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An Investigation and Analysis of University Campus Sustainability Engagement

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Introduction

Sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, 1987)

"All departments need to be involved in the mindset shift towards sustainability" –Michael Dalrymple, ASU Sustainability

Question: What are best practices for engaging universities as a whole; faculty, staff and students, that any university can do?

Responsibilities and Methodology

Interned with UW Sustainability Office
+How do we define and increase engagement (in-person and online)
+Conducted interviews with other universities
+Investigated universities’ sustainability pages
+Further exploration through literature review

Results

Strong moves towards practical applications:
+ ASU found success in actively engaging students on campus through sustainability “sponsored” events
+ UW fossil fuel divestment

Few universities are operating with complete sustainability plans
+Steps taken across universities (divestment, carbon neutrality, land management, operations, etc.)
+Rarely focus on engagement

Next Steps

+Encourage collaboration between student orgs and faculty/staff
+Promote compelling events that encourage engaging with sustainability
+Work to encourage integrating sustainability into campus culture and community, plus online spaces

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