

Title: *Sustainability Minor*

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Purpose: Development of a new interdisciplinary sustainability minor

Description: A highly interdisciplinary sustainability minor should be developed with an emphasis that stresses critical societal challenges in relation to environmental, societal, and economic issues. The minor should be designed to complement to students' major, and allow them to broaden their knowledge and understanding of complex sustainability issues for society and the environment. Students completing the minor will demonstrate a basic understanding of sustainability challenges from multiple disciplinary and societal perspectives including a wide array of social, economic and environmental perspectives. The new environmental studies major in 2012 has shown substantial growth in student majors in the last three years. After a few years in existence, there was an expectation that a sustainability minor would be developed to complement the environmental studies major, which has strong support by faculty and students.

Recommendation: While there currently exists one sustainability-related minor (Environmental Ethics, which is in the 2015-16 catalog, but not on the list of minors on the HSU website), the minor does not address the social aspect of sustainability. Convene a working group (e.g., Sustainability Committee) to develop the minor curriculum with consultation and feedback from a broad array of interested faculty and programs on campus. The working group should identify committed faculty in each school who would advise the sustainability minor students and coordinate interdisciplinary connections related to sustainability across campus for the minor curriculum. The working group would develop the necessary documents and oversee the approval process of creating the minor by working with members of the ICC and University Senate.

- **Scale and Scope** Open to all undergraduate students
- **Timing** Submission of minor curriculum for review AY 17/18
- **Key Participants** All interested academic departments, faculty and staff

Summary of Estimated Costs, Benefits and other Impacts:

- Costs
 - Faculty time
 - Staff time
- Benefits
 - Opportunity for students to develop competency in sustainability studies that complements and enhances in-depth knowledge learned from a major area of study.
 - The minor will provide skills useful to work with non-profits, government agencies, businesses, and institutions of education.
- Other Impacts
 - *Any negative impacts to consider?*

Impact	Estimated Resource Costs	Estimated Benefits
Economic	<i>[e.g., \$150,000 for mini-split heat pump system; \$23,000 for installation]</i>	<i>[\$43,000 energy expenses avoided annually, 4.1 yr simple payback]</i>
Environmental	<i>[Scrapping older heaters and equipment, old thermostats are hazardous waste (mercury)]</i>	<i>[230 MTCO_{2e} avoided per year, or 4,600 MTCO_{2e} over lifetime; improved air quality]</i>

Social	<i>[concerns over increased budget costs; backlash over increased parking fees, etc.]</i>	<i>[Improved health and productivity; academic integration, etc.]</i>
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GHG Reduction/dollar spent: *[GHG reduction potential in project's lifetime/lifetime project cost]*

Assumptions:

- *[e.g., assume \$0.11/kWh first year of installation]*
- *[e.g., one student assistant will need to be hired to implement campaign]*
- *[e.g., average net fuel economy in US for 2015 is 24.1 miles per gallon]*

References: