



Strategies for Integrating Sustainability Across the Curriculum

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About Santa Clara University

- Santa Clara, CA
- Over 8,000 students
- Avg. class size: 25 students
- Founded in 1851
- 106 acre main campus
- 6 schools (A&S, Business, Engineering, Law, JST, ECP)
- Mission Santa Clara
- NCAA division I
- 300 days of sunshine a year





Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Across the Curriculum

- The Piedmont Project at Emory University, the longest-running curriculum development program for sustainability in the country.
- Introduced to faculty on more than 150 campuses, the Ponderosa Project at Northern Arizona University is a faculty development initiative aimed at helping faculty across departments integrate issues of environmental sustainability into their courses.





The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.



Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum

- The Penstemon Project is designed for faculty outside of the traditional environmentally-focused disciplines to find ways to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum – either as class content or in the way their class functions





Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum

- **Phase I – “Low Hanging Fruit”**
 - 2007 and 2009
 - one workshop each year
 - approx. 20 each for total of 39 faculty,
 - workshops were two days in the summer,
 - volunteer
- **Phase II – “Higher on the Tree”**
 - 2011
 - Three one-day workshops during the academic year,
 - 20 faculty per workshop (60 total),
 - ipad incentive





Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum



- **Phase III – “Harvesting the Orchard”**
 - 2013-date
 - department-based initiative
 - each department conducts an assessment and sets a goal
 - faculty summer stipends for course transformations
 - leadership identified each school
- **Starts with a review of current courses**



Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum



- Phase III – “Harvesting the Orchard”
 - Starts with a review of current courses
 - Department discussion of goal - % courses sustainability-related
 - Department plan for achieving goal including timeline
 - Support provided by Penstemon
 - Individual and department consultation
 - Summer stipends for course revisions



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Two categories of courses

1) Courses that include sustainability

Courses that are primarily focused on a topic other than sustainability, but incorporate a unit or module on sustainability or a sustainability challenge, include one or more sustainability-focused activities, or integrate sustainability issues throughout the term.



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2) Sustainability-focused courses

Courses in which the primary and explicit focus is on sustainability and/or on understanding or solving one or more major sustainability challenge (e.g. the course contributes toward achieving principles outlined in the UN Earth Charter).





Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum

Departmental Review Process

**Leader: John Farnsworth, Faculty Associate for Penstemon,
Lindsey Cromwell, Director, Center for Sustainability**

**Targeted Pilots 2013-14 – Civil Engineering, Business Core,
Political Science, Economics, and Anthropology**

**Summer 2014 – 25 faculty summer stipends of \$1000 to develop
modules or revise courses related to targeted pilots**

**Summer 2014 – lunch with key science faculty added
revisions of general chemistry lab program during summer)**

**2014-15 – A&S chairs retreat Currently working with all
departments in A&S, developing leadership in other schools**



Santa Clara's Penstemon Project Sustainability Across the Curriculum



Where we were in 2013 STARS...

Across the University, thirty-five academic departments (77 percent of SCU's academic disciplines) offer at least one class related to sustainability (1 or 2), and over 778 courses are related to sustainability (1 or 2) (638 undergraduate; 140 graduate courses).



AASHE resources ... and SENCER Resources: Models

Over 40 models have been selected over the past 10+ years including:



“Sustainability and Human Health:
A Learning Community”

Donald Stearns and Kim Worthy
Wagner College

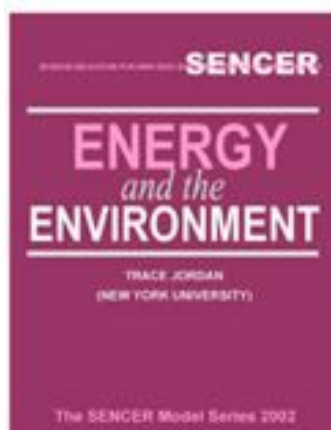
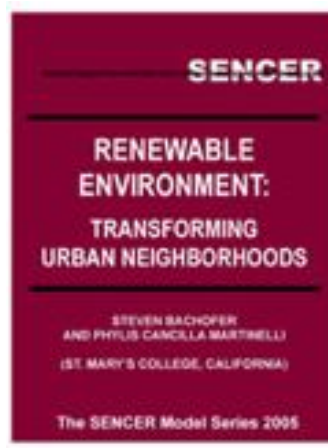
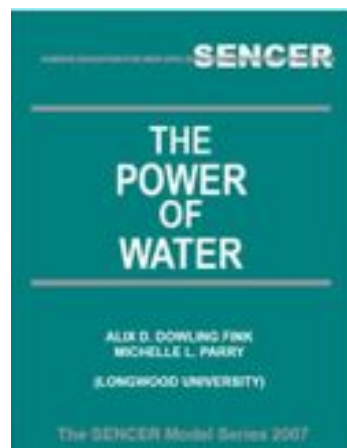


“Global Warming”

Sharon Anthony
Evergreen State College



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY





SENCER Resources

2014 Models

Climate Change Science and Economics

Denise Eby Konan, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor, Department of Economics (konan@hawaii.edu); Julia M. Morgan, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy (jmmorgan@hawaii.edu), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Pollinators: A Case Study in Systems

Thinking and Sustainability

Susan H. Cusato, Department of Science Education and Environmental Studies; Suzanne Huminski, Department of Science Education and Environmental Studies, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut



www.sencer.net

www.serc.carleton.edu/sencer/index.html

www.aashe.org

www.scu.edu/sustainability