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 majority Student 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

envcenter.fortlewis.edu
The year was highlighted by students’ creative efforts to reach out and connect with other members of the Fort Lewis community.

In the fall, students from different staff teams got together and built a ten by twenty foot SUV out of yellow paper for the Fort Lewis Homecoming Parade. As the makeshift float inched past the judges, over twenty cheering cyclists burst through the front of our Trojan Horse winning first place and $300 in the inaugural float contest.

Similarly, the 8th Annual REEL Environmental Experience film festival drew large crowds to see the film Red Gold about the threats to the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. The filmmaker Ben Knight was on hand and premiered a brand new film on sustainable business. For weeks beforehand everyone in the EC was wearing little red and gold fish on their backpacks with the date and time of the free event, which helped us to meet our fundraising goals despite a drop in sponsorship dollars due to the difficult economy.

Our students chose a powerful theme for Earth Week 2010 – the disconnect between the ideals students have for the future and the opportunities available to them once they leave school. Staff teams pulled together for five innovative events along with creative marketing ideas through skits, videos, slide shows, and installation art. The week culminated in a forum on civil disobedience and opportunities for people to reclaim, redirect, and recreate power within the community.

The spring also saw our students take an active role in the first Student Opportunities Summit sponsored by ASFLC. During this open forum, students identified sustainability of the Old Fort and the main campus as their top two concerns. Over the next six weeks, EC students crafted a presentation to the student government and the administration advocating for a new composting system. Parallel work on the new Sustainability Initiative Fee helped launch another tool to increase participation in making Fort Lewis a green campus.

The final event of the year was a brand new spring fundraiser, the first annual Revive and Thrive Masquerade and All Species Parade. Thursdays and Saturdays turned into decoration days at the Center, with paper-maché animals, giant puppets, and paper lanterns festooned around the office. True to tradition, the event magically came together with the help of many hands and hearts. On a clear, warm night in April, over fifty students marched down Main Street showcasing their creative interpretation of biodiversity and made their way to the Durango Arts Center which had been transformed into four different ecosystems. This inaugural fundraiser has the potential to become an integrated community event every year.

The creativity and inventiveness during this year was a sign of cohesiveness in the Center and the strong sense of teamwork and collective purpose.

In June, 2010, the center bid farewell to me as I move away pursue a graduate degree in creative writing. The new coordinator, Rebecca Schild, is excited about the passion and energy that underpins the great work that the EC does.

Best Regards,

Marcus Renner

Table of Contents

- Mission, Vision, and Goals ............. 2
- Coordinator’s Report ................. 3
- EC Staff and Board, 2009-2010 ...... 4
- Progress on Strategic Goals ........... 5
- Team Reports .......................... 6
- Community Partnerships ............. 7
- By the Numbers ....................... 8
- Financials .............................. 9
- Supporters ............................ 10
2009-2010 Staff and Board of Directors

Office Staff
Marcus Renner and Rebecca Schild, Coordinators
Ashlee Robison, Professional Intern

Media & Communications Team
Ben Rogers, coordinator
Devon Dey
Jamison Griffith
Liz Grogan
Royce Johnson

Education & Outreach Team
Aubree Sorteberg, coordinator
Eli Pratt
Elizabeth Alonzo
Kevin Snyder
Lucy Jones
Luke Lubchenco

Climate Action Team
Alex Pullen, coordinator
Ben Cherington
Colin Aanes
Madeleine Andoe
Tyler Coho

Local Food Team
Erin Jones, coordinator
Ashley Moody
Ellen Keavney
Kaelen Peuser
Molly Verde
Pam O’Donnell
Patrick Crowell
Rachel Rogers

Zero-Waste Team
Monica Erickson, coordinator
Alex Colvin
Caryna Pourier
Coral Hackler
Oliver Luneau
Skye Salganek

Sustainable Business Team
Kate Hallock, coordinator
Brad Jameson
Elizabeth Stone
Kirk Raikes
Ryan Riebau

2009-10 Board of Directors
Amy Foster
Amy Donahue
Andrea Sokolowski
Brittany Butts
Caitlin Connors
Corrie McCarthy
Julia Hedman, Chair
Katie Kelly
Katie Zortman
Melissa Reed
Peter McCormick
Susan Ilitch
Roy Horvath
Zachary Ray
Allison MacAulay
Marcus Renner
Ross Nelson
Progress on Strategic Goals

**Empower students** – First-ever training session for our team coordinators; Student Opportunities Summit presentation provided an opportunity for students to directly advocate to the students government and the administration; in February students from the Local Food team organized and hosted a retreat for over forty stakeholders in the local food system.

