

TEXAS  STATE[®]
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE
COMMITTEE

<http://www.txstate.edu/esc/>

**Committee Report
2010-2011**

1. History and Structure

In 2000, the Environmental Service Fee (ESF) was conceived by Texas State’s student chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professional (NAEP). For several years, NAEP worked with the Associated Student Government of Texas State and the Texas Legislature to enact the ESF. The first meeting of the Environmental Service Committee (ESC) was held on September 23, 2004. (For a more detailed history visit <http://www.txstate.edu/esc/about/history.html>.)

The ESC is a university committee under Finance and Support Services. It is comprised of 7 voting members (3 faculty members and 4 students) and 4 non-voting members (2 students, a VPFSS representative who serves as account manager, and a Facilities representative). This includes a student chair and secretary; these were Kathryn Wilcox and Alix Scarbrough, respectively, for the 2010-2011 school year.

According to the bylaws, the purpose of the ESC is “to distribute funds collected from the Environmental Service Fee in order to provide funding for environmental improvements at the University through services such as environmental education, recycling, transportation, employment, product purchasing, distributing small grants or matching funds, planning/maintenance, beautification, and irrigation.”

Past projects (some of which are still in operation) include the Bobcat Blend Composting Project, Chinese Tallow Tree Removal, and Rainwater Collection. University students, faculty, staff, alumni or members of the community of San Marcos may apply for funding from the committee.

The ESC meets bi-weekly. A quorum of 5 is required for voting, and the public are invited to observe and join in the discussion. There are usually two or three student non-members who are interested in the committee’s work and attend regularly, which also helps when recruiting new membership.

2. Progress this Year

The 2010-2011 school years were a time of expansion for the Texas State ESC. Due in part to a marketing campaign with the Texas State student chapter of the American Marketing Association, meeting attendance increased dramatically. Support for Environmental Service Fees (or “Green Funds”) grew across the state as similar initiatives were passed at Texas A&M, UT Austin, UT El Paso, University of Houston, UT San Antonio, University of North Texas, and UT Pan American. Texas State currently collects \$1.00 per student, with a cap of \$6.00. The new legislation (under which the previously mentioned universities’ green funds operate) states an initial fee of \$5.00 per student, with a limit of \$10.00. The quality and quantity of project applications has also improved throughout the year, a trend the committee expects to continue. Results of the Environmental Services Fee are visible across the Texas State Campus, as will be discussed in the next section.

3. Funds Allocated FY 2011

Projects	Allocation (Dollars)
1. AASHE Conference Travel	767.35

2. Aquarena Center Earth Day	1,000.00
3. Bike to School Day	200.00
4. Biology Greenhouse Rainwater Tank	3,100.00
5. Bobcat Blend FY 2010	7,500.00
6. Bobcat Blend – The Den	16,350.00
7. Bobcat Blend Expansion – Jones Dining Hall	15,757.00
8. Bobcat Build 2011	1,000.00
9. Butterflies and Signage	1,008.06
10. Campus Vermicomposting	4,345.44
11. Chinese Tallow Removal	17,036.67
12. Earth Day Solar Panel	2,000.00
13. ½ t. of Coal	1,200.00
14. Main Street Pedi Cabs	3,380.88
15. Organic Garden – Food for Thought	6,168.94
16. Pack It Up and Pass It On	5,000.00
17. Rainwater Collection	12,991.50
18. Solar Demonstration	1,750.00
19. Take Back the Tap: Tapped Screening	80.00
TOTAL	100,635.84

4. Description of Funded Initiatives

1. Dr. Janet Hale was invited to present The Solar Line Drying Project entitled “Wear the Sun,” to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference in Denver, Colorado in October 2010. Her request was to cover the travel expenses to attend the conference as a presenter. Her presentation discussed how the project brought students together who chose to tackle sustainability around the campus and community. They were able to educate 33,000 plus students and the community on reducing the amount of electricity by line drying clothes. Drying racks were bought to be used in the residence halls for a pilot program for the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Hale presented the video that was created to bring awareness and educate others on sustainability.
2. Project request to acquire 10 – 10’x10’ tents for the Aquarena Center Annual Earth Day Celebration. The event was free to the public and included recreational activities, educational booths, local food and vendor booths, live musical performances and keynote addresses from national, state, and local political representatives.
3. Bike to School Day (April 21, 2011) was an informative and interactive event for Texas State and San Marcos community. The goal was to garner attention for alternative, sustainable forms of transportation and improve community knowledge of the various resources available to cyclists through a marketing campaign including fliers, signs, and a visual display in the Quad
4. The main objective of this proposal is to install a rainwater collection system at the Biology greenhouse. The rainwater collection system will irrigate plants that are used

- for teaching, research, and landscaping. The rainwater collection system will help the university save money on water usage costs, and promote and reflect efficient use of a valuable renewable resource to students, the community and other universities. Environmentally, collecting rainwater reduces flow to storm water drains, reduces non-point source pollution, and reduces the amount of water that needs to go to water treatment plants. Plants irrigated with rainwater are overall healthier than plants receiving tap water, which translates in to less money spent on replacing plants used for teaching each semester.
5. Bobcat Blend Project began for the development of student education and a composting operation. The composting project will allow students to source separate their waste into designated waste stations that will be marked as organic waste, bottles and cans, and trash. These waste stations will have educational signs above each bin that will help direct the students waste into each bin. The organic waste from the university cafeterias with cardboard, food packaging paper products, and invasive river plant species gathered from the San Marcos River will all be mixed together and composted at the Texas State compost facility. Through the program's promotion efforts in the cafeterias, university students became more aware of their use and production of waste products. The program will also educate students on compost production from the waste products, food, cardboard, and paper products will be collected daily from the LBJ Lair, and students will then transport and compost the waste. The final output from this waste will be a nutrient rich soil amendment that will be placed back on the campus landscape.
 6. Bobcat Blend – The Den Expansion was to expand and improve the student education and composting operation. The expansion will help Bobcat Blend towards its goals of composting at all of the dining establishments on campus as well as help to raise composting awareness to a broader array of students. The expansion would mirror that of the Lair and Jones system in most ways. Collection bins were placed inside The Den and a large bin for temporary storage outside of The Den.
 7. Bobcat Blend – Jones Dining Complex (JDC) Project is another extension of Bobcat Blend and the efforts to expand and improve student education and composting operation. JDC uses compostable cups, yet they had no composting service. The Director of Chartwells expressed a desire for the addition of a composting service in JDC. Collection bins were placed inside JDC as well as signs, a screen, and exterior holding bay. The expansion will further prove that Texas State is aiming to be on the forefront of environmentalism and sustainability while helping to show students that composting and sustainability in general is best served in an integrated system.
 8. Bobcat Build (April 9, 2011) is an annual event that builds awareness, community, and tradition that has been bridging the gap between Texas State and the community of San Marcos. Students volunteer their time on a Saturday to go out into the community and help local establishments, schools, and residents with projects. In its ninth year, Bobcat Build has grown and become a student chartered organization. The main objective of this proposal was to help purchase supplies and t-shirts for this event. In doing so, it promoted the Environmental Service Committee.
 9. Butterflies and Signage project was to support the annual migration of the Monarch Butterflies and to provide sources of nectar for all butterflies. Planting began in Fall 2010 with the intent of the plants being visible in the Spring. Various wildflowers

