

Proposal: The 46: Environment & Sustainability Center (Jan. 12, 2019)

Collaborators: Environment & Sustainability Program, Health & Human Kinetics, AVI, Delaware Entrepreneurial Center, OWU Career Connection, Fine Arts, Chaplain's Office, Environment & Wildlife Club, Buildings & Grounds, Blue House Worm Farm, City of Delaware, MTSO & Seminary Hill Farm, Stratford Ecological Center, Sustainable Delaware, Central Ohio Communities Project, etc.

Modeled after the Woltemade Center and the Delaware Entrepreneurial Center (DEC), the proposed **Environment & Sustainability Center** is being developed from the **grassroots** by a broad array of campus and regional collaborators. The Center depends on the collective efforts of partners and is focused on community engagement, active student learning, and tangible community impacts.

The Center will develop a **social entrepreneurial** approach to solutions to sustainability and environmental problems in collaboration with the DEC. For example (Spring '19), composting food scraps to create worm castings which are used in high-impact soils (such as those used to grow medical marijuana); profits from the sale of the castings will fund solutions to food insecurity in Delaware (such as the Cooking Matters program).

The Center is focused on **campus-community engagement**, with efforts that address community interests and needs, and depend on the cooperative efforts of OWU students, staff and faculty and community partners. For example (beginning Spring '19), the installation of a storm drain net across Delaware Run on campus, co-funded by the City of Delaware, OWU, Friends of the Lower Olentangy River, Delco Water, and other contributors. Coordinated research on the impact of the net along with water quality testing and assessment as part of a student/faculty research project (SSRP).

The Center emphasizes **active student engagement and leadership**, in courses, as part of student activities, as researchers, interns, and entrepreneurs. Thus the Center is fully part of the OWU Connection, the OWU Career Connection, and aims to appeal to prospective students. For example, student engagement is central to the social entrepreneurial worm composting and storm drain nets projects.

The Center is named ("The 46") after the property address, 46 Hayes St., where key Center activities will take place. A map of the property and proposed efforts is below. **The 46 is**

- A location to explicitly connect OWU faculty, staff and students to each other and to regional private sector, public sector, and non-profit community partners.
- A hub for the OWU Connection and its resources for engaged student learning
- Integrated with the OWU Career Connection and its Integrated Career Counselor positions
- A core part of OWU's Environment & Sustainability and HHK Programs (attractive to students in many other majors)
- A DIY laboratory for environment and sustainability projects
- A location for sustainability-themed courses (including activity, practicum and internship courses)
- An exemplary OWU Connection effort to attract prospective students to OWU
- Underpinned by social entrepreneurialism as a solution to sustainability challenges
- In-kind / matching funds upon which to generate additional funds from external grants
- An exemplar for a Mellon Foundation Grant project on community engagement

Pilot Program: The 46 Coordinator, Resources, Partners, and Timeline

The 46 Coordinator Position: A funded position to coordinate Center efforts. External granting organizations require an institutional commitment to staff and facilities (below) in order to get additional funds. The lack of staff devoted to the efforts outlined above cannot be accomplished by “volunteer” efforts. Efforts require a year round coordinator, not just academic year efforts. Proposed salary: \$40,000 + two student internship positions with funds from these sources:

Source 1: AVI: Given close ties to food related issues, and AVI’s commitment to sustainable food on campus

Source 2: OWU Career Connection / Integrated Career Counselor: a model for these positions that is not tied to one program, and is co-funded (in this case, with our food service provider).

Source 3: Mellon Foundation Community Collaboration Grant: fund hybrid positions (campus/community)

Coordinator Position Duties

- coordination between campus and community partners on specific Center related efforts
- coordination of student engagement (in courses, activity courses, internships, research, etc.)
- coordination of zero-waste efforts on campus (worm composting, food waste, recycling, etc.)
- coordination of organic garden and environmental efforts on the 46 Hayes site

Existing Resources

HHK Program: Food & Nutrition: HHK 495 internships, new Food Systems Course (embed local food networks and Center projects in course), activity courses (for a range of Center efforts), Cooking Matters Program, research/teaching interests of Chris Fink and Liz Nix. Food Mentored Minor (with E&S).

