

## EnviroAlums

### Steering Committee Meeting

Lewis Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room

7 March 2009; 2:30 to 5:20 PM

Present in Lewis Center: Kristin Braziunas, Michael Lythcott, Carl McDaniel, Pat Cobb  
Tarnow

Teleconference: Susan Bernat, Michael Bobker, Chris Brown, Lewis Gilbert, Walt Galloway,  
John Petersen

Absent: Andrew Barnett, Andrew deCoriolis, Meredith Dowling, Mira Inbar, Michael Murry,  
Gavin Platt, Naomi Sabel, John Schaefer, Rob Stenger

Guests: Nathan Engstrom (Sustainability Coordinator), Ruth Mercer (Assistant Director,  
Alumni Association), Jane Miller (EnviroAlums member)

### **Passing of Peter Lavigne '79**

We paid our respects to Pete who had championed environmental causes all of his life especially for maintaining and restoring biodiversity of the nation's rivers. He advocated for environmental education at Oberlin. Pete was on E's first Steering Committee and a Steering Committee member when he died on 23 November 2008. He made the first alumni gift in support of the Lewis Center and was instrumental in the establishment of E Endowment in spring 2008. We will miss him.

### **Use of toxic chemicals on Oberlin grounds**

Jane Miller gave an update on her discussions with Oberlin grounds people on use of toxic chemicals by grounds personnel at the college (Attached). She distributed to the SC the January 2009 letter as well as the proposal from Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics to Dennis Greive, Grounds Manager, that is currently under review by Dennis Greive. Jane will continue her discussions with Grounds personnel and keep E SC informed.

### **Update report from Sustainability Office**

Nathan Engstrom, Sustainability Coordinator, provided SC with three detailed reports: Sustainability Status Report Summary and Work Plan Update July 2008 through January 2009, Other Significant Environmental Sustainability Achievements, and Progress on Implementing the 2005 Strategic Plan March 5, 2009; based on Report of February 2009 (Attached). At the meeting he reviewed some of the highlights.

### **Update on E Endowment**

In February 2009, Carl McDaniel met with Bill Barlow, the new Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, to discuss with him the history of E Endowment and future fund raising for the endowment. He was appreciative of E accomplishments; however, the current economic down turn precluded any actions.

### **Support of student and other activities**

Carl McDaniel indicated that E Student Fund had supported about half a dozen student projects including the attendance of several of Oberlin's 100+ students who went to the POWER SHIFT conference on climate change in Washington DC in late February 2009 and funds for five students to attend a statewide conference held on campus entitled "Ohio: Green

and Growing.” E also provided funds to help plant 175 trees by college and town in celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town and college.

### **E Nominations for Affiliate Group Representative on Alumni Council Executive Board**

The Executive Board of the Alumni Council has 3 places for representatives from Affiliate Groups that each serve for 3 years. One seat comes open each year. E’s term with Carl McDaniel as its representative expires in September 2009. E requested to be considered for the open seat and nominated Andy Barnett or Lewis Gilbert as possible E representatives, if the Executive Board selected E to fill the open seat. The Executive Board voted to fill the seat with a representative from Oberlin Alumni Association of African Ancestry. We thank Andy and Lewis for their willingness to be E’s representative. (Carl McDaniel)

### **Request for Environmental and Sustainability Stories**

Oberlin’s home page features, “We are Oberlin: these are our stories,” with images from 9 stories that rotate among the stories that have been submitted. Stories have been grouped into 15 categories, one being Environmental and Sustainability. Only 3 Environmental and Sustainability stories have been submitted. Please consider submitting a story. All that is needed is a short story of one to several paragraphs, and Lillie Chilen will help you. See <http://stories.oberlin.edu> for information or contact Lillie Chilen ([lillie.chilen@oberlin.edu](mailto:lillie.chilen@oberlin.edu)). I know within E we have hundreds of stories; let’s get them out to the Oberlin community. (Carl McDaniel)

### **EnviroAlums Affiliate Group and ENVS Majors Reunion, Columbus Day weekend, October 9-11, 2009**

Carl McDaniel, David Orr, and John Petersen met on 17 Feb 09, to discuss the reunion. The E Reunion Committee of Michael Bobker, Kristin Braziunas, Walt Galloway, Michael Lythcott, and Carl McDaniel, with Ruth Mercer from the Alumni Office, teleconferenced on 21 Feb 09. The recommendations and suggestions of the Reunion Committee were discussed.