- and Indian Blanket seeds, the official Texas State flower, were purchased and planted at the Frisbee Golf field. Self-seeding would create a sustainable population. Milkweed was also purchased and planted as it became available.
10. The on-campus vermicomposting location was created for the processing of food waste to soil amendment. An on campus shed that was already planned for vermicomposting to grow worms and produce worm castings. Project cost included purchase of 10 pounds of composting worms, installing a small A/C unit, insulating the shed, running power to it, and purchase of containers needed to grow worms. Once the shed is cooled, a student worker or volunteer will manage the project (10 hours a week).
 11. Removal of Chinese Tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) at Aquarena. Chinese Tallow is a highly invasive and noxious tree that is firmly established in the headwaters of the San Marcos River at Aquarena. Chinese Tallow produce toxins that irritate skin and causes vomiting if consumed by humans and livestock, and secretes allelopathic chemicals that kill native plants and trees. Seeds survive on water for several weeks, enabling them to be distributed downstream. Removal with chemical treatment is the only solution for eradication in order to stop downstream establishment and demonstrates a strong commitment to conservation.
 12. Earth Day Solar Panel was part of the Earth Day Celebration on April 21, 2011. Students were exposed to a Solar Pump as a real alternative to their own reality concerning energy production and resource conservation. This event hosted a variety of non-profits and student organizations to give students opportunities to have a positive impact on Texas State and the San Marcos community through volunteering, advocacy, and common practices. SolDesign received compensation for the solar pump, provided staff to oversee, and keep count of those who used it.
 13. ½ Teaspoon of Coal Project was to bring awareness to students of how much coal is used in the process of living. This project took everyday activities and made tactile manifestation of electricity and the fuel used to generate things like brushing our teeth with an electric toothbrush, screen the movie, etc. Information was distributed via social media, poster, and email to students, city officials, politicians, and legislators. Materials were purchased to make casts of objects like water bottles, cell phones, etc. indicating how much coal was used to produce the object. Castings were planted around the Texas State Campus. A Public Display was located on the quad of Texas State to showcase the energy policy as it related to individual relationship to energy use. A coal footprint module was installed and used to demonstrate the energy policy. Earth Day, a reception was held to hold an exhibit of the information gathered.
 14. Main Street Pedicabs Project was the purchase of a Pedicab to coincide with Bobcat Blend and pick up compost from various locations across campus. The Pedicab is pedestrian driven and is an environmentally friendly solution with a zero emissions footprint.
 15. The Food 4 Thought project is a fusion of ideas centered on wholesome, farm fresh food for students at Texas State. The main objective of this project was to continue development of a horticulture teaching garden as part of the campus arboretum and Master Plan concept. This would also continue support of the horticulture program in the Department of Agriculture with the goal of the projects being independently sustainable in terms of maintenance. Students oversee the garden and volunteer

- under the direction of Dr. Tina Marie Cade. The hillside area was cleared and terraced and fruit crops (grapes, olives, citrus, peach, fig, loquat, persimmon, pear, etc.) were planted. The flat area will be designed to include raised beds for square-foot vegetable gardening plots.
16. Pack It Up and Pass It On, the university's end-of-the-semester recycling program, benefits more than 1,000 San Marcos needy people, who "shop" for free among seven tons of items mainly donated by students living in residence halls and on-campus apartments. One accomplishment of funding was the continued employment of student workers to manage and collect the items donated by students. With the success of the program in the 21 residence halls and 4 university-owned apartment complexes, many collection "teams" must operate daily increasing the number of worker needed.
 17. Rainwater Collection project began as means to irrigate plants that are used for teaching, research, and landscaping. The rainwater collection system will help the university save money on water usage costs, and promote and reflect efficient use of a valuable renewable resource to students, the community and other universities. Environmentally, collecting rainwater reduces flow to storm water drains, reduces non-point source pollution, and reduces the amount of water that needs to go to water treatment plants. Plants irrigated with rainwater are overall healthier than plants receiving tap water, which translates in to less money spent on replacing plants used for teaching each semester.
 18. Solar Demonstration Project was a contract with Sol Design Lab to bring in a solar powered charging station from September 24, 2010 through October 2, 2010 during "No Impact Week." The designer, Beth Ferguson was also available for a discussion on the design on September 30th as a Common Experience event. This provided a visible reminder of our ability to get electrical energy from sunlight. Through this event, we received feedback from the student population who used it as they walked across campus. This was a pilot for Texas State and the possibility of purchasing a permanent system as a means of reducing energy usage at Texas State. Additionally, it gave students insight that solar power is possible and feasible.
 19. Take Back the Tap tapped screening was to educate students and faculty on the consequences of drinking bottled water. The movie illustrates health, economics, and the environment. The health topics range from cancer rates of those living by the petrochemical plants making plastic to the consumption of BPA by consumer. The non-health environmental impact is also targeted. The movie shows oceans, river, and landfills with an endless view of plastic bottles. Most importantly it helps students realize how to easily reduce their impact. The screening took place in the LBJ Student Center Teaching Theater on September 15th and to have an IT staff member to assist with the viewing.