

Climate Change Priorities for John Jay College Sustainability Council (July, 2019)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENT:

1. Recognize Climate and Intergenerational Justice (the need to leave future generations with thriving ecosystems, an intact government, and manageable debt) as central to the College's mission, and incorporate this focus into the Strategic Plan (Sustainability Council Mission Statement attached)
2. Designate a VP to oversee and encourage the joint educational and carbon footprint sustainability initiatives at the College.

URGENT NEED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION:

3. Build student awareness of climate problems and solution possibilities with activities including:
 - a. New and returning students read a book about climate change over the summer for discussion during the first weeks of classes.
 - b. Plan for and support a week-long Climate and Environmental Justice Education week across the curriculum for students in combination with the film festival in April 2020.
 - c. Offer incentives, such as certificates, for students to take EJS 200: Earth Justice, a basic ecoliteracy/sustainability course and gen-ed option, as well as other courses with ecoliteracy/sustainability content.
4. Encourage the college community to attend a sustainability council seminar and other educational forums to raise awareness about the urgent nature of climate change and possible solution paths.
5. Develop the College's leadership capacity by supporting the further integration of areas such as environmental and wildlife crime and environmental justice into its already multi-layered justice expertise.
 - a. Support interdisciplinary seminars, classes, research and grant seeking that incorporate environmental issues into traditional topics.
 - b. Support a process to encourage faculty to incorporate sustainability/ecoliteracy into their courses.
6. Create incentives to hire needed faculty and further develop our expertise in areas such as environmental law.

COMMIT TO REDUCING OUR CLIMATE FOOTPRINT

- 7 *Information:* Measure and share information on the climate change impact of various activities to incentivize behavioral change, guide future planning, and illustrate progress. (Joining the "AASHE STARS" program can help.)
- 8 *Practices:* change our practices to reduce our carbon footprint.
 - a. *Energy:* Continue tracking and reducing our energy use.
 - b. *Food:* Improve sustainable food practices by such means as beefless Mondays, making JJ's Cafe into a sustainable food hub, and composting food waste.
 - c. *Plastic Reduction Campaign:* Reduce harmful plastic waste through means such as education and signage, providing more water bottle filling stations, maintaining water fountains, eliminating bottled water at College events and in vending machines, providing reusable bags printed with climate change facts, and eliminating plastic straws.

ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

- 9 Ensure diverse student representation (including the Environmental Club) on all relevant sustainability committees and decision-making bodies and discuss issues in Town Halls.
- 10 Support Advocacy efforts – Amplify student-led activities to share information on how behavior and consumption impacts climate change and to advocate for eco-friendly choices.