The following were decided by the SC:

1. **Reunion time:** Friday 6:00 PM to Sunday 2:00 PM. Informal gathering Sunday afternoon at Trail Magic, the home of Carl and Mary McDaniel.
2. **Reunion title and theme:** Title: *A Crisis Is a Terrible Thing to Waste—Creating Sustainability from Climate and Financial Crises* (To be modified with SC member’s input). Theme: Oberlin as Model—transfer from Oberlin to other places; from other places to Oberlin.
3. **Schedule for interacting:** Leave about half the time of the overall reunion and of each activity open for socializing and discussion.
4. **Friday evening keynote speaker:** David Orr
5. **Registration fee:** \$30.00
6. **First reunion letter:** Carl McDaniel with the help of Reunion Committee and Ruth Mercer will compose a letter including general information and a return form with several questions and requests:
  - a. What would entice you to come to the reunion?

- b. Would you be willing to organize an activity for the symposium? If so, what would that activity be?
- c. Do you know any alums who would be interested in the Reunion and should receive this invitation letter?
- d. At one meal we will have theme or topic tables (water, agriculture, population, poverty, biodiversity, renewable energy, arts and sustainability, environmental justice, etc.; sustainability in Chicago, or New York City, or some other place; etc.). Please indicate any theme or topic in which you have expertise or interest. From your responses, theme and topic tables will be established so you can share a meal with alums of similar expertise or interest.

This letter will be sent out in the first week of April 2009 and have a due date for the response form of ~20 April 2009.

In the same mailing will be E's membership form including a request for E dues, donation to E Endowment, donation to E Student Fund, and donation for a fund to provide financial assistance for people to attend reunion.

- 7. **Alumni list:** A group project of 4 students in John Petersen's ENVS 101 course under the direction of Carl McDaniel is creating a grand list of names of E members, ENVS graduates, and other alums involved in or interested the environment who will be contacted with information about the reunion. The list will then be the starting point for making a searchable database to be used for the reunion and later. Walt Galloway will also work on this database project.
- 8. **Email updates:** Two email updates on the reunion will be sent to the database list in early June 2009 and early August 2009.
- 9. **Registration:** A tentative reunion schedule and registration form will be sent out in late June 2009. Registration will be due in early Sept 2009. This registration form will make a second request for a donation to the fund to provide financial assistance for people to attend reunion.
- 10. **Notice in Alumni Magazine:** Carl McDaniel will work with the new editor of the Alumni Magazine, Jeff Hagan, to have a notice placed in the magazine.
- 11. **Marvin Krislov:** Carl McDaniel will make an appointment to talk with Marvin Krislov about the reunion and ask how he would like to participate in the reunion, and to ask him for financial support.
- 12. **Off-campus participation:** Carl McDaniel and Ruth Mercer will establish what is possible for real time and after reunion Web availability for parts of the reunion.
- 13. **Tours:** Kristin Braziunas, Carl McDaniel, and Ruth Mercer will seek tour possibilities and make arrangements as needed: Lewis Center, Jones Farm, East College Street Project, Jazz Building, SEED House, others?
- 14. **E Web site:** Kristin Braziunas will keep E Web site current with reunion information.
- 15. **Faculty and staff involvement:** John Petersen will inform the ENVS Program Committee and the ENVS faculty and staff about the reunion and encourage them to be involved.
- 16. **Symposia, workshop, activity:** Each SC member was asked to propose a symposia, workshop or activity they would organize and run or find another alum to so do.

17. **Distinguished Alums:** Email Ruth Mercer any distinguished alums that might be interested and should be invited to attend reunion.

