

The Environmental Center

AS Office of Assessment
Structure & Program Advisory Committee



*The AS Assessment Process
2013 Board Recommendations*

Introduction

Mission statement: *“We at the **Environmental Center** are dedicated to fostering environmental consciousness on campus. We believe environmental stewardship is a thread that weaves purposeful, passionate communities. We strive to empower the campus community and work for our mission as a networking center for environmental clubs and activists, through campus programs and events, and through our resource library*.”*

**The aforementioned library no longer exists and should be removed from the mission statement during the revision of the AS Program Standards.*

Since its founding in the 1970s, the Environmental Center has acted as a resource to students who are seeking to learn more about their role as stewards to the environment and to empower them to pursue their ecological passions. The EC has recently moved from the Resource and Outreach Programs to the Environmental and Sustainability Programs. The program’s move to the ESP has proved beneficial in that the content of EC events provide a clear event and publicity opportunity for the department.

The Environmental Center achieves this by hosting numerous events throughout the year that cater to many levels of environmental literacy and engagement. Traditionally, the EC organizes an Earth Day festival that has taken many forms over the years. The EC also is a central connection for environmentally-focused clubs on campus due to their hosting of a quarterly club summit. The Environmental Center also organizes a variety of other events throughout the year that educate, inspire, and provide thought-provoking information to Western’s student body.

Programs/Services Provided

Recent years’ events have included:

- Documentary film screenings.
- The Eco-Olympics (an athletic event).
- A yearly iteration of an Earth Day festival.
- Speaking engagements by former Mayor Pike, Andy Bichlbaum of the Yes Men, and others.

Strategic Recommendations

- 1. Strongly advise the development and implementation of standard assessment practices for internal and external use.**
 - a. The creation of departmental ESP standards for user and event attendee evaluation and identification will help the Environmental Center determine whether they are meeting their stated goal of reaching out to new and untapped groups of environmentalists-to-be.
 - i. This data should be centrally stored and maintained in order to assist future department/office personnel in learning about challenges and strengths of past programming. This in turn will help those personnel see whether their outcomes are being met – whether in the SPAC process or in real time.