



Campus Green Committee

Introduction for Faculty Orientation
September 24, 2021

Who and What is the Campus GREEN Committee?

- **GREEN** is a college-wide committee of faculty, staff and students who engage in a range of activities and initiatives that advance Old Westbury as a Green Campus, consistent with the college's **Strategic Plan, Mission** and **Values**.
- Faculty and staff may **volunteer** for membership or may be **invited** to join. Students may be appointed by **SGA** or be **recommended** by faculty. The committee currently has over 30 members, including over a dozen faculty from many disciplines.

What other organizations and programs does GREEN coordinate with?

- We support **SUNY Sustainability** policies, which are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).
- We support New York State policies related to clean energy and climate action, including goals established in the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**.
- We coordinate with the college's **United Nations Academic Impact** program (**UNAI**).
- We engage with First-Year/CALL, Honor's College and SOB Green Nudges.
- We engage with New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (**NYCSHE**).
- We work with **NYSERDA** (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority).
- On the basis of **Green Committee** activities in 2019-2020 and application submitted to **NYSERDA**, Old Westbury was accepted for membership in **REV Campus Challenge** as **ACHIEVER campus**. (REV = Reforming the Energy Vision, by transition to renewable energy.)

Note:

The **Campus Green Committee** was re-established in 2019-2020, after previous convening in 2009-2010 as ad hoc committee. The new committee's initial burst of progress from its December 2019 kick-off meeting to last in-person meeting in March 2020 was unfortunately impacted by Covid, given last year's lack of physical presence on campus, without students in residence. *A robust agenda is planned for this year!*

Some Major Areas of GREEN Activity:

- Energy/Emissions/Renewables
- Organic/Community Garden, Food Security
- Education/Outreach (sustainability, environmental justice, climate justice)
- Student Engagement/Research
- Recycling/Waste reduction
- Transportation (campus vehicles, charging stations)
- Environmental Stewardship (open space, aquifer, ecology)
- Communication (owgreen website, social media)
- Funding opportunities and partnerships

A few details on some GREEN activities proposed for 2021-2022:

- **Proposal for NYSERDA Regional Energy Hub:**
 - Put together a team of local community partners to raise awareness of the disproportionate impact of climate change and pollution on minority and disadvantaged communities.
 - Through education and outreach, develop initiatives and activities to connect under-served communities on Long Island with renewable energy opportunities and services, to ensure that traditionally bypassed communities benefit from New York's transition to clean energy.
- **REV Campus Challenge:**
 - Pursue initiatives to **increase** renewable energy and **reduce** carbon emissions at the college, in advancement of Old Westbury's green campus goals and sustainability mission, and in alignment with **SUNY Sustainability** and New York climate action goals.
 - **Carbon footprint study:** explore existing models to evaluate campus progress towards SUNY and NYS carbon emissions goals. Opportunity for student engagement/research.
 - **Carbon sequestration study:** campus mapping project to evaluate carbon absorbed by campus trees. Opportunity for student engagement/research.
 - **Solar PV and EV recharging stations:** explore funding sources and possible connections to community solar. Opportunity for student engagement and multi-disciplinary research.
 - **Climate Action Plan:** explore **REVCC** support for climate action plan; refer to models on other SUNY campuses. Opportunity for student engagement and multi-disciplinary research.
- **Faculty and Student engagement:**
 - Develop initiatives, projects, activities and campus events, e.g., related to sustainability, social justice, climate change, environmental justice, community outreach, etc.
 - Prepare/participate in **Earth Day** presentations, panels, webinars, conferences and events.
 - Develop proposals for **sustainability policies and practices**, in possible collaboration with NYSERDA, SUNY Sustainability, NYCSHE and Johns Hopkins (graduate student)
 - Opportunities for student research, service learning, **Research Day** presentations, and possible support for attending regional conferences and events.

Interested?

Please contact Maureen Dolan (Math/CIS), **Campus Green Committee, Chair**
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