Action-Based Learning: Exploring the Campus as a Laboratory for Learning About Sustainability

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ENV/RC 391: Sustainability & the Campus

Goals

- “Hands-On Learning”
- Campus & Global Ecological Literacy
- Applications/Theories of Sustainability
- Role of U in Social Change; Build Skills
- Group Learning/Project Management
Class Sessions

- 1/3 Guests
- 1/3 Lecture/Discussion
- Skill Building/Group Project Sessions
- Site Visits
Project Setup

• Project Solicitation & Selection
• Student Matching
• Group Process Intervention
• 4 Goalposts
• Individual Research Papers
• Presentations
• Reports
• Peer Evaluation (graded)
Sample Successes/Failures
Keys to Success

• Appropriate Level of Contact with Sponsors
• Faculty/GSI/Consultant Engagement
• Actual Intervention
• Clear Guidelines/Mileposts/Feedback
• Balanced Teams
• Well Designed Projects
• Clear expectations for sponsors
Key Challenges

• Project Management
• Connecting Project with Class Sessions
• Varying Project Quality/Results
• Varying Student Backgrounds & Commitment
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