin, printer cartridges are collected and recycled through the distributor

Batteries size D and smaller are collected in specified battery containers for proper disposal

All paper used is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Sustainable Computing

*Chapter has de-activated all screen savers

*Whenever possible, chapter has “sleep mode” enabled on all copiers and printers after five minutes or less of inactivity

Chapter has learned about and installed the GoGreen Gadget on all PC computers, and has contacted members about the benefits of the GoGreen Gadget via email or at a meeting

Energy and the Build Environment

*Chapter has installed some type of solar infrastructure
*Whenever possible, all new equipment purchased for the chapter facility is Energy Star-rated or equivalent

*Chapter utilizes smart strips or timers to ensure that electronic devices are only on during hours of use

Chapter has installed hand dryers

**Transportation**

*Chapter has an organized bike share program

**Food**

*Chapter kitchen(s) is stocked with Green Seal certified cleaning materials

*Chapter kitchen(s) is stocked with some locally grown food options

**Events and Meetings**

*At athletic events, recycled paper products or compostables are used instead of plastic or coated cardboard when reusable dining materials are not possible

Chapter participates fully in “no frills” recruitment

**Innovation**

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