E&S Program: OWU Connection engagement central to E&S majors; ENVS & GEOG 495 internships; integration in existing courses: ENVS 110/195/495 Intro to E&S and Conversations Toward a Sustainable Future, with links to an E&S Living/Learning community (Res Life), Geog 360: Environmental Geography, ENVS 399: Sustainability Practicum. Development of social entrepreneurial ventures (worm castings, etc.) & collaboration with the DEC. Strong community ties to MTSO, City of Delaware, Stratford Ecological Center, Delco Water, Preservation Parks, etc. (see partners above). Commitment to grant writing (Sue Haidel). Research/teaching interests of Nathan Amador Rowley, Laurie Anderson, John Krygier, (more).

Facilities: External granting organizations require an institutional commitment to staff and facilities in order to get additional funds. OWU facilities contributions:

- 46 Hayes St. property (value approx. \$200,000)
- Composting & UpCycling Facility (alumni donor + WCSA, approx. \$12,000)
- OWU Connection funding and faculty and student labor

AVI: Campus food service and their commitment to local and sustainable food. Coordination with AVI at Kenyon’s resources and network.

Partners: See list on first page above

Timeline

January 2019

- develop proposal for funded Center coordinator position
- estimate for composting and upcycling facility & funds (donor, WCSA)
- begin activity course on Zero Waste (worm composting focus)
- begin development of social entrepreneurial venture (worm castings focus) w/DEC & spring seminar
- develop plan for campus solar array (to reduce campus energy costs)
- continue work with AVI on initiatives: local food sources, food waste, zero waste efforts, etc.
- continue work with MTSO & Seminary Hill Farm: local food sources & MOU
- continue work with City of Delaware (grants, collaborative projects, internships) & MOU
- continue work with Delco Water (collaborative projects, internships, SSRP) & MOU
- coordination with OWU Connection, OWU Career Connection, Admissions
- planning for 2019 grants: Ohio EPA, Pepsi Green Fund, (more)
- begin 10-12 student internships with variety of Center community partners
- begin storm drain net project collaboration (OWU + 6 community partners)
- develop ideas for Mellon Community Engagement grant
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March 2019

- finalize proposal for funded Center coordinator position
- development of a detailed master plan & projects for the Center & partners
- planning for student interns, projects, etc. for Fall 2019
- construction of composting and upcycling facility
- development of ENV5 110/195/495 Intro to E&S and Conversations Toward a Sustainable Future, with links to an E&S Living/Learning community (Res Life)
- development of HHK food systems course
- grant writing (with collaborators)
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May 2019

- Center coordinator position funded
- Implementation of key Center projects with partners
- grant writing
- development of 46 Hayes St. property projects
- develop campus solar array (to reduce campus energy costs)
- establishment of social entrepreneurial venture (worm castings focus)
- planning for Fall 2019 (student engagement, projects, partner efforts)

Map of The 46 and Related Projects

The 46

Proposed OWU Sustainability & Environment Center

January 9, 2019

Composting & Upcycling Facility

- 40' x 27' pole barn
- Alumni donation + WCSA \$
- Social venture to sell worm castings, profits for food insecurity in Delaware
 - 12 worm composting tables
 - managed by Aleks Ilic & Activity Course
- collaboration
 - DEC
 - Chris Fink, Nutrition

Dumpster Garden

- funds to organize and centralize OWU recyclables, large waste
- source of materials for reuse projects
- dropoff for food scraps, food waste

Organic Garden & Hoophouse

- Aleks Ilic
- Activity Course (Fall '19)?
- New farmer funding
- link to Nutrition, Chris Fink, food insecurity in Delaware efforts

Nature/Culture Habitat

- projects to enhance nature/human environmental coexistence
- student research
- perennial crops (mint, asparagus, raspberry)

Spare University Parts & Native Plantings

- reorganize reusable materials
- ideas for reuse of materials
- native plantings

Forest & Wetland Restoration

- disturbed forest and wetlands

Hugelkultur

- vertical garden
- piled up logs with soil

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