Sustainability Ambassador PETALS for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

The ambassador network strives to create a more sustainable KU through generating new ideas, establishing partnerships, and sharing information about sustainable practices with the campus community. The Petals program recognizes ambassadors for their efforts to learn more about sustainability initiatives on campus and implement sustainable practices in the workplace in twelve important areas for campus sustainability.

Green Office Recognition: The Green Office Program recognizes campus offices and departments that are working to reduce their environmental impact, including having a Sustainability Ambassador.
Knowledge: 1) Work in an office or department that has received Level 1, 2, or 3 Green Office recognition and be familiar with the office’s achievements to receive this recognition. We plan to offer a Level 4 in the upcoming months.
Action: 1) Coordinate efforts to achieve and/or maintain Green Office status.

Waste: Reducing waste eliminates the thoughtless and careless use of materials and resources.
Knowledge: 1) Be familiar with waste and waste reduction, reuse and recycling at KU
2) Tour the campus recycling facility and surplus warehouse
Action: 1) Give a presentation to your office/department about waste and recycling at your workplace
2) Participate in the annual office supply swap
3) Participate in the surplus furniture program
4) Volunteer through the Rock Chalk Recycle initiative or coordinate volunteers in your office

Food: Sustainability issues on campus includes food choices including fair trade, health, local, organic and vegetarian options, the waste related to the consumption of food, and an understanding of issues of hunger.
Knowledge: 1) Learn about sustainable food initiatives and options at KU: better bites, composting, local food, vegan and vegetarian options, the KU Farm, garden plots
2) Attend a KU Hunger Initiative presentation
Action: 1) Adopt healthy and sustainable workplace food standards for in your office/department-sponsored events
2) Participate as an office/department in a campus event associated with KU Fighting Hunger

Communications: Much of the work of the University involves communication; there are many ways to make daily and occasional communication more sustainable.
Knowledge: 1) Be familiar with recommendations for eco-friendly printing and design
2) Attend a presentation on sustainable communication choices
Action: 1) Make sustainable print communication choices in font, margin and ink selections for departmental materials
2) Ensure that your office or department’s campus mail is handled sustainably

Campus grounds: The University of Kansas has made sustainable improvements in storm water management, grounds and landscaping, and has been designated a “Tree Campus USA”.
Knowledge: 1) Attend a presentation or tour of campus landscape features (Prairie Acre, rain gardens, native plantings)
Action: 1) Participate in planting/maintenance for the KU Student Rain Garden or Replant Mt. Oread
2) Coordinate a Replant Mt. Oread fundraising event in your department
3) Coordinate a monthly “nature break” with your co-workers

Campus Carbon Footprint: Each individual has their own individual campus carbon footprint based on his or her commute, travel, equipment use, and eating and drinking throughout the day.
Knowledge: 1) Calculate your campus carbon footprint for the past year
Action: 1) Establish personal goal(s) for reducing your footprint
2) Develop a program for others in your office/department to calculate their carbon footprint and establish personal goals for reducing their footprints
**Procurement:** The University spends millions of dollars each year on products and services each to support the education, research and service missions of KU. Recently the University has broadened its purchasing criteria to include minimizing adverse environmental and social impacts.

**Knowledge:**
1) Familiarity with KU’s Sustainable purchasing guide
2) Share the purchasing guide with your department’s purchasing staff
3) Make sustainable purchasing suggestions for the guide
4) Adopt a departmental standard of purchasing 30% post-consumer recycled content paper for at least 25% of your paper purchases
5) Adopt sustainable purchasing guidelines for a product(s) other than paper

**The Campus Sustainability Plan:** The University of Kansas adopted a sustainability plan for the campus in July 2011, giving KU a framework to make changes based on the tenets of sustainability.

**Knowledge:**
1) Read the campus sustainability plan and be familiar with key goals, especially those that impact your department

**Action:**
1) Work on a committee charged with implementing specific objective(s) of the plan
2) Integrate action steps into planning or operations of your office/department

**Green Technology:** Employees at the University complete much of their work on computers and other electronic devices that consume electricity and make use of appliances including coffee makers, fans, and refrigerators.

**Knowledge:**
1) Attend a presentation on Green IT
2) Review materials on the Green IT web page

**Action:**
1) Share with your office/department Green IT policies (computer hibernation, duplex printing)
2) Inventory your department’s appliances to see if they met ENERGY STAR or other criteria

**Building energy:** The amount of energy used for heating, cooling and lighting buildings can be influenced by the behavior of a building’s occupants.

**Knowledge:**
1) Review information about KU energy initiatives at [http://www.energy.ku.edu/](http://www.energy.ku.edu/)
2) Understand the impacts of changing individual behaviors

**Action:**
1) Host an energy conservation training for your department
2) Install “turn off the lights” stickers in your office

**Transportation:** Transportation is vital to the campus mission, but getting students, faculty, staff, and materials in the right place is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

**Knowledge**
1) Become familiar with public transit in Lawrence
2) Become familiar with bike routes, bike lanes, and bicycle parking locations on campus

**Action:**
1) Walk, ride a bicycle or bus, or carpool as your primary way to get to work
2) Ride a bicycle or take the bus to campus meetings
3) Keep an extra copy of the bus schedule at work for others to use
4) Give a presentation to your colleagues on how to use “Hertz on Demand”

**Water:** Water conservation is an important part of sustainability efforts at KU. Features in the campus landscape such as Potter Lake, the KU Student Raingarden, and the rain gardens on West Campus are a reminder of the value of water in our lives.

**Knowledge:**
1) Be familiar with water conservation at KU
2) Be familiar with stormwater management at KU

**Action:**
1) Give a presentation to your colleagues on how the Student Rain Garden and/or Potter Lake and its sediment basin operate
2) Participate in volunteer events to maintain the Student Rain Garden or Potter Lake