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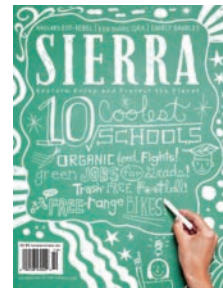
SIERRA MAGAZINE'S 2010 "COOLEST SCHOOLS" QUESTIONNAIRE



2007



2008



2009

- EFFICIENCY
- ENERGY SUPPLY
- FOOD
- ACADEMICS
- PURCHASING
- TRANSPORTATION
- WASTE MANAGEMENT
- ADMINISTRATION
- FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS
- OTHER INITIATIVES

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Sierra, the award-winning magazine of the Sierra Club, is compiling information for our fourth annual “Coolest Schools” issue, which will rate American colleges and universities according to their environmental practices, green initiatives, and caliber of sustainability-oriented education.

Schools that score highly in these realms may be contacted for further discussion and will receive recognition in the magazine’s September/October issue. Please fill out this interactive PDF as thoroughly as possible, save it with your responses as “2010_coolschools_ your school’s name” and email it to cool.schools@sierraclub.org no later than **March 20, 2010**.

Note that this questionnaire will become a public document and that we will not be altering your responses before publishing them online. Please answer as thoroughly as possible. Questions left blank will receive no credit, and if a question requests a percentage, you must provide a percentage. The scoring key will be available online once the issue is published.

As the publication of the nation’s oldest and largest environmental nonprofit, *Sierra* has a readership of more than 1 million engaged and educated citizens.

Many thanks for your participation.

School name: Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Contact name and title: James Landi Sustainability Coordinator

Contact phone: 315-781-4442

Contact email: Landi@hws.edu

School’s city and state: Geneva, NY

Number of students: 2000

HONOR PLEDGE: By completing and submitting this questionnaire, you are certifying that all statements in this document are true to the best of your knowledge.

INITIAL: JL

DATE: 3/15/10

Category 1: Energy Supply

1. Please break down the energy types that your campus uses for electricity by percentage. If the school purchases its electricity from a utility company, this information should be available from that company.

___% Coal	5 ___% Wind	___% Biomass
___% Natural Gas	>1 ___% Solar	___% Geothermal
___% Nuclear	___% Hydro	___% Other _____

HWS purchases 5% of its electricity from Wind and supplements one building's electricity with solar power. Because the remaining 95% of HWS' electricity comes off of the NY State grid and is not accompanied by Renewable Energy Credits (these, as they do for HWS' wind energy, allow the Colleges to definitively claim source production), the Colleges defer to the Clean Air-Cool Planet emissions calculator. The Clean Air-Cool Planet emission calculator provides an upstate NY emissions conversion factor (relatively low compared to other regions of the United States). The electricity emission factor allows the Colleges to determine the emission intensity of its electricity, and subsequently our total greenhouse gas emissions from electricity.

2. What type(s) of energy does your campus use for heating buildings (e.g., natural gas, biomass, coal)?

___% Coal	___% Biomass
99 ___% Natural Gas	1 ___% Geothermal
___% Electricity	___% Fuel Oil

If cogeneration, please explain.

Category 2: Efficiency

1. What percentage of campus buildings completed within the past three years have a LEED certification of at least silver?

0
_____ %

Note whether the certification is higher than silver.

The Colleges are in the process of designing a LEEDs Silver or better Performing Arts Center with a priority on energy efficiency/greenhouse gas mitigation and, currently, have a green facility that recieved the EPA's Energy Star Small Business Award.

2. What percentage of water used for campus landscaping is from recovered, reclaimed, or untreated sources?

5
_____ %

3. What percentage of campus lighting fixtures are energy-efficient (e.g., compact fluorescent, LED, or equipped with motion sensors, automatic daylight shutoff, or other energy-saving features)?

90
_____ %

The Collegesupgraded 90% of lights to high efficiency bulbs (including T5s, CFLs, and LEDs). In addition, the Colleges have worked on light reduction by better orienting lighting to maximize benefits, and removed any unnecessary lights. Also, HWS hasinstalled light sensors (sonic, ambient and motion) in nearly all classroom spaces.

4. What percentage of campus appliances are Energy Star-rated?

15-20
_____ %

The Colleges have adopted an energy star purchasing policy. As old appliances are replaced, all new/ applicable appliances will be energy star certified.

5. Does the institution have underway a program of energy-efficiency retrofitting projects, such as improving building insulation or sealing heating and cooling ducts?

Yes, the Colleges created an Energy and Climate Committee with a year-by-year budget (currently funded at \$150,000). The Energy and Climate Committee's charge is to reduce HWS' greenhouse gas emissions through electric and heat conservation initiatives. Success includes a 9% energy savings from June 2008 - May 2009 (adjusted by degree days and campus growth - 2010 is looking even better!!), This savings was achieved through a variety of projects including, but not limited to - installation of variable speed drives, refining building scheduling and setbacks, replacing boilers, adjusting heat and cooling setpoints, and conducting kitchen inventories and appliance monitoring/ setbacks.

Category 3: Food

1. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at cafeterias is grown or raised within 100 miles of the campus?

2 %

The Colleges spend approximately \$40,000 on locally grown foods annually.

2. What percentage (in dollars) of food served at campus cafeterias is USDA-certified organic?

>1 %

3. Do campus cafeterias source seafood that is deemed sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program, or a similar program?

No

4. What percentage of entrées served in campus dining locations include meat? If the meat is produced sustainably (for example, free-range or grass-fed), explain.

60 %

5. Are nutritionally complete vegetarian and/or vegan options available at every meal?

Yes, we offer a nutritionally complete vegetarian and vegan option at every meal.

6. Is bottled water sold or distributed on campus?

Yes

7. Does your school maintain a campus farm or garden? Does it use organic methods? Please describe the garden and methods used.

Yes, the Colleges support a student run Organic Garden. The garden is planted annually by students. It is tended daily, and no fertilizers or pesticides are used in or around the garden. In addition, a student run rooftop herb garden was piloted and developed into a student research project designed around bringing greenhouse grown herbs and vegetables to our cafeterias.

Category 4: Academics

1. Does your school offer any environmental- and/or sustainability-related majors, such as environmental studies, ecology, or sustainable agriculture? If so, please list them all.

Yes, the Colleges offer an Environmental Studies Major and Minor. As of this year, Environmental Studies has the Colleges second largest number of declared majors. In addition, HWS offers a unique curricular approach whereby students have a great deal of flexibility in the development of their Environmental Studies major. The approach allows students to focus their major around their interests (e.g. public policy, biology, political science etc.) while still covering core Environmental Studies courses.

2. Does your school offer classes about clean technologies, including topics such as energy efficiency and solar-wind energy engineering? If so, please list them all.

Yes, the Colleges offer classes that cover clean technologies and relate them to an interdisciplinary understanding of their impacts. These courses include: energy, global climate change, and environmental economics. Environmental Study students also have the opportunity to pursue independent study style courses that allow them to explore clean energy technologies on a more focused/customized basis. These opportunities are typically built into the environmental studies core - Senior Integrative Experience, or pursued as an independent study.

3. Does your school provide students with a list of environmental and/or sustainability classes to make such courses easy to identify? Please provide a link, if available.

Yes, the Colleges provide a list of environmental and sustainability classes on our website: www.hws.edu/about/green/study_green.aspx

4. Please provide names of standout professors who work on environmental and/or sustainability issues and list their accomplishments, including awards, honors, and publications.

Professor Thomas Drennen, Chair of the Environmental Studies Department is a senior economist for Sandia National Laboratory and focuses on alternative energy modeling - recently published Pathways to a Hydrogen Future. Professor John Halfman is a leading scientist tracking changes in the Finger Lakes - recently published, Owasco Lake, New York: Water Quality and Nutrient Sources. Professor Eugenio Arima is a land use and land cover change specialist focused on modeling through geographic information systems and science - recently published Quantitative Assessment for a Model of Amazonian Deforestation.

5. Do you have environment- and/or sustainability-related centers, programs, or research institutions associated with your school? If so, please provide their names and a description.

Yes, Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) is incredibly active and successful in its mission - to promote environmental research and education about the Finger Lakes and the surrounding environments, and to collaborate with regional environmental partners and state and local government offices to foster environmentally-sound development practices throughout the region. FLI is HWS' example of sustainable design, and offers students opportunities for course credit and internships.

6. Is an environment-themed class a core curriculum requirement? If yes, please provide the name(s) of the course(s).

No, an environmentally-themed class is not a core curriculum requirement. Instead, the Colleges chose to integrate sustainability education into the daily lives of students. HWS' Climate Action Plan implements a system that fosters a practical understanding of environmental sustainability for all

7. What percentage of academic departments offer environment- or sustainability-related classes?

30
_____ %

Category 5: Purchasing

1. Does your school have a sustainable-purchasing policy? If yes, briefly explain.

Yes, the Colleges have an energy star purchasing policy and a recycling bin purchasing policy (must match every trash can with a recycling bin). In addition, the Colleges are working on renovation standards for buildings that set environmental targets for new products that must be met.

2. What percentage of paper used on campus is made from at least 30% postconsumer recycled content?

10 %

Does your school purchase paper that is Forest Stewardship Council-certified?

No

3. Does your school have a policy to purchase Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-certified (or similar) electronics? If yes, please describe.

No

4. Do you have packaging agreements with suppliers that minimize waste? If yes, please describe.

Yes, we take advantage of reduced packaging methods from Xerox and Grainger to minimize waste.

5. Does your school specify in its purchasing contracts that products with energy-saving features be installed or delivered with these features enabled?

The Colleges have made energy efficiency a priority and are purchasing and/or replacing products with the intention of gaining the energy efficiency benefits.

Category 6: Transportation

1. Does your school provide a free shuttle service around campus and town? If yes, briefly explain.

Yes, the Colleges offer a free biodiesel shuttle service to the campus community. The Shuttle Services goes through the Colleges and town, and is designed to provide the campus community with a convenient alternative to cars.

2. What has your school done to promote bicycling as a transportation method?

The Colleges have added over 10 bike racks to campus in the past year with a focus on biker convenience and focused on developing a more biker friendly campus (avoiding the installation of stairs etc.). In addition, the Colleges created a yellow bike program housed in the Colleges' yellow bike shop. The program owns 40 yellow bikes and 'leases' these to the campus community. If members return their bikes at the end of the semester, then the bike shop returns their deposit.

3. Does your school encourage its students and employees to use public transit, carpool, or use some other form of alternative transportation? If yes, what are the incentives?

The Colleges encourage alternative transportation by implementing a disincentive to drive in the form of a green surcharge on parking tickets. The surcharge is collected and directed to support campus alternative transportation efforts (shuttle service, bike program etc.). In addition, the Colleges offer bus services from areas with a high density of HWS students at the beginning and end of each semester. HWS also provides a free "Carpool" service that allows students, faculty and staff to easily carpool.

4. Approximately what percentage of students drive to school in a car?

 >10 %

We are a residential College that is designed to be pedestrian friendly.

5. Approximately what percentage of faculty and staff drive to work in a car?

 85 %

Category 7: Waste Management

1. What is your campus's current waste-diversion rate (i.e., percentage of campus waste being diverted from landfills)?

27 %

2. Does your campus provide recycling receptacles wherever there are trash cans?

Yes, this is a campus standard

3. Are recycling bins readily available at large events such as football games?

Yes, all athletic venues, including locker rooms are supplied with recycling bins and all events (large or small) maintain the Colleges campus standard - recycling bin next to each trashcan.

4. Does your school compost? If yes, are compost receptacles available at all or most on-campus dining locations?

Yes, the Colleges compost and compost receptacles are available at all dining locations. In addition, the Colleges use compostable serviceware at catered events and supply these events with "waste stations" that include a compost bin, recycling bin and trash can.

5. Is your school committed to waste-reduction goals, such as zero waste? Please explain.

The Colleges temporary goal is to reduce landfilled waste by specifically focusing on waste diversion. HWS' end goal is to eventually eliminate campus waste. This commitment is packaged into the Colleges Climate Action Plan.

6. Does your campus administer a donation program for clothing and other used goods when students are moving out of student housing? If so, are bins located in every dormitory?

Yes, the Colleges offer a donation program for clothing and other used goods at the end of the semester. Collection boxes are located in every residence hall and cleaned out by student volunteers. The Colleges sell reusable items at a barnsale and all revenue is donated to the United Way.

Category 8: Administration

1. Is environmental sustainability part of your institution's mission statement, guiding principles, or similar document? If so, please provide the text or link.

The Colleges recently adopted a Climate Action Plan that commits the Colleges to a series of steps. The Climate Action Plan is designed specifically to offer a more complete education toward the HWS mission - "developing students who will lead in the twenty-first century."

2. Does your school employ at least one person dedicated to overseeing campus environmental initiatives, such as a sustainability coordinator, or have a sustainability task force or committee? Is the coordinator position a part-time or full-time position?

Yes, the Colleges employ a full time Sustainability Coordinator.

3. Has your school made an official commitment to reducing its impact on climate change by setting goals of emission reductions by a certain date? If yes, does your school have a plan for achieving these reductions? If so, briefly explain the plan.

Yes, the Colleges have made an official commitment to reduce its impact on global climate change by achieving climate neutrality by 2025. The executive summary of the plan is - "...to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by implementing system changes that give emission reduction projects priority while simultaneously guaranteeing timely and meaningful net emission reduction in the form of an offset strategy. In addition, an essential facet of the Climate Action Plan ties directly into the Colleges' mission, and places a premium on developing a more complete educational experience by fostering a "living laboratory" emission mitigation approach dependent on campus constituent and stakeholder contribution."

4. Has your school conducted a complete greenhouse-gas-emissions audit of its campus?

Yes, the Colleges completed a greenhouse gas inventory for FY '06-'07 and are in the process of completing one for '08-'09.

5. Has your school achieved a reduction in total annual carbon emissions? If yes, please explain and provide the benchmark year and percentage.

The Colleges will not know if a reduction has been achieved until the '08-'09 inventory is completed.

Category 9: Financial Investments

1. Is all information about your endowment fund publicly available? Briefly explain.

No

2. Does your institution have an investment-responsibility committee that considers and acts on environmental issues?

No

3. Does your school make environmentally responsible investments? If so, briefly explain what they are and whether they're made on an ongoing basis.

Yes, the Colleges invest in First Reserve Corporation that has a renewable energy portfolio, and also invests in Hancock Timber Resource Group that practices sustainable forestry.

Category 10: Other Initiatives

1. Have any of your school's students effected positive environmental change on a campus, state, or national level? If so, please describe. (To nominate a specific student for greater attention in our coverage, please email cool.schools@sierraclub.org with his or her name, accomplishments, and contact information.)

Yes, our environmental sustainability program is founded on student initiatives. Student led change includes, but is not limited to: encouraging the President of the Colleges to sign onto the ACUPCC, designing the sustainable elements of HWS' green building, developing a campus composting program (composting 1.3 tons of foodwaste per week), implementing trayless tuesday, starting an organic garden, and starting the campus alternative transportation practices.

2. Have students participated in environmental challenges or events such as the Solar Decathlon, environmental design contests, or environmental debates? If so, which events and how did they do? HWS' Student run Campus Greens heads the effort to raise student awareness about recycling for RecycleMania. Recycling percent has risen from 16% in Fall 2008 to 27% in Spring '10.

3. Has your school set aside part of its campus as natural habitat, stipulated limited campus development, or enacted programs preserving its land? If so, please explain.

The Colleges own a 108 acre preserve that is maintained by the Biology deartment. The preserve has over 60 natural and man-made ponds, and hosts a wide diversity of plants and animals. In addition, a group of students are in the process of certifying a campus pond as a wildlife habitat and working to restore it.

4. Does your school adhere to an indoor air-quality policy (e.g., the mandated use of nontoxic cleaning supplies)? If yes, describe the policy.

The Colleges use low to no-voc paints, glues and laminants, and all green seal certified cleaning supplies.

5. Does your school offer outdoor- or nature-based programs, classes, or extracurricular activities to students and/or faculty? If yes, please list and describe.

Yes, the Colleges Outdoor Reacreation and Adventure Program is very active and funds and schedules outdoor excursions and activities. ORAP maintains its own campus space with a climbing wall and rental equipment. ORAP's rental center poseesses resource material such as maps and trail guides to assist students, faculty and staff in planning and conducting their own outdoor activities. Rental items include all necessary equipment for camping, skiing, snow shooing, cross country skiing and kayaking.

Category 10: Other Initiatives, continued

6. What specific actions has your school taken to improve its environmental sustainability since spring 2009?

Please list all improvements.

Made an institutional commitment and adopted a comprehensive plan to achieve Climate Neutrality by 2025 - increased recycling rates from 23% in Spring 2009 to 27% in Spring 2010 - launched a residential hall Eco-Rep Program and hired an Eco-Rep Coordinator - expanded trayless tuesday (a student project) into an institutional commitment by hiring student workers to support the program - invested \$150,000 in energy efficiency improvements - conducted a campus energy audit - invested in a biodiesel processing plant that converts campus dining services frier oil into biodiesel for the 6 campus diesel machines (2 purchased in past year) - purchased a hybrid security vehicle.

7. Please use this space to address any other unique or interesting sustainability initiatives that have not been previously mentioned: