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## Using Collaborations to Improve Campus Recycling

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# Utilizing Collaborations to Improve Campus Recycling

James W. Taylor  
Coordinator, Environmental Center  
Chair, Sustainability Committee

ACUHO-I / APPA  
Housing Facilities Conference

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015  
St. Pete Beach, Fla.



# University of North Florida

- Established in 1972
- Campus is approximately 1,200 acres
  - 382 acres are protected from future development
- Total population approximately 19,000
  - ≈16,000 students
  - ≈3,000 faculty and staff
- Approximately 4,000 students live on-campus

# UNF Environmental Center

- Established in 2004
  - Founding director Dr. Ray Bowman
- Community-based
- Interdisciplinary by design
  - Serve all students & faculty
- Strategic focus areas
  - St. Johns River
  - Parks and Preserves
  - Sustainability

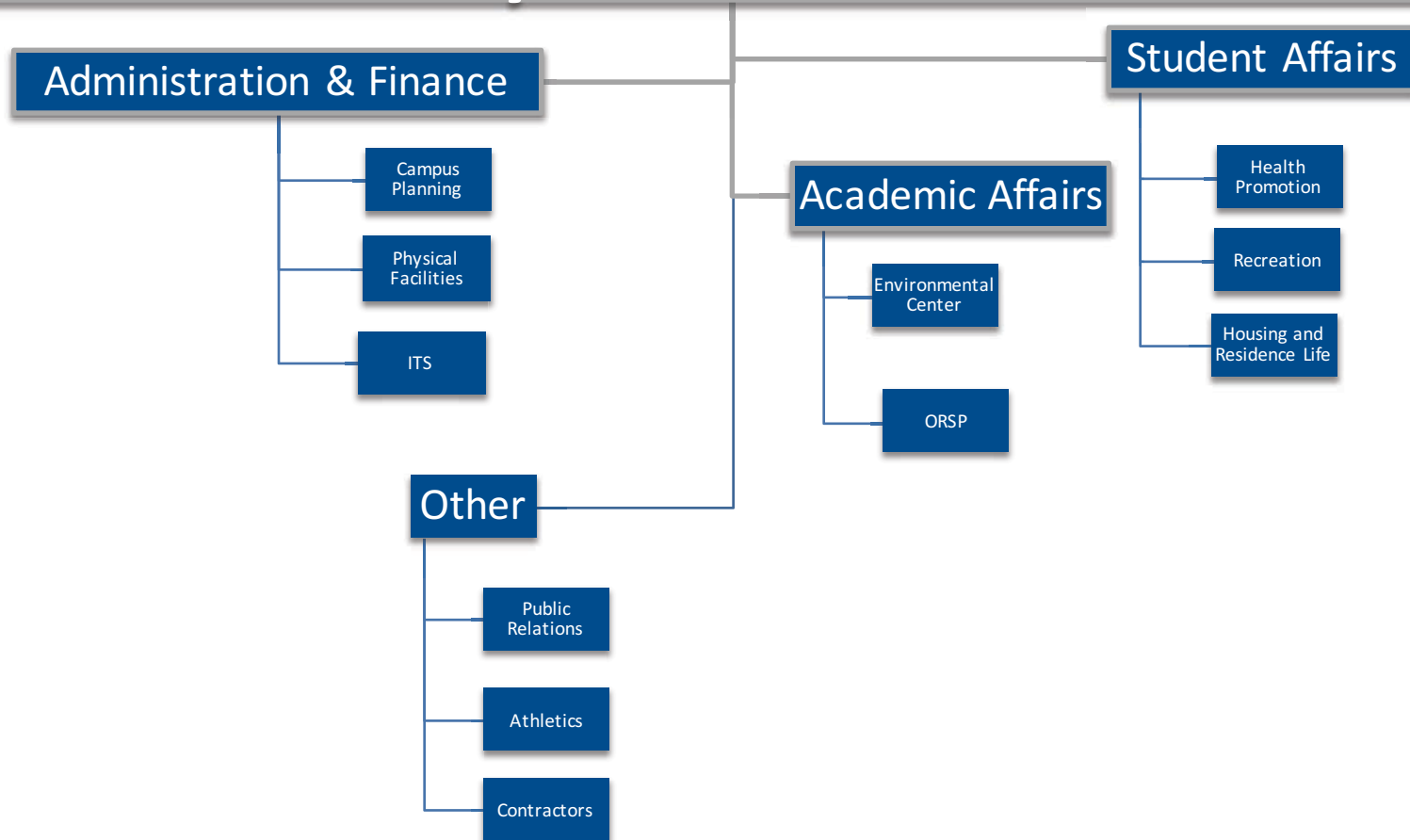


# UNF Environmental Center

- Strong undergraduate student focus
- Engaging students, through academics, to address issues on campus and in the community



# University of North Florida