**Make Sustainability a Community Effort** – The center hosted initial work group meetings for each section of the Sustainability Action Plan to solicit final feedback on the plan; the EC also led the effort to brand sustainability with the new Pathways to Sustainability logo and website. Signs in each of the three new LEED-certified buildings will provide education on sustainability to the campus community and the general public; the Center also worked closely with the Financial Allocation Board on the new Sustainability Initiative Student Fee to spur sustainability projects across campus; beyond campus, the College’s efforts were honored with a nomination from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for a campus leadership award.

**Strengthen Community-based Learning and Research** – We did not make as much progress on this goal as we would have liked. Specific actions including assisting the Environmental Studies faculty with its program assessment and presenting ways for the Center to collaborate with this dynamic new academic program. The Center also worked with several students who received co-op credit for their work at the Center. But overall we partnered on fewer class projects this year and had to put off an inventory of classes with a community-based learning component focused on sustainability.

**Innovation Practice** – The Center made progress in practical terms on this goal by thinking up creative marketing strategies and a completely new fundraiser – the Revive and Thrive Masquerade - that in itself will provide numerous opportunities for innovative ideas in the years to come. In terms of institutionalizing creativity within our programs, the Center purchased several new books on innovative training and assessment that will set the stage for more concentrated work on innovative practice in the years to come.

**Environmental Justice** – The Center hosted an Environmental Justice workshop in the fall, but also wove social justice themes into several of the projects. These included initial steps to work on a community bicycle co-op that would provide carbon-free transportation for low-income residents, planning for an energy audit program for off-campus student housing, a focus on community food security for underserved populations through our partnership with The Growing Partners, and an initial outline of a Green Jobs for Youth program. The LIFE House program continued to be a source for projects related to environmental justice, with a Manna Soup Kitchen work day, diversity training with Code Red, and a panel discussion on solidarity with communities in Africa. Partnerships with Native American groups on our showing of Red Gold for our fundraiser and the Buffalo Feast built ties of trust and friendship.
Climate Action – In conjunction with the national group 350.org, the team participated in the International Day of Climate Action with an art project and a climate change forum for almost sixty students. The team learned about energy audits and helped weatherize Manna Soup Kitchen. In early March, the team piloted a program on energy use for 25 students in the Bader Snyder resident halls. Students also assisted with the solar home tour and created an alternative transportation map to encourage students to help students get around town without a car.

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. The food team organized a retreat for stakeholders in our local food system including an all-local dinner. They researched ways to get local food into campus dining, prepared a local food program for resident halls, and laid the foundation to establish a new community garden on campus.

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 also made a proposal for a new Green Drum composting system to coincide with the new campus dining hall. In addition, they started Free Box Fridays to encourage re-use, began work on a video about campus recycling and continued to maintain our compost and cartridge recycling programs.

Education and Outreach – The education and outreach team carried our youth leadership program into the high schools, reaching over sixty students in 9th and 10th grade leading to four separate service projects in the community. They also outlined a resident hall program on sustainability; took the lead organizing Take Back Your Future Earth Week celebration, and reached out to students color through the SEEDS program.

Sustainable Business – The sustainable business team worked closely with Local First to host Michelle Long, the Executive Director of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies in November and find creative ways to promote the Be Local Coupon Book. The team also jump started a business plan for the Garden Cooperative and created a resident hall program with “local business bingo.” Their final project was to propose a sustainable services program that will help local businesses gain recognition for their sustainable practices.
Local First – The Environmental Center continued its strong support of Local First, the new independent business alliance for La Plata County. Coordinator Marcus Renner chaired the steering committee for the second consecutive year and students from the Sustainable Business team took the lead on several events and projects.

Animas High School and Big Picture School – Students on the Education and Outreach team worked with the two new alternative high schools in Durango to plan and implement service projects. High school students organized clean-ups along the river and the skate park, the installation of bird boxes in Horse Gulch, and the teaching of recycling to kindergartners, all facilitated and mentored by Fort Lewis students.

Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency – In January, students on our Climate Action Team teamed up with 4CORE for a Caulk and Seal Party at Manna Soup Kitchen to weatherize their kitchen and dining area. The Saturday workday reduced leakage from the building 25% and demonstrated the potential for a more comprehensive energy audit program in partnership with 4CORE and LPEA.

The Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado – The EC formally joined The Growing Partners, a coalition of organizations working on community food security. Through this partnership the Center supported two local food fellows who worked on garden programs on and off-campus, while researching how to strengthen our local food system. Students from the Local Food Team interviewed community stakeholders and helped the coalition map out strategies to achieve a just and sustainable local food system.

The Garden Project of Southwest Colorado – The Environmental Center teamed up with The Garden Project to plan a Garden Cooperative. Students collected leaves, participated in garden work days around town, installed a backyard garden, and worked on a business plan to support the cooperative’s goal of increasing the capacity for self-sustaining gardens in our community. The partnership will hopefully coordinate and support gardens and gardeners with discounts, materials, labor, and information about gardening in southwest Colorado.

Youth-Adult Partnership Planning – Looking to implement the recommendations from the recently-completed La Plata County Children, Youth, and Family Master Plan, the Center participated in a working group studying how to train organizations in creating empowering partnerships with young people. The result of this work will be a new standard for organizations across the county in how to work with young people so they feel ownership and engagement with community issues.
By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students (includes staff, board, LIFE program)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Events (sponsored or co-sponsored)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Projects</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Attendance</td>
<td>1491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences: Community Food Security Coalition, Des Moines, IA October 2009</td>
<td>2 students, 1 staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Programs
- Beehive Collective - Community Art and Activism
- International Climate Action Day & Climate Forum
- Sustainable Business Michelle Long
- 8th Annual REEL Environmental Experience
- Nuclear Energy Forum
- Local Food Collaborative Retreat
- 58 Peaks in 42 Days
- Re-Localization Fair
- Making a Difference & Making a Living
- Take Back Your Health
- Take Back Your Food
- Fight the Power, Be the Power Roundtable
- Revive and Thrive Masquerade and All Species Parade
- Sustainable Business Resident Hall Workshop

LIFE House Programs
- Community Picnic
- Peach Picking
- Code Red Diversity Training
- Durango Natural Foods Mural Painting
- Film - The Cove
- Climate Change Resident Hall Workshop
- Manna Soup Kitchen Service Day
- African Stories and Solidarity

EC Workshops
- Writing Press Releases and PSAs Grant-writing (3)
- Community-based Theater (2)
- Campus Activism
- Environmental Justice
- Sustainable Business
- Getting from Here to There
- Greening the Doctor's Office
- Environmental Careers and Leadership

Service Days
- Old Fort Lewis
- Oakhaven Permaculture Center (3)
- Community Connections Greenhouse (2)
- Manna Soup Kitchen Food Prep
- Manna Soup Kitchen Weatherization
- Durango Natural Foods Mural Painting
- Bison Feast Recycling
EC Revenues, 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Fees</td>
<td>$46,836.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Fees</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator Position</td>
<td>$37,836.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>$7,075.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$6,995.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$781.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>$423.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursements</td>
<td>$1,202.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll Forward</td>
<td>$958.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$64,273.46</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EC Expenses, 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$50,645.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>$37,836.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intern</td>
<td>$6,754.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Hourly</td>
<td>$5,590.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>$465.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development and Travel</td>
<td>$979.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>$3,920.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers and Visitors</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and Outreach</td>
<td>$3,711.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, Supplies and Events</td>
<td>$4,372.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$63,679.07</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Operating Revenue over Expenses

**$594.39**

Program Expenses

**$13,033.79**

Personnel Expenses

**$50,645.28**

Revenues - $64,273.46

- Total student Fees: 73%
- Fundraisers: 11%
- Grants: 11%
- Donations: 1% (1/100)
- Sales: 1% (1/100)
- Reimbursements: 1% (1/100)
- Roll forward: 1% (1/100)

Program Expenses

- Office: 33%
- Speakers and Visitors: 36%
- Advertising and Outreach: 31%
- Equipment, Supplies and Events: 0%
Supporters

Organizations & Businesses
- Smiley Building
- Bank of the San Juans
- La Plata Electric Association
- Adolfson Peterson Construction
- Bikis Water Engineering
- Carver Brewing Company
- Durango Arts Center
- Ecosphere Consulting
- Zia Taqueria
- Raider Ridge Café
- Cyprus Café
- Homeslice Pizza
- Rochester Hotel and Leland House
- Nature’s Oasis
- La Plata County Extension
- The Leadership Center
- Coutts and Clark Western Foundation
- Ballantine Family Fund
- Fort Lewis College Foundation

Individuals
- Paul Viosca
- Dick White
- Michelle Reott

Special Thanks to: