Sustainability Grant -- Questions and Answers (Fall 2010)

1. What is Sustainability?
   From the Brundtland Commission Report: sustainable development is that which “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

   Three-E’s:
   a decision is sustainable when it takes an appropriately balanced view of ecological, economic and equity concerns.

   Today, most uses of and references to sustainability emphasize the concept's simultaneous economic, environmental, and social dimensions. For example, businesses talk about the triple bottom line: people, planet, and profits (or, alternately, human capital, natural capital, and financial capital). Likewise, sustainability educators commonly refer to the Three E’s of sustainability: economy, ecology, and equity.

   AASHE in depth explanation:
   pages 4-6 under C. Understanding Sustainability

2. What is a Sustainability Grant?
   Sustainability Grants provide funding for projects designed to encourage, advance and improve sustainability at SUNY Orange. Projects may take place in any aspect or department of the college. Projects that are innovative, learning-centered, collaborative or interdisciplinary, and attentive to assessment & improvement are especially encouraged.

3. What kinds of projects will be funded?
   - A rubric has been developed for comparing proposals and evaluating which proposals will be awarded. There are four main categories, comprising 10 evaluation areas, that will be reviewed for each proposal. The more fully a proposal meets the criteria, the higher the chance of being
awarded a Sustainability Grant. The categories of evaluations are: General Requirements, Education and Curriculum, Ability to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Feasibility and Collaboration.

4. **Who is eligible to request funds?**
   All full-time and part-time faculty and staff are eligible to apply for funding. Student projects must be supervised and sponsored by faculty.

5. **How much funding is available and how may the funds be used?**
   An estimated total of approximately $7000 is available for distribution annually to successful applicants. The amount of available grant funds will fluctuate annually based upon other projects and initiatives undertaken by the College. Funds may be used to develop and implement sustainability-focused projects and proposals.

6. **What is the application process and timeline?**
   **Step 1:** Complete the attached Application and provide required supporting documentation. Please make certain you discuss the project with division or departmental personnel who will be involved with planning or implementation.

   **Step 2:** Submit one signed Application to Sustainability Coordinator along with an electronic copy by December 1, 2010.

   - By Feb. 1, 2011 -- The Sustainability website (www.sunyorange.edu/gogreen) will display funded proposals, project descriptions, and amounts awarded. Applicants who have received Sustainability Grants will also be notified personally.
   - Feb. 1 to Aug 31, 2011 -- Budgeting/Purchasing phase. All grants funds must be encumbered during the same fiscal year in which the grant was awarded (fiscal year ends Aug. 31)
   - Beginning Feb. 1, 2011 -- Implementation phase. Projects must be implemented within 12 months of funding,

   **Step 3:** Provide results of your Sustainability Grant project to Sustainability Coordinator within six months of completion of project.

7. **How will the outcomes of my project be shared**
   Results of all Sustainability Grant-funded projects will be shared with your colleagues via the Go.Green@sunyorange website, and may be distributed via other methods external to the College if necessary.