



ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

Fort Lewis College, 2010-2011





OUR MISSION

To strengthen students' commitment to a socially and ecologically-just world by connecting them with opportunities to create change on campus and in the community

About the Environmental Center

The Environmental Center (EC) is a student based organization funded by the Associated Students of Fort Lewis College and governed by a student majority Board of Directors.

Our core values – **Positive Action, Integrity, Connection, Creativity, and Discovery** - identify the center of our work. These values provide the foundation for everything we do and guide our interactions with each other, the rest of campus, and the community as a whole.

Goals:

- **Empower Students** – Become a nationally recognized program for engaging and training student leaders addressing the most critical issues facing our world
- **Make Sustainability a Community Effort** – Facilitate meaningful collaboration between individuals, groups, and organizations at Fort Lewis
- **Strengthen Community-Based Learning and Research** – Improve and increase community-based learning and research opportunities related to sustainability through effective communication, networking, and partnerships
- **Encourage Innovation** – Create a toolbox of techniques and strategies that foster innovative thinking
- **Integrate Environmental and Social Justice Issues** – Implement projects and solutions that integrate ecological sustainability with social and economic justice

<http://envcenter.fortlewis.edu>



COORDINATOR’S REPORT

This spring, I walked out of the Chemistry Building after the Zero-Waste team’s showing of the documentary *Tapped*, the culminating event in the “Bottle Busters” campaign to eliminate the sale of bottled water on campus. Already energized and inspired by the packed audience, I overheard the conversation between a five-year old son and his mother. “That movie was really good,” exclaims the son. “I know sweetie,” replies his mom. “Mommy, we need to stop buying plastic water bottles because they’re bad for the environment.” Suddenly, a gigantic and unavoidable smile stretched across my face. This is why we do what we do: to inspire people, young and old, to imagine a different future, one that embodies the principles of social justice and ecological integrity. After a steep learning curve and chaotic year, I feel ever more dedicated to the work that the Environmental Center does and the students that I see impassioned every day.

This year has been one of transition for the Environmental Center. Coming on to the position of Coordinator in May 2010, we launched a new event recycling program, received support from the administration to begin a new composting program, and tackled the implementation of the recently approved Sustainability Action Plan.. Additionally, we had many influential students who had graduated and therefore a newer and inexperienced group of student staff. With a thorough roadmap laid out before us by the previous coordinator, the amazing Marcus Renner, we started the school year fully amped to begin our work.

The EC has a rich history of student-driven activism and passion to promote positive action. Student initiatives are at the heart of what the Environmental Center does, and this year was no exception. I am continually impressed with the possibilities for students to impact and influence the direction of this school. Several key examples of this are the “Bottle Buster” campaign and chemical-free lawn initiatives. Both originated as a class project but gained the support of faculty and staff to take roots as operational initiatives for the college. Similarly, students voiced the desire to bring Keynote speaker Derrick Jensen to campus and therefore garnered the support and resources from several organizations to make it happen. The framework of the Sustainability Action Plan, the resources of the Sustainability Initiative Fee, and the forum of the ASFLC sponsored Student Opportunity Summit only further the ability for students to create real change on campus.

Students not only make their impact on campus, but extend their projects and enthusiasm into the community. Student involvement in the 3rd annual Apple Days Festival as well as hosting the February Homegrown Food Retreat highlighted the strong relationships and collaboration between the campus and the community. By connecting students with real-world projects, we are not only encouraging an ethic of civic engagement, but providing them with the tools to graduate and become leaders in their communities.