### **Draft Schedule for Reunion**

Friday:

- 5:00-7:00 PM: Registration in Lewis Center Atrium
- 6:00-7:00 PM: Social hour
- 7:00-8:00 PM: Dinner
- 8:30-9:30 PM: Welcome and keynote address by David Orr

Saturday:

- 7:30-8:45 AM: Breakfast (on own)
- 9:00-10:30 AM: Activity (tours and other activities?)
- 11:00-12:00 AM: Activity (student posters, tables, etc. on environmental activities?)
- 12:15-1:15 PM: Lunch (theme/topic lunch; invite students?)
- 1:15-2:00 PM: Activity (follow up on lunch themes and topics?)
- 2:30-4:30 PM: Activity (tours and other activities?)
- 5:00-6:00 PM: Social Hour
- 6:00-7:00 PM: Dinner (invite limited # of students?)
- 7:30-9:00 PM: Social time, perhaps environmental movies

Sunday:

- 7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast (on own; perhaps with OSCA)
- 9:00-11:00 AM Activity
- 12:00-2:00 PM: Lunch and closing activity
- 2:00-6:00 PM: Informal gathering at Trail Magic (McDaniel climate-neutral home)

### **Possible activities**

1. Each SC member was asked to propose a symposia, workshop or activity they would organize and run, or find another alum to so do.
2. Walt Galloway will see if possible to do an activity on “Growing a Culture of Sustainability.”
3. Student panel on what is happening on campus.
4. Oberlin as a model: symposium/workshop that involves players from college and town.
5. Panel of Oberlin graduates who have stayed in Oberlin doing environmentally sustainable things.
6. Environmental humor event: Carl McDaniel will try to contact Ed Helms '96 to see if he might be interested coming and doing some environmental humor.
7. Our title is not wasting climate and financial crises; our theme is Oberlin as a model. Try to think of activities that fit this theme and ways the title and theme can be integrated into the program.

**SC Meetings in 2009:** Saturday, 12 Sept 2009, time TBA, Lewis Center Conference Room

Respectfully submitted  
Carl N. McDaniel '64  
Chair, EnviroAlums

## Attachment 1: Jane Miller's Report

Report on pesticide and herbicide use at Oberlin College  
Jane Miller, LISW, OC'83

On 5 December 08 Keith Watkins, Director of Facilities, Dennis Greive, Grounds Service Manager and Jane Miller, LISW OC '83 Alum and Local Resident met for 1 ½ hours to discuss how Oberlin College compares to other Liberal Arts Colleges regarding landscaping and pesticide programs. We discussed the options currently being promoted to minimize and/or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides from Oberlin College campus. Dennis Greive provided Jane Miller with a comprehensive written document outlining what Oberlin College currently does/utilizes to maintain the campus grounds and athletic fields.

There was discussion regarding how the Union Grounds workers would react and respond to any changes that would be implemented. How buy-in by the workers would be extremely valuable to a successful change – no matter what that may be.

Jane Miller provided information from many colleges and website locations describing various protocols and procedures/strategies to minimize pesticide usage. As the meeting was drawing to an end Jane suggested we contact Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics ([www.osborneorganics.com](http://www.osborneorganics.com)) who could provide guidance, consulting and evaluations regarding ways to implement changes to reduce the pesticide usage.

Dennis followed up with Chip Osborne after our meeting. Oberlin College requested a detailed proposal on what services could be provided and the costs associated with them. The proposal from Chip Osborne was received the last week of January 2009. The proposal is currently being reviewed by Facilities Operations and Administration.

Additional information will be forth coming.

Three Reports from Nathan Engstrom, Sustainability Coordinator:

Statement to the City and College Community  
by  
The Oberlin College Committee on Environmental Sustainability

The City of Oberlin and Oberlin College have a variety of intersecting needs and goals with respect to developing and promoting sound transportation and parking policies that meet logistical and economic needs while fostering greater environmental sustainability. Although required by City of Oberlin Codified Ordinances and recommended in 2006 by the Oberlin City/Oberlin College Parking Committee, a significant number of Oberlin citizens and college students have expressed continued concerns over the environmental impact of developing additional parking lots on the Oberlin College campus.

