

March 7, 2007

Illinois Wesleyan University Community,

The Talloires Declaration is an official statement signed by university administrators declaring their commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. More specifically, it is a 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at our University. The Talloires Declaration has been signed by over 300 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries.

Over the past few months, we (President Wilson, Provost Cunningham, and the Sierra Student Coalition) have worked together to tailor the Declaration to the needs and capabilities of the Illinois Wesleyan University community. Under each of the ten points, we have included measures that IWU has already taken, as well as potential future goals. Please understand that these goals are purely illustrative, and the Declaration is a working document. The signing of this document neither commits IWU to the pursuit of these specific goals, nor prevents us from pursuing further goals beyond those outlined in the Declaration. Rather, the bulleted items are simply indicative of the types of action that could be initiated under the document.

The Mission and Vision Statements of Illinois Wesleyan University clearly state our commitment to environmental sustainability through our policies, programs, and practices. We feel that the Talloires Declaration is a great step toward furthering that commitment.

Sincerely,

President Richard F. Wilson
Provost Beth Cunningham
IWU Sierra Student Coalition

Talloires Declaration

1. Increase Awareness of Environmentally Sustainable Development

Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by openly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable future.

Past efforts

- Host the annual Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo at the Shirk Center
- Hosted speakers with environmental themes (E.O. Wilson and Sandra Steingraber)
- Incorporated environmental sustainability into Mission and Vision Statements

Potential future efforts

- *Monitor energy use in campus buildings*
- *Publicize University efforts toward sustainability*

2. Create an Institutional Culture of Sustainability

Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward global sustainability.

Past efforts

- Sent faculty and student delegates to environmental conferences (Ball State's *Greening of the Campus Conference*, UW-Madison's *Midwest Student Clean Energy Conference*)
- Sierra Student Coalition founded as IWU's student environmental group

Potential future efforts

- *Publicize Talloires Declaration (signing process and implementation) at conferences (e.g. Ball State)*
- *Partner with ISU's composting program to sustainably dispose of IWU's food waste*

3. Educate for Environmentally Responsible Citizenship

Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens.

Past efforts

- Organized Sustainability Week (Fall '05)
- Created Community Assistants (CAs) within the Office of Residential life to promote sustainability within the residence halls
- Created Environmental Studies major and minor

Potential future efforts

- *Incorporate sustainability within the curriculum*
- *Recognize outstanding leaders at IWU with regard to sustainability*

- *Create a sustainability pledge for signing upon graduation*

4. Foster Environmental Literacy For All

Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

Past efforts

- Created Sustainability Workshop for IWU faculty
- Held Faculty Non-Org regarding sustainability (Dr. Given Harper, Spring 2007)
- Created Environmental Studies major and minor

Potential future efforts

- *Incorporate sustainability within the curriculum*
- *Hold Sustainability Workshops annually and include students*

5. Practice Institutional Ecology

Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing institutional ecology policies and practices of resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and environmentally sound operations.

Past efforts

- Established extensive campus recycling program
- Provided biodegradable containers and utensils at dining facilities on a limited basis
- Carefully explored geothermal heating system for new Welcome Center
- Provided some organic food at Commons and Dugout

Potential future efforts

- *Institute a comprehensive paper reduction program*
- *Increase availability of biodegradable containers and utensils at dining facilities*
- *Establish a green building commitment for new campus buildings*
- *Examine the environmental impact of the cleaning products used on campus, and explore alternatives where appropriate*
- *Study the environmental impact of the lawn chemicals used on campus, and explore alternatives where appropriate*
- *Investigate the environmental impact of the heating/cooling systems of IWU's older buildings, and explore potential solutions*

6. Involve All Stakeholders

Encourage involvement of government, foundations, and industry in supporting interdisciplinary research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with community and nongovernmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.

Past efforts

- Established a volunteer/internship partnership with the Ecology Action Center and Sugar Grove Nature Center
- Engaged the local community through the Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo
- Biology students conducted field work at Funks Grove

Potential future efforts

- *Partner with town of Normal with regard to sustainability (per Town Planner's request)*
- *Provide local food in campus dining facilities*

7. Collaborate for Interdisciplinary Approaches

Convene university faculty and administrators with environmental practitioners to develop interdisciplinary approaches to curricula, research initiatives, operations, and outreach activities that support an environmentally sustainable future.

Past efforts

- Hosted Sustainability Workshop for IWU faculty
- Created Environmental Studies major and minor

Potential future efforts

- *Explore potential dual-teaching opportunities*
- *Incorporate sustainability within the General Education framework*
- *Hold Sustainability Workshops annually and include students*

8. Enhance Capacity of Primary and Secondary Schools

Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development.

Past efforts

- Established a volunteer/internship partnership with the Ecology Action Center and Sugar Grove Nature Center

Potential future efforts

- *Encourage Education majors to develop environmentally-themed curricula for area schools*
- *Establish "Sustainability Mentor" program with area schools*

9. Broaden Service and Outreach Nationally and Internationally

Work with national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future.

Past efforts

- Sierra Student Coalition conducted environmental volunteer work in Florida (Spring Break '06)
- Partnered with many study abroad programs centered around environmental studies

- Faculty have conducted research and provided services for national and international organizations (Dr. Given Harper, Dr. Abigail Jahiel)
- Partnered with National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Fellowship Program

Potential future efforts

- *Expand Career Center's offerings of internships/careers related to the environment*
- *Utilize existing NWF Campus Ecology partnership*
- *Explore potential partnership with EPA (renewable energy grants/programs)*
- *Utilize new partnership with ULSF*
- *Establish alternative spring break program with environmental component*

10. Maintain the Movement

Establish a Secretariat and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each other's efforts in carrying out this declaration.

Past efforts

- Formed GREENetwork (formerly Green Task Force, Committee for a Sustainable Campus)

Potential future efforts

- *Establish Sustainability Coordinator position or enhance capacity of GREENetwork to ensure the implementation of the Talloires Declaration*