

## **Sustainability-Project: Integrating Sustainability into Introduction to Environmental Science, Fall-2014**

### **Background:**

I attended the UW-Green Bay Sustainability Workshop on August 21, 2014. The goal of the workshop is to encourage the participants of the workshop to integrate into a curriculum to be taught either in Fall, 2014 or in the spring, 2015. I chose 'Introduction to Environmental Science', Fall, 2014 for my *Sustainability* project

Sustainability mind-setting is well suited for the course, Introduction to Environmental Science because the purpose of the course to introduce students various environmental issues we are facing today from various angles including science, economics, political science, and most importantly from the ethics. Most students are already aware of some of the global environmental issues. However, they live in a culture of high consumption and high waste-production. Thus unless they are engaged into reflective thinking, there will be very little impacts on either their behaviors after taking the course or on their influence on other people or society about the attitude and behavior changes on changing the environmental issues.

The *Sustainability Project* integration to the Introduction to the Environmental Science starts with a syllabus that spells out the requirement for either the service project for 10 hours during the semester in the area of environmental well-beings or a behavior changes that help sustain the environment. For the 10-hour service project, the projects included: UW-Green Bay three-sister project (with Professor Lisa Poupart and Graduate Student, Greg Holder of the First Nation Study), Campus Kitchen (with Professor Le Zhu, UW-Green Bay, Nutrition Science), Campus Food Day (with Professor Debra Pearson, UW-Green Bay, Nutrition Science) as well as EMBI (Environment Management and Business Institute, with Mr. John Arendt). Some students chose "Advocacy for Domestic Abuse", "Advocacy for Women". About 60% of the students participated in the Service Project. A class survey was sent out at the end of the semester to inquire the 'receptiveness' of this approach.

### **The Survey Results**

**The Question:** How much awareness on the environmental issues when you are involved in the 10 hours-service project of this course?

The Survey Response:

#	Answer		Response	%
1	very much		12	24%
2	some what		16	32%
3	neutral		16	32%
4	not at all		6	12%
	Total		50	100%

The survey results seem to suggest a large students were indifferent about the 10-hour service project, the text responses are more positive:

### **The Text Responses**

A lot of them has been a lot of awareness

I already knew how much issues there are

I was very involved

This was a good thing to included since it gave you first hand experience in the issues that the environment faces. It allowed you to have a better grasp of those issues and I feel like this project should be included in the future courses of this class.

Some of the events resulted in a lot of awareness whereas other ones not so much.

I feel that the Environmental issues volunteer project was very beneficial. It helps us focus on others rather than being self centered. It is very rewarding to feel like you are helping and changing the world.

i didn't attend it because i did a car accident

I participated in campus kitchen project. Those foods come from people don't use the food anymore. It was good way to use food for people who need rather than just waste them.

I feel like doing service projects don't help me think about the environment. It only feels like I'm doing it just for the grade and not for the environment. Therefore, there is very little motivation for me to do something like that.

unsure

N/A

during this class, i start concern about people using plastic bags daily issue

I was aware of the issues and what I was doing to help

You get to experience and see these environmental problems first hand.

indoor air pollution was the biggest issue that we need to fix now

I took an environmental course in high school so I was very aware of the environmental issues in our society going into the service project.

The service project was a really great learning experience.

I really got into both my projects and got family and friends to help,.

I did the 3 sisters project and it was about a natural way to keep animals out from eating crops.

I think this question is based on what you did, so for mine I didn't do technical community service but instead did a project in restoring land that was destroyed by storm. Many trees and land were destroyed in high winds, and I and they people I worked with knew the importance of natural lands and impact trees have. So we took it upon ourselves to replant and build up the land. So I wouldn't say I learned tons from it but the impact was great.

i dont understand the question

I must be honest, I procrastinated on this portion of the assignment. I would had loved to do the service, but I guess I did no take the time to do anything.

Some of the service project did not seem appealing or interesting to partake in but rather, for the sake of class and points, had to be apart of.

the project was more so an assignment, not so much of an action that will help the environment. Easy to be aware when you are directly involved.

It was a lot of fun and it was nice to help people.

Helping locally is hard to gauge the amount of environmental issues there are globally.

I fell that this is a good project that allows you to get involved with the local community in ways that you wouldn't have done otherwise.

I learned a lot more about the importance of having a clean environment. I always believed in ecology buy I didn't realize how serious it is until now.

It depends on the service.

You're being more aware by being involved, which I think is the best form of learning about an issue. With my lack of free time between school and work, this was very difficult for me. Over the summer, I average about ten hours a week of volunteer work but I don't have the time to do it while I'm in school. In theory, I think this is a good idea because you really do get an understanding of the need in your community that you never knew was there. However, due to other commitments it gets to be difficult depending on the student.

I realized that its very easy for me to do such a project, but I have more awareness to protect the environment surround us .

My 10 hours of service project was done volunteering and helping out other individuals. I think that it helped the individuals that I volunteered for but it was not a huge impact. Maybe, if i continue to volunteer it will eventually make a bigger difference to the environment.

I had very little awareness of the issues or subject of my ricing project. All I ever knew was that wild rice was a part of our cultural heritage, we ate wild rice and it is grown in the shallow depths of the water. after participating in this project, I realized the type of murkiness that rice can only grow in. it can only grow in stagnant 1-2 ft of water. Wild rice patties or growing areas are protected by the government as protected environments. as long as there is rice growing, these natural environments cannot be used or developed.

The service hours are important in environmental science because it is a very hands on approach. It did not raise awareness. The class raised my awareness to pursue me to do the project.

I would not have done it if i wasn't getting credit for it within all likelihood.

I didn't do a service project for my environmental wellbeing project, I did a lifestyle change which was also indicated on the syllabus as an option.

I think that it is a very good project to have and it makes people aware of some of the problems that others are going through.

The project helped me understand how some people have it better than others. It didn't really help me gain any further knowledge on environmental issues.

The volunteer opportunities available weren't that relatable to environmental science. I think volunteering our time to picking up trash to help the environment would of been more relatable. I unfortunately couldn't do any hours of service.

The 10 hours I spent were helping out a science teacher in school over 7 days.

I feel as though some students may not have cared enough to go that extra mile of doing the 10 hours of extra work outside of class.

I think the environmental well-being project allowed us to think about our own habits and lifestyle that might not be sustainable.

I was sort of just ordered around

## Conclusions

The sustainability concept is integrated into Introduction of Environmental Science through a Environmental Wellness Project that require students either a behavior change or a 10-hour service project. About 60% of the students participated in the project. The survey response show most students were indifferent about the service project. However, those students who wrote the text response were more positive.