SUBJECT: FGCU Environmental Stewardship Plan Implementation

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION
Information only

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February, FGCU President Bill Merwin’s Environmental Stewardship Advisory Council (ESAC) recommended the adoption of an Environmental Stewardship Plan. This plan established 13 goals to advance environmental stewardship at the University, and specific tasks in support of each of these goals. The goals indicate where the University wants to be, with the tasks representing the path to those goals. In keeping with the Council’s advisory role, the tasks identify what to do, with implementation suggestions for responsible parties and timelines, but leave the details of implementation to the president and the University’s administration. This report is a summary of the progress implementing the plan.

Supporting Documentation Included: Summary of FGCU Environmental Stewardship Management Plan

Prepared by: Director of Environmental Health and Safety Lewis Johnson

Legal Review by: General Counsel Wendy Morris (December 18, 2006)

Submitted by: Vice President for Administrative Services and Finance Joe Shepard
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction
Florida Gulf Coast University opened its doors in 1997 with a commitment to exemplifying responsible environmental stewardship. The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Council (ESAC) was formed by President Merwin to create policies and plans for environmental stewardship and sustainability that serve as a blueprint for operating activities at the University and a model for the community. The Environmental Stewardship Management Plan is the result of years of work and study by the faculty, staff, and students of Florida Gulf Coast University. This plan demonstrates a commitment to excellence and our plan to improve our environmental impact. It is a working document and will continue to change as the University learns from this process. The Environmental Stewardship Management Plan was formally approved by the ESAC on February 17, 2006.

Content
This plan encompasses a broad spectrum of life at Florida Gulf Coast University. The plan includes goals organized according to the “Seven Critical Dimensions of Higher Education” by University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. Each goal includes tasks identified by working groups over the past 5 years. Each task has a short description and reports the current status of the task, the area responsible, and the timeline to accomplish the task. Goals are organized into the following categories and summarized briefly below:

1. **Curriculum** goals include integration of sustainability issues into academic life
2. **Research and scholarship** goals incorporate an outward focus on our watershed supported by a conference hosted by FGCU on watershed issues
3. **Operations** goals focus broadly on facility design and construction standards, recycling, campus transportation, wildlife populations, and ecological systems
4. **Faculty and staff development** focuses primarily on new employee orientation emphasizing FGCU’s environmental goals
5. **Outreach and service** catalogues the University’s participation in community environmental education and service
6. **Student opportunities** increases environmental awareness and involvement of the student body
7. **Institutional mission and planning** directs the creation and maintenance of comprehensive policies relating to environmental and health issues

Implementation and Annual Review
Tasks are identified to accomplish specific goals relating to the categories above. During the period of implementation, members of the ESAC will be available to promote and facilitate the tasks. The Director for Environmental Health and Safety will provide a contact point to address or bring to the ESAC issues related to environmental stewardship at the University. Goals are subject to annual review by ESAC and both goals and tasks can be modified, added to or deleted at that time.