This next year promises to propel the EC into a new era of activity, engagement, and campus presence, as we celebrate our 20th year and move into our brand new office supported by a \$100,000 gift from Allen and Patricia Born . We look forward to increasing our partnerships and collaboration on campus, opening the new office and library as a vast resource for students and community alike, and continuing to foster the connections and creativity that is at the core of the EC’s identity. I look forward to seeing the possibilities unfold.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schild

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2010-2011 STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Office Staff

Rebecca Schild, Coordinator
Jonna Johnson, Professional Intern

Media & Communications Team

Hari Baumbach, *coordinator*
Devon Dey
Emily Griffin
Morgan Boaman
Grace Martinez
Chris Braun

Sustainable Business Team

Maggie Ayala
Kirk Raikes
Elizabeth Thomas

Education & Outreach Team

Aubree Sorteberg, *coordinator*
David Haralson
Ryan Martin
Kate Shavel
Candice Jenkins
Sheldon Tenorio

Climate Action Team

Alex Pullen, *coordinator*
Allex McDaniel
Kiara Damon

Zero- Waste Team

Caryna Pourier, *coordinator*
Lisa Mullins, *coordinator*
Noel Tamboer
Sarah Griffin
Troye Boone
Bryan Nelson
Jeremy Fagrelus
Zach Conde

Local Food Team

Ashley Moody, *coordinator*
Stacey Carlson, *coordinator*
Ellen Keaveny
Kaelen Peuser
Rachel Rogers
James Plate
Matt Kottenstette
Malisha Sutherlin, *Food Fellow*
Tarra Wixom, *Food Fellow*

Core Team

Jake Brettin
Zach Conde
Maggie Ayala
Morgan Boaman
Rachel Rogers
Matt Kottenstette

2010-2011 Board of Directors

Julia Hedman, *Chair*
Amy Donahue
Andrea Sokolowski
Brittany Butts
Katie Kelly
Susan Ilitch
Roy Horvath
Zachary Ray
Ross Nelson
Becky Clausen
Gretchen Treadwell
Ryan Martin
Jeremy Fagrelus
Megan Engle
Rebecca Schild, *ex officio*
Ross Nelson, *ex officio*



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010-2011

The **event recycling program**, funded through the college Sustainability Initiative Fee was a great success from the beginning. In the fall, the program was piloted with EC students staffing events and promoting recycling awareness. However, the goal was to have the college take over event recycling, and now there are containers in every large building that holds events as well as a containers in Physical Plant Services for people who want to include them in event set-up.

The **composting program** was not so simple. In the 2009-2010 academic year, students had written a very compelling proposal to purchase a larger in-vessel composting machine that would increase the amount of food waste composted from 10% to 90-100%. Although the administration agreed to support the program, the EC was tasked with outlining the details of the daily operations before the final decision was made. Many meetings and more research throughout the year brought us to the point of proposing a different, state-of-the art, machine. This spring, the Budget Committee approved the purchase and operation of the Rocket Composter, which will hopefully be operational by the fall of 2011.

The **February Food Retreat**, entitled *Home Grown:: Cultivating Your Role in the Local Food System*, was a highlight for many and a demonstration of the power of collaboration. The Local Food team organized the logistics of a two-day conference which featured author Mark Winne and workshops from various local food experts in the Durango community. The team prepared an all local lunch with the help of Manna Soup kitchen while the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado organized the workshops.

Overall attendance was over 100 people, which packed the Vallecito Room with warmth and enthusiasm for the upcoming growing season.

The **"Bottle Busters" campaign** highlights the longstanding tradition of student grassroots activism coupled with faculty and administrative support. The origins of the campaign began in the Environmental Studies Colloquium class in the fall of 2010. From there, a group of students took the idea to the ASLFC sponsored Student Opportunities Summit, in which it was voted the number one priority by students. Students were then invited to present their proposal to the administration and were ultimately given support in the form of new water bottles for all incoming students in 2011-2012 along with educational programming to support the use or reusable water bottles. Through the Sustainability Initiative Fee, the EC was able to purchase the rights for *Tapped* as well as give away free reusable water bottles as a tool to further educate the community. They premiered the movie in March and had an overwhelming attendance, with standing room only in the large lecture hall.

This year, the EC was able to send five students to the **PowerShift Conference in Washington D.C.** and invite **keynote speaker Derrick Jensen** to Fort Lewis. Both of these accomplishments were fully student driven. Our five representatives in Washington D.C. learned about strategies and tools to amplify their voice and ability to make a difference in the direction of this country. Derrick Jensen brought a similar message to an audience of 200 people. EC students had the opportunity to attend an informal lunch with Jensen and discuss the EC's role in environmental advocacy and change. Later that evening, Jensen spent an unprecedented 4 1/2 hours addressing a diverse crowd about specific questions that FLC students had posed to him. Many students stated that it was the best event of their college career.





TEAM REPORTS

Local Food – The local food team continued to improve the Center’s demonstration garden and greenhouse as well as the four-season greenhouse that we maintain for Community Connections Inc. In order to get more people involved in the campus garden, the food team held a garden open house and served appetizers prepared from the garden. The *Homegrown Retreat* took most of the winter months to plan and prepare an all local lunch for the event. The spring was focused on garden planning and collaborating with the Grub Hub, the campus food pantry that was recently started through the Sociology Club. Produce grown in the summer and fall will go toward the food pantry.

Climate Action – As part of Fort Lewis College’s reporting responsibilities for the Presidents’ Climate Commitment, students at the EC helped to complete the second campus greenhouse gas inventory. Students refined the data collection methodology and established a reliable baseline from which Fort Lewis can measure its progress toward carbon neutrality. The team also worked to organize a climate work-day as part of the 350.org 10/10/10 event. The team held an interactive art project and then delivered energy efficient light bulbs to residence halls.

Media and Communications – The media and communications team, comprised of all new members, worked diligently to be the voice and external presence of the EC. They redesigned the EC website, focused on improving the EC Blog, and began capitalizing on social networking opportunities. They focused on covering events and reporting about them in the EC Blog. They also launched a new online newsletter, distributed twice a semester. The weekly radio show, “Making Waves,” was a continual challenge, so the team incorporated some innovative new ideas for the show including bringing the interview outside of the recording room, doing a “behind-the-scenes” show, and bringing in more music.

Education and Outreach – The education and outreach team focused primarily on residence hall programming and campus outreach this year. They organized several local food cooking programs with produce from the campus garden, collaborated with Student Wellness to do a program on the environmental impacts of cigarettes,

and worked with the LEED AP on the two new campus buildings to edit sustainable building educational signs. The team worked to promote Earth Day by organizing an Earth Day celebration on campus with live music, a community art project, giant free store, open mic, and local vendors.

Zero-Waste – The zero-waste team received a \$1400 grant to implement recycling at all Fort Lewis College events through the new Sustainability Initiative Fee program. They organized a waste audit on campus as a demonstration of the campus recycling rate, which currently stands at %18. The team launched a weekly Free Store, entitled Thrifty Thursdays, which turned out to be a huge success. In the spring, they focused on the theme of “reduce, re-use, recycle” campaign, highlight one topic each month. They held a Get Crafty competition to encourage reuse and creativity, decorated reusable bags with the community, and promoted the elimination of plastic water bottles on campus.

Sustainable Business – The sustainable business team continued to work with Local First to promote supporting a local and vibrant economy. They helped with the Eat Local week and Noel Night, two campaigns to incentivize shoppers to look local. In collaboration with 4CORE and several other organizations, the EC is a partner in an EPA Climate-Wise Community grant. Although the grant has not officially been approved, students hope to begin working on a Sustainable Business Services program in the fall 2011. The team also started a Sustainable Business Lunch and Learn series with support from the Center for Civic Engagement and brought local businesses such as Carvers, Durango Natural Foods, and Desert Sun Coffee on campus to speak about their business practices.





