The Environmental Center
AS Office of Assessment
Structure & Program Advisory Committee

The AS Assessment Process
2013 Board Recommendations
Mission Statement: "We at the Environmental Center are dedicated to environmental consciousness on campus. We understand that we live in a world where environmental awareness is essential. We work to foster a sense of community and work towards our mission of making the world a better place."

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.

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.