

SIU Sustainability Council Project
Final Report

Project title: Green Fund Paper Recycling
Project I.D. #: 16SP131
Award date: April 22 2016
Completion date: April 1st 2017 and ongoing.
Funds used (if different from award amount):\$2200

Brief write up of project/project experience (not to exceed 250 words): Paper is a huge part of our lives. We use it every day from the bathroom to the office and back. Yet very few of us think about what it really is, how its made and were its going. We applied and received a Hollander Beater form a very small one man company in New Zealand who custom made this machine for us. This is a machine and on a small scale which processes different things in nature into pulp which can then be made into paper. We then exposed participants to this process by offering workshops and volunteer oppertunities. We made paper and plant starter pots to date. We have made art paper, water color paper and other object from the pulp. We have used Daily Egyptian newspapers, office paper, milk weed seed, and cotton t-shirts as pulp. With any machine there was some learning curve to get through and safety skills to learn. The machine seems very durable and transportable, able to fould up or out when needed. We have entertained both on and off campus groups, Brehm Prep school students as well as SIU Students. We have had about 35 student take part in activities related to the Hollander Beater.

Best things learned/produced from project: Paper pulp dryes out your skin. After several days of working with recycle materials my hands started cracking. I also learned that there are many who have had an expereince with paper making. We also worked on concerns with the plant starter pots,l concern that the paper might have harmful chemicals, clorine, sulphur. We did research on this and found that these substances had been evaperated out of the paper. We also experemented with adding bio-char to reduce any environmental problems. New fad? Not sure yet. Waiting for my cucumbers to tell all. Bio-char does reduce acid and cucs like alkilin.

How do you define sustainability? At times I feel that sustainable is hard to reach, that we as a human race are always consuming, poluting, and destroying. Sustainable is not ever reachable but we can try. Just like when the kid walking down the beach find thousand and thousand of star fish washed up after a storm starts throwing them back into the ocean. A passer by says to the kid why bother, its not going to make a difference if you throw a few back. The kids response "The one that got thrown back it made all the differnce", despite the thousands that died on the beach. We need to try. Someday when our sun burns our and explodes into a super nova, all this junk we thought was important will be recycled. After all we are just star dust fom the big bang. Also paper pulp is very bad for the plumbing.

Has this changed over the course of your project? I was a little pesamistic about wether anyone but me would get the idea of paper making. If so, how? I was please when we got a Res Hall to come in and do paper making after seeing our workshop ad.

What do you see as the next step for the project? I would like to contiune to mae plant starters and start perfecting the art paper with better screens and more work with starch for special are papers. We also have a kids workshop planned for this summer around paper.

Optional: Do you have any suggestions for the SIU Sustainability Council to improve the Green Fund award process?

Decals for Green fund equipment of spaces that are invovled or received Green Fund Grants

Attach a minimum of five images – these will be used to promote interest in Sustainability Council projects. These can be photographs of the progress of the project, the completed project, or promotional materials.