BY THE NUMBERS

Students (working or volunteering at the EC)	42
Academic Support (class projects)	20
Public Events (sponsored or co-sponsored)	21
Event Attendance	1500
Workshops & trainings	10
Community partnerships	13
Campus partnerships	5

General Programs

- 10/10/10 International Climate Action Day
- 9th Annual REEL Environmental Experience
- Garden Open House
- Waste Audit
- Hunger Banquet
- Screening of Tapped
- Get Crafty Competition
- Free Store Thursdays
- Sustainable Business Lunch and Learn series
- Derrick Jensen Keynote Speech
- Inaugural Spring Run-Off, Earth Day Run
- Earth Day Celebration
- GHG Inventory presentation
- LEED educational signs
- Making Waves- weekly radio show

Residence Hall Programs

- Local Food preparation (2)
- Why choose local food?
- Growing micro-greens
- Sustainable Business program
- Smoke-free campus awareness

Service Days

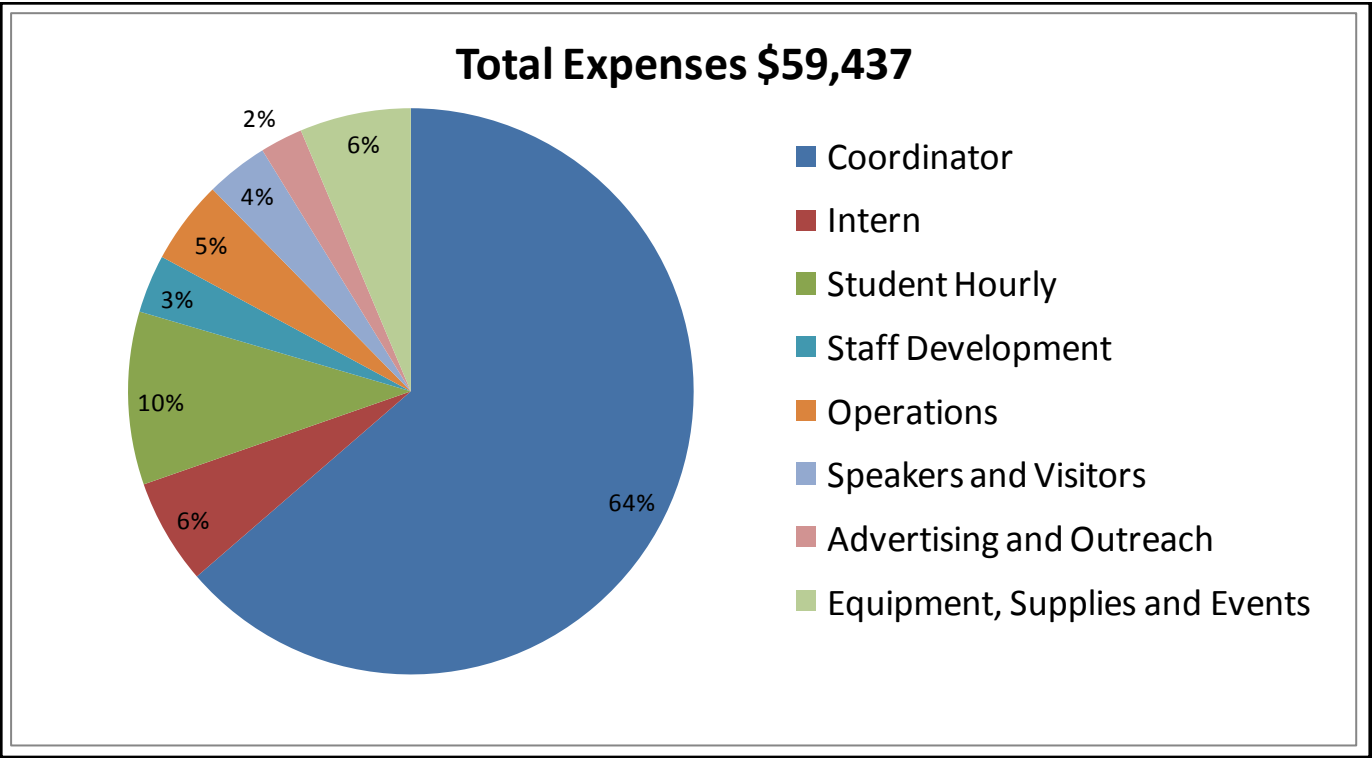
- Community Connections Greenhouse (6)
- Telluride High School garden program
- Apple Days event recycling
- Snow-down Chili Cook-off recycling
- 4 Corners Green Living Expo Recycling
- Barnyard Days
- Campus cigarette-butt clean-up

Collaborative Community Programs

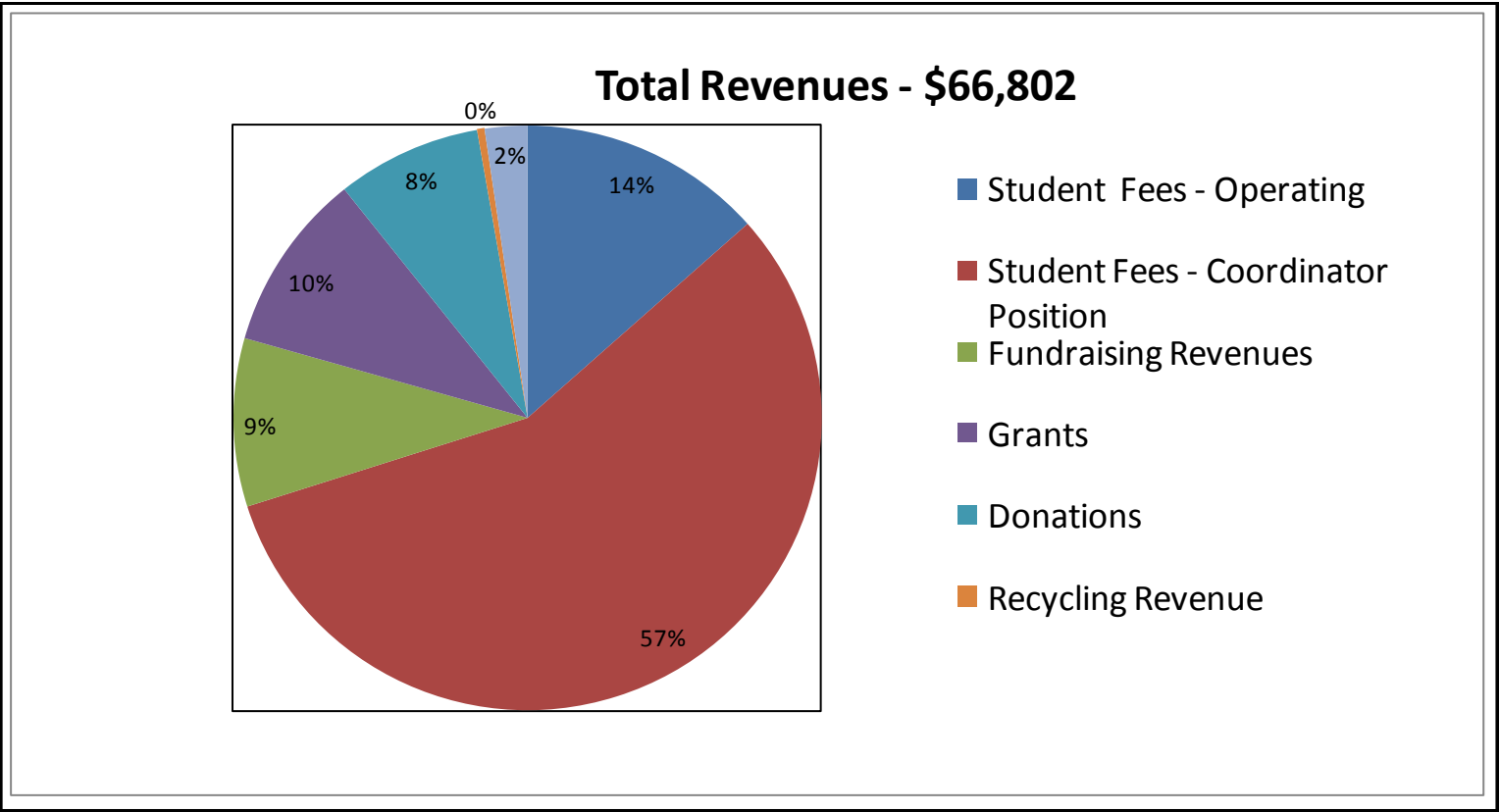
- 3rd annual Apple Days (Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado)
- February Homegrown Food Retreat (Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado)
- Energy and Security Talk by John Woolsey (SASCO)
- Eat Local Week (Local First)
- Noel Night (Local First)

