New Shared Governance Committee Formed at CRC
Debra Sharkey reports…

In Fall 2007, a group of faculty decided to form a sustainability committee to focus efforts toward reducing our campus environmental footprint. The proposal was sent to the Academic Senate in early 2008, and the new CRC Sustainability Committee (technically a sub-committee of the Academic Senate) was approved for the 2008-09 academic year. The committee’s membership includes 17 faculty members (from 11 different disciplines), a classified staff member, and five students.

The committee’s work began unofficially last spring when it successfully lobbied campus leaders to add language related to the environment to the new Mission, Vision, and Values statement and instigated efforts to reduce and recycle materials used at last spring’s staff BBQ. After meeting in an official capacity this semester, committee members are beginning to research various means by which we can make CRC a more environmentally sustainable campus.

What is Sustainability?
In the broadest sense of the term, sustainability encompasses “human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations.”

The CRC Sustainability Committee uses the following definitions:
Sustainability means…
“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

In education, sustainability means…
“Learning that links knowledge, inquiry, and action to help students build a healthy future for their communities and the planet.”
Source: Vermont Education for Sustainability http://www.vtefs.org/index.html
Green Building Coming to CRC

John Ellis, CRC architecture professor, tells us that the Winn Center, serving CRC’s construction and architecture programs, will also be a place where professionals from both disciplines can work and learn as a team and where members of the industry can interact with each other and with CRC students aspiring to careers in the industry.

A new Green Building Certificate is being developed to support emerging clean technology workforce needs. The first classes (ARCH 340 and 341, Introduction to Green Buildings I and II) are currently being offered online.

Sustainability and energy-conscious design will be key issues in the design of the new Winn Center, and it is hoped that it will be a living model—one from which students can learn good practice.

CRC has not yet hired an architect, but there has been desire and support from the administration to see these visions incorporated in the design.

According to the vision statement, “The building is one of the last opportunities to define the image of the campus from the significant East Entrance (much like the Fine Arts Building does for the West Entrance).”

It should be significant in form and character as the gateway to the campus and as a model for good architecture and construction detailing.”

The Winn Center will be both privately and publicly funded. CRC has about $9M in public funds and is seeking about another $4M in private funds. To date, about half of the private money has been secured through donations by architecture and construction firms, with the Winn family donating $1M, giving them naming rights. The District is still in the process of soliciting additional donations.

“Sustainability and energy-conscious design will be key issues in the design of the new Winn Center…”

CRC construction students look forward to learning about green building practices.
CRC’s Green Scene

Children’s Center Starts a Garden
Ruth Oxman reports...

The CRC Child Development Center and the Early Childhood Department are teaming up with a number of CRC departments to plan a gardening project at the CD Center.

The CD Center plans to build planter boxes that can be tended by the children and their families—as well as CDC staff and lab students.

Advice about appropriate plants will come from the horticulture department, and the nutrition department will assist with educating families about snacks and meals.

Even food scraps from the Child Development Center and the cafeteria can be added to form compost!

A planning meeting will be held at the end of September. Watch for further details about this exciting new project.

CRC Recycles – How can YOU contribute?
Fred Deneke reports...

Campus Facilities is working to increase office recycling. Faculty and staff can help promote a better environment by recycling the following items:

* Paper, plastic (#1 to #7), glass, and metal—place in your office recycling container.

* Cell phones, CDs, DVDs, inkjet cartridges, and transparencies—place in intercampus envelopes and send to Brenda Buckner, OPS 139.

* Batteries—place in a clear, sealed bag by your office trash can. Janitors are trained to treat batteries as hazardous waste.

What else can faculty do to promote sustainability?

* Return any new textbooks you will not be using to the publisher. Some publishers, like Pearson Benjamin Cummings, make this easier by including self-addressed labels when books are shipped. Returning books to publishers could also save dollars for our students when they purchase textbooks.

* Send any unwanted books, CDs, DVDs, and videos to the upcoming CRC Book Sale for reuse. Reusing is even more environmentally friendly than recycling!

Tips for Greener Cleaning
Try these more natural and less toxic cleaning recipes:

For floors--vinegar mixed with water
For toilets--borax mixed with lemon juice
For polishing furniture--lemon juice mixed with olive oil.
For windows--rubbing alcohol mixed with vinegar and water
For stainless steel, iron, or copper pots--scrub with baking soda

CRC -- First LRCCD Campus to Join AASHE
Debra Sharkey reports…

Thanks to funding provided by CRC President, Francisco Rodriguez, CRC became the first LRCCD campus to join the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in September. AASHE is an association of North American colleges and universities working to create a more sustainable future.

CRC’s membership in AASHE offers all interested staff members access to AASHE’s extensive collection of online resources, opportunities for networking, information sharing, collaboration, and professional development.

For more information or to log on and explore AASHE’s resources, visit: http://www.aashe.org.

No More Fork: Musings on Green Plasticware…
Darlene Mathias reports…

You may not have noticed, but we used biodegradable forks at the barbecue last May. (You know the one: Hallelujah! Summer is here!)

Well, I took home the fork that I used and put it in our compost heap. My husband faithfully tends the compost by stirring it to aerate it and keep the moisture at the right level.

By the start of the Fall semester, he had moved the compost with a pitch fork from one bin to another several times.

Guess what? No fork to be seen! It works! It really is biodegradable!

Thank you, picnic providers!

Coming Soon on the Web!

You’ll find us at:

www.crc.losrios.edu