According to Oberlin College Safety and Security, only 16% of all students and 6% of first year students have parking permits. A survey of 710 students in fall 2007 indicates that only 22.5% of all students and 11% of first year students have cars on campus, accounting for students who have a car but don't register it with Security. Due to the very low number of students in general and first year students in particular who have cars, the 0.5 spaces per bed requirement is excessive.

In recognition of the low number of students who have cars, the environmentally sensitive nature of the North Professor Street site, and community and student concerns, it is the Committee on Environmental Sustainability's recommendation that the College seek a compromise with the Planning Commission. Specifically, the College will work toward a formal proposal that will:

1. Add some reduced amount of additional parking by unobtrusively expanding the existing Stevenson lot.
2. Prominently locate a CityWheels car-sharing vehicle on site for student use and provide information and enrollment materials to students prior to arriving on campus.
3. Add significant numbers of covered bike parking on site and elsewhere on campus.
4. Place an emphasis on projects and policies that reduce car use and the number of cars on campus as recommended by the College's Environmental Policy. Policies and projects that should be pursued are:
  - a. A bike giveaway for students who sign a contract not to bring a car to campus during their time at Oberlin.
  - b. A College/community campaign to increase bike ridership
  - c. Developing long term and/or remote parking options to help alleviate long term parking on city streets.
  - d. Placing a cap on the number of parking permits issued to first year students.

We encourage the College to seek the City's support and guidance in an open public dialogue to help refine these strategies into a mutually beneficial set of solutions that meet our

intersecting needs and goals while fostering greater environmental sustainability and addressing student and community concerns.



## **Sustainability Status Report Summary and Work Plan Update July 2008 through January 2009**

***Oberlin has made significant progress on both environmental policy and action since creating the Office of Environmental Sustainability (OES). The Committee on Environmental Sustainability (CES) approved the following Work Plan. Notes on the current status of each Work Plan item as well as other significant achievements are outlined below.***

### **Office Administration, Promotion, and Education**

- Work to promote campus sustainability efforts through Web sites, press releases, articles, outreach, tabling, events, committees, student & community groups, etc.

**Current status:**

The OES is continually working to promote Oberlin's sustainability efforts. The web site is updated frequently, the OES maintains a close relationship with the Communications Office and the Oberlin Review and provides them with information as requested, and Mr. Engstrom attends College and community events, committee meetings and activities regularly in order to promote Oberlin's achievements and interests. The OES and the Energy Manager provide content for a recurring sustainability column in The Source.

- Hold monthly "Green Tea" meetings with student groups and "Green Drinks" events for the wider Oberlin Community.

**Current status:**

Green Tea meetings are now held twice monthly in the AJLC atrium when school is in session and provide student environmental groups and individuals interested in campus sustainability with consistent opportunities to connect with each other and make others aware of their events and activities. Monthly Green Drinks events, held at The Feve, are used to expand this networking model and make it available to the broader Oberlin community.

- Hire student assistants to work with the office on projects and to promote sustainability.

**Current status:**

The OES employs 2-4 students year-round working as project specific interns, outreach and education coordinators, and general assistants for the office. Work that has been accomplished by OES interns recently includes: preparing a sustainability

“Field Guide” for incoming students, planning sustainability related orientation and back to school events, continuing wind turbine feasibility research, organizing and running the Green Tea and Green Drinks events, overseeing campus and community composting coordination and planning, directing transportation project and policy planning, developing an outdoor Pre-Orientation Program, coordinating Oberlin’s participating in the National Teach-in on Global warming, coordinating Ecolympics and Earth Day activities, among many others.

- Develop a strategy for improving our scores from various sustainability rankings and report cards, including reporting criteria, a schedule for reporting early and regularly, and a thorough list of contacts and assessment measures.

**Current status:**

OES student interns are currently collecting data on the numerous sustainability rankings and report cards that exist. This project will be completed by the end of the Spring semester.

**Energy Production and Use**

- Prepare a Campus Climate Action Plan. Assess the impacts of the college’s current level of emissions, develop indicators and targets for continual improvement, set a target date for carbon neutrality, and outline a specific implementation plan and priorities based on EVI’s study.