EC Expenses, FY2010	
Personnel	\$47,280.12
Coordinator	\$37,836.12
Intern	\$3,574.00
Student Hourly	\$5,870.00
Staff Development	\$1,978.00
Operations	\$2,833.28
Speakers and Visitors	\$2,120.00
Advertising and Outreach	\$1,448.25
Equipment, Supplies and Events	\$3,777.79
TOTAL	\$59,437.44

FINANCIALS



EC Revenues, FY2010	
Student Fees	\$46,836
Operating Fees	\$9,000
Coordinator Position	\$37,836
Fundraising Revenues	\$6,196
Grants	\$6,600
Donations	\$5,325
Recycling Revenue	\$276
Roll Forward	\$1,569
TOTAL	\$66,802





Supporters

Special Thanks to:

Manna Soup Kitchen, Oakhaven Permaculture Center, Durango Natural Foods, The Garden Project of Southwest Colorado, Turtle Lake Refuge, Local First, Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency, , Tierra Wools, Durango Nature Studies, Community Connections Inc., The Leadership Center, Student Housing and Conference Services, Physical Plant Services, Facilities Scheduling, Student Union Programming, Associated Students of Fort Lewis College, Financial Allocation Board, Outdoor Pursuits, Recreation Services, Center for Civic Engagement, Office of Community Services, Environmental Studies Program, President’s Advisory Council on Environmental Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Finance and Administration, Office of Environmental Health, El Centro, CODE RED, The Buffalo Council, , Mark Mastalski, Annie Willmon, Julie Korb, Beth Lashell, Tina Evans, Rebecca Austin, Jennifer Stark, Michelle Bonanno, Ken Francis, Terry Richardson, Wayne Kjonaas, Mark Gutt, Ed Webb, Cathy Gore, Ted Gross, Bob Wharton, Becky Maloney, Chuck Atwood, Chris Thrash, Lisa Kirschner, Margie Dean Gray, Ellen Stein, Julie Dreyfuss, Melia Chavez, Shari Fitzgerald, Darcy Craig, Katy Pepinsky, Jim Dyer, Katrina Blair, Gabe Eggers, Darrin Parmenter, Michelle Reott

Organizations & Businesses

Coutts and Clark Western Foundation
La Plata Electric Association
Red Willow Production Company
Morehart Murphy Auto Center
Backcountry Experience
Animas Valley Institute
New Country Auto Company
Chinook Medical Gear
CrossFit Durango
Brown’s Shoe Company
The Running Store
Blue Ribbon Properties
Carver Brewing Company
Raider Ridge Café
Rochester Hotel and Leland House
La Plata County Extension
The Leadership Center
KDUR
Café of Life Chiropractic
Yoga Durango
Zia Taqueria

Individuals

Charles Herrick
Paul Viosca
Michelle Reott
Diane Humphreys-Barlow and Jack Barlow
Roy Horvath
Steven Jacobson and Sheryl Robinson
Dominique Chausse