Final Report

CJ Blair
Green Office Program Intern
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Introduction

The purpose of the Green Office Program is to encourage Oberlin College faculty and staff to undertake sustainability initiatives in their homes and offices. A tiered system of awards and incentives will be established to praise successful initiatives and encourage members to further develop their environmental awareness.

The overarching goal of this program is to get all offices at Oberlin College engaged in with environmental initiatives with the greatest possible level of involvement. In this case, involvement refers to the number of pre-determined initiatives an office is taking and future attendance in trainings and events. This program also hopes to foster dialogue between campus offices that could establish long-term networking and collaboration.

Accomplishments

- **Artistic Development**—researched various “sustainability plaques” and located a found-art studio in Cleveland and went, along with Bridget and two Oberlin art students, to a clinic to learn how to make award plaques for GOPro. Developed a working template for the plaques that will serve as the basis for the award system in the program.

- **Program and Strategy Research**—spent many hours researching programs similar to this one on different college campus and developed a process for how it would work based on the best of what I found through this research

- **Criteria Development**—re-evaluated (and expanded on) the tentative criteria made for the program last year, then with each attached an explanation of why it was important and how much energy it could save

Challenges

It was at times difficult to know to what extent the groundwork for the program set by the last intern needed to be followed, and often I wasn’t sure if those documents were more like recommendations or strict guidelines for starting the program. It was also very difficult to get in contact with any faculty in the art department to develop the award plaques, which was quite frustrating given that the alternative we took was both quite expensive and off of campus.
Key Stakeholders

- Nicole McGee from Upcycled Parts Shop in Cleveland: <nicole@upcyclepartsshop.org>
- Devon from Upcycled Parts: <devon@upcyclepartsshop.org>
- Professor Christensen from the Oberlin Art Department (specializes in recycled art): Julia.Christensen@oberlin.edu
- Brad Burrer, Project Manager in Facilities Planning and Construction and let us into the warehouse with old, used, stuff. bburrer@oberlin.edu

Contacts: Catherine Hoyle*--AJLC Facilities Manager: choyle@oberlin.edu
Alison Ricker*--Science Library Liaison: aricker@oberlin.edu
Barbara Winterich--Administrative Assistant: bwinteri@oberlin.edu
Liz Hui--Admissions Staff: lhui@oberlin.edu
*=responded and would like to be liaisons for their offices

Deliverables

GOPro Website: http://new.oberlin.edu/office/environmental-sustainability/green-office/


Green Office Criteria spreadsheet

A badge for office webpages is in development.

Suggestions and Insiders Info

All documents and research for this program are saved to Google Drive and shared with me (cblair@oberlin.edu) and Bridget Flynn (bflynn@oberlin.edu). In subsequent years, I think it is going to be very important, and also very satisfying, to really make a point to build connections with the artistic community on campus, both for the awards and any other sustainable art we might want to pursue in the future. Also, personal contact or phone calls seem to have a much higher success rate than e-mails, so I think the more personal the contact (especially when looking for liaisons) the better the chances the person will listen. I also think the pilot began much later than intended mostly because it was difficult to get through all the literature that had been left by the past intern and decide how to expand on it.

Unanswered Questions

What has the pilot of GOPro looked like on other college campuses?

Can GOPro expand its vision and the scope of its commitments, as people get more interested with and involved in sustainability?

What level of monitoring will ultimately be appropriate to ensure that offices are maintaining their promises?
What would summits and other inter-office events for GOPro look like?

**Conclusion**

I have absolutely loved getting to work with the OES at Oberlin, and have learned quite a bit about applying a business mindset to environmental activism and had ample room to be artistic and creative as well. This year certainly seemed to be about getting familiar with my position and preparing the program, so I hope that in the next three years I will be able to really focus on making things happen quickly and effectively in order to make this problem a definite step in the right direction for sustainability at Oberlin.