**Current status:**

Energy Ventures International (EVI) Study for Campus Climate Neutral Plan has been completed and provides the necessary foundation and specific recommendations for the Campus Climate Action Plan that the CES and OES will develop by September 15. The OES has been instrumental in initiating this process and has been continually involved since the selection of EVI. Planning for greenhouse gas emissions reductions is an ongoing task of the OES.

- Work with the Energy Manager, Facilities Operations, and Facilities Planning and Construction to implement Aramark’s and EVI’s recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades in existing facilities in support of the Climate Action Plan.

**Current status:**

The OES works closely with the Energy Manager on this and other energy related matters on an ongoing basis.

- Continue working with OMLPS and the City of Oberlin to investigate additional opportunities for purchasing and/or generating renewable energy both on campus and off and pursue the recommendations provided by EVI’s study.

**Current status:**

The OES is actively engaged in investigating additional opportunities for obtaining renewable energy, particularly since the Oberlin City Council voted not to participate in the AMPGS coal-fired power plant. Mr. Engstrom serves on the City’s Energy Sustainability Working Group and the community group POWER (Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly). Most recently, Mr. Engstrom was invited to join a city delegation to GreenField Solar’s manufacturing facility and is working with a group of community members interested in forming an energy co-op to collectively purchase and own renewable energy generation assets by selling shares and assigning ownership rights to participating community members.

**Grounds**



- As part of the Campus Climate Action Plan, develop recommendations for reducing or eliminating fossil fuel use and fertilizer application.

**Current status:**

The OES is working with the grounds department to support and expand organic landscape management projects that have been piloted on Wilder Bowl and other selected areas as well as continue to investigate alternative fuel sources for grounds equipment. Mr. Engstrom is also working with OSCA representatives to implement similar pilot programs. These efforts will expand over the coming months as the OES and CES begin writing the College's Climate Action Plan.

### **Facilities Construction, Modernization, and Maintenance**

- Engage in facilities planning and assist in implementing the college's commitment to LEED Silver or better certification for all new construction and major renovation projects. Ensure that all projects capable of being certified are certified and that sufficient project budgets are established.

**Current status:**

Mr. Engstrom was engaged in planning for the green arts district and Williams Field House and is a member of the Steering Committee for the North Professor Street Housing and brings his expertise and past experience in green building to these and other projects. The OES hosted a sustainability workshop for students to solicit design ideas for North Professor Street Housing and works with the Project Manager and architects regularly.

- Develop a policy for integrating increased energy efficiency targets directed towards eventual climate neutrality into project proposal requirements.

**Current status:**

The OES is working closely with the Energy Manager on assessing opportunities for energy efficiency improvements in existing facilities. Reports and recommendations will be forthcoming over the next few months as part of the Climate Action Plan.

- As part of the Campus Climate Action Plan, conduct further engineering and/or feasibility studies for converting the central heating plant to run on low/no-carbon fuel based on EVI's recommendations.

**Current status:**

The OES is working closely with the Energy Manager and EVI on assessing opportunities for these improvements as well. EVI presented their initial findings to the Capital Planning Committee of the Trustees in December. A supporter of Oberlin College, Gordon Deane, and his company Palmer Capital Group are pursuing purchasing landfill gas assets that, if acquired, could benefit the College and community greatly.

### **Transportation**

- Complete the survey that was initiated with Rumi Shammin's Research Methods class in order to obtain commuting and air travel data to finalize the greenhouse gas inventory.

**Current status:**

Air travel and commuting has been obtained and the greenhouse gas inventory is complete. Annual carbon emissions from commuting and air travel are about 3,000 tons.

- As part of the Campus Climate Action Plan, develop a comprehensive transportation policy that incentivizes alternatives to car-based travel on campus and in the community.

**Current status:**

Transportation policy planning is being undertaken by the OES through participation in the College and Community Parking and Transportation Committee and was also the focus of an OES sponsored Winter Term project.

**Materials, Purchasing, Reuse and Disposal**

- Work with Facilities Operations and Facilities Planning and Construction to develop and implement a comprehensive and proactive approach to construction and demolition waste recycling while ensuring that the College's existing policy is implemented.

**Current status:**

The OES has developed a list of regional companies that are able to provide construction and demolition waste recycling services. This information has been provided to the Facilities Planning and Construction Office and is being incorporated into projects such as Williams Ice Rink and the Litoff Building.

- Work with Bon Appetit, Dining Services, the Jones Farm and others to investigate options for a large scale composting system capable of processing all food waste, biodegradable service ware, and other compostable items from the College.

**Current status:**

The OES created a new student Compost Coordinator position this fall and is working with her to develop templates, plans and goals for expanding composting on campus and in the community. Composting efforts at CDS are extensive and pilots are underway in non-dining facilities such as Dascomb and the Conservatory. The OES and the Compost Coordinator also run OC3 (Oberlin Community Compost Coalition) in an attempt to find community-wide composting solutions.

## Other Significant Environmental Sustainability Achievements

- In Spring 2009 the OES hosted Oberlin's participation in the National Teach-in on Global Warming Solutions that focused on the first 100 days of the new administration to engage over a million Americans in solutions-driven dialogue on climate change.
- The OES is currently working with Residential Education regarding the First Year Experience program and the development of an outdoor Pre-Orientation Program for first year students and to establish sustainability special communities and programming in residence halls.
- In order to assist the College and the community in investigating renewable energy options, Mr. Engstrom is working with community members to establish an energy co-op to collectively purchase and own renewable energy generation assets by selling shares and assigning ownership rights to participating community members.
- Oberlin was awarded an \$812,000 grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to fund a four-year pilot project that will develop novel approaches to monitoring – and displaying – personal and community-wide electricity and water consumption using the Campus Resource Monitoring System technology developed by Oberlin students and faculty.

- Mr. Engstrom is an active participant in the community group POWER (Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly) that is implementing a low-income grant and loan programs for local energy efficiency projects.
- In 2008 the College purchased over 9,000,000 kWhs of carbon-neutral, renewable electricity from Oberlin Municipal Light and Power Systems, providing 40% of our electricity from renewable sources.
- **In Fall 2008 t he student group Green Employment Corps of Oberlin won the 2008 Ohio Environmental Council Achievement Award. Oberlin also won the Clean Community of the Year award from Green Energy Ohio in 2007 for significant progress on energy sustainability such as the green energy purchase agreement with OMLPS and the solar photovoltaic installations on the Environmental Studies Center.**
- Oberlin is the only school in Ohio and one of only 15 schools in the nation to receive the Sustainable Endowment Institute's top grade in the College Sustainability Report Card 2009.
- The OES worked closely with the City of Oberlin and ICLEI (International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives) to plan and host a one-day local governments for sustainability conference on campus in October 2008 called "Ohio Green and Growing." More than 100 participants from across Ohio attended in this college and community collaboration.
- In 2008 Oberlin hosted its first carbon neutral Commencement and Reunion weekend and expanded the efforts that were initiated in 2007 to minimize the ecological footprint of the event.
- Mr. Engstrom speaks nationally and regionally at: Case Western Reserve University, Baldwin Wallace College, Cleveland Engineering Society, Greening the Heartland Conference, Academic Impressions Lean and Green: The Sustainability Path in a Tough Economy Conference, the City of Oberlin Open Space Commission, Spectrum, Green City Blue Lake, Columbus State Community College and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference.

**Progress on Implementing the 2005 Strategic Plan  
March 5, 2009; based on report of February 5, 2009**

It has been four years since the Strategic Plan was approved and implementation began. We have made impressive progress, and this is an appropriate time to reassess our accomplishments. Within each strategic direction, listed below, the following initiatives are completed or are under way.

**6. Move toward Environmental Sustainability. Strategies: Reduce Oberlin College's negative environmental impacts, use more renewables, etc. Use state-of-the-art standards for construction & land use, where practicable. Enhance and develop further opportunities for students and faculty to participate in the continuing "greening" of the campus and wider community through promoting course work, independent research projects, and community service.**

**Reduce Oberlin College's negative environmental impacts, use more renewables, etc.**

**Use state-of-the-art standards for construction and land use, where practicable.**

- The Trustee-adopted policy for achieving a LEED silver or better rating in new construction and in major renovations is being applied at Williams Field House, North Professor Street Student Housing and the Allen Memorial Art Museum and Associated Systems project.
- The new Phyllis Litoff Building, slated to open in 2009-10, will be the country's first LEED gold-rated music facility.
- In 2008, the College purchased over 9,000,000 kWhs of carbon-neutral renewable electricity from Oberlin Municipal Light and Power System, providing 40% of our electricity from renewable sources.
- The College is actively engaged in investigating additional opportunities for obtaining renewable energy, particularly since the Oberlin City Council voted not to participate in the AMPGS coal-fired power plant. College representatives serve on the City's Energy Sustainability Working Group and the community group POWER (Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly).
- As part of the College's participation in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment the comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory required to fulfill the first phase of this agreement has been completed.
- Energy Ventures International (EVI) Study for Campus Climate Neutral Plan has been completed and provides the necessary foundation and specific recommendations for the Campus Climate Action Plan that the Committee on Environmental Sustainability and Office of Environmental Sustainability will develop by September 15, 2009. EVI presented their initial findings to the Capital Planning Committee of the Trustees in December.
- A supporter of Oberlin College, Gordon Deane, and his company Palmer Capital Corporation are pursuing purchasing landfill gas assets that, if acquired, could benefit the College and community greatly.

**Maintain the physical plant and grounds environmentally and aesthetically.**

- The College uses an environmentally friendly multi-purpose cleaner called H2Orange2 made by Envirox. The cleaning solutions are hydrogen peroxide based and are biodegradable. The product is far less toxic than typical cleaning solutions due to the elimination of chemicals used in common janitorial cleaning products.
- The Grounds Department uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to control plant pests and diseases. IPM is an environmentally sensitive approach to plant health management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices.
- The campus turf is maintained at a low intensity level. Grass is mowed at a high mowing height to shade the soil surface and enable the roots to extend deeply in the soil. The majority of the campus is not irrigated.
- The grounds department is working to expand organic landscape management projects that have been piloted on Wilder Bowl and other selected areas. Grounds is planning an organic lawn maintenance test site during the 2009, 2010 growing

season. Features of the program will include newly seeded turf type tall fescue plant stand, triple pass core aeration, 2 applications of corn gluten for pre-emergent broadleaf control and fertilization, and fall over seeding. Records of time, material costs, and quality will be kept.

- A manufacturer of propane-powered zero-turn mowers, that would release fewer emissions than gas or diesel powered equipment, is scheduled for a demonstration during the summer of 2009.
- Plant waste from Grounds Department activities is recycled on the North Property.
- In 2008 the College and the City of Oberlin planted 175 trees for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Enhance and develop further opportunities for students and faculty to participate in the continuing “greening” of the campus and wider community through promoting course work, independent research projects, and community service.**

- In Spring 2009 Oberlin participated in the National Teach-in on Global Warming Solutions that focused on the first 100 days of the new administration to engage over a million Americans nation-wide in solutions-driven dialogue on climate change.
- The Office of Environmental Sustainability is currently working with Residential Education regarding the First Year Experience program and Student Life and Services on the development of an outdoor Pre-Orientation Program for first year students and to establish sustainability special communities and programming in residence halls.
- **In Fall 2008 the student group Green Employment Corps of Oberlin won the 2008 Ohio Environmental Council Achievement Award. Oberlin also won the Clean Community of the Year award from Green Energy Ohio in 2007 for significant progress on energy sustainability such as the green energy purchase agreement with OMLPS and the solar photovoltaic installations on the Environmental Studies Center.**
- Oberlin is the only school in Ohio and one of only 15 schools in the nation to receive the Sustainable Endowment Institute’s top grade in the College Sustainability Report Card 2009.
- In 2008 Oberlin hosted its first carbon neutral Commencement and Reunion weekend and expanded the efforts that were initiated in 2007 to minimize the ecological footprint of the event.
- Oberlin was awarded an \$812,000 grant from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to fund a four-year pilot project that will develop novel approaches to monitoring – and displaying – personal and community-wide electricity and water consumption using the Campus Resource Monitoring System technology developed by Oberlin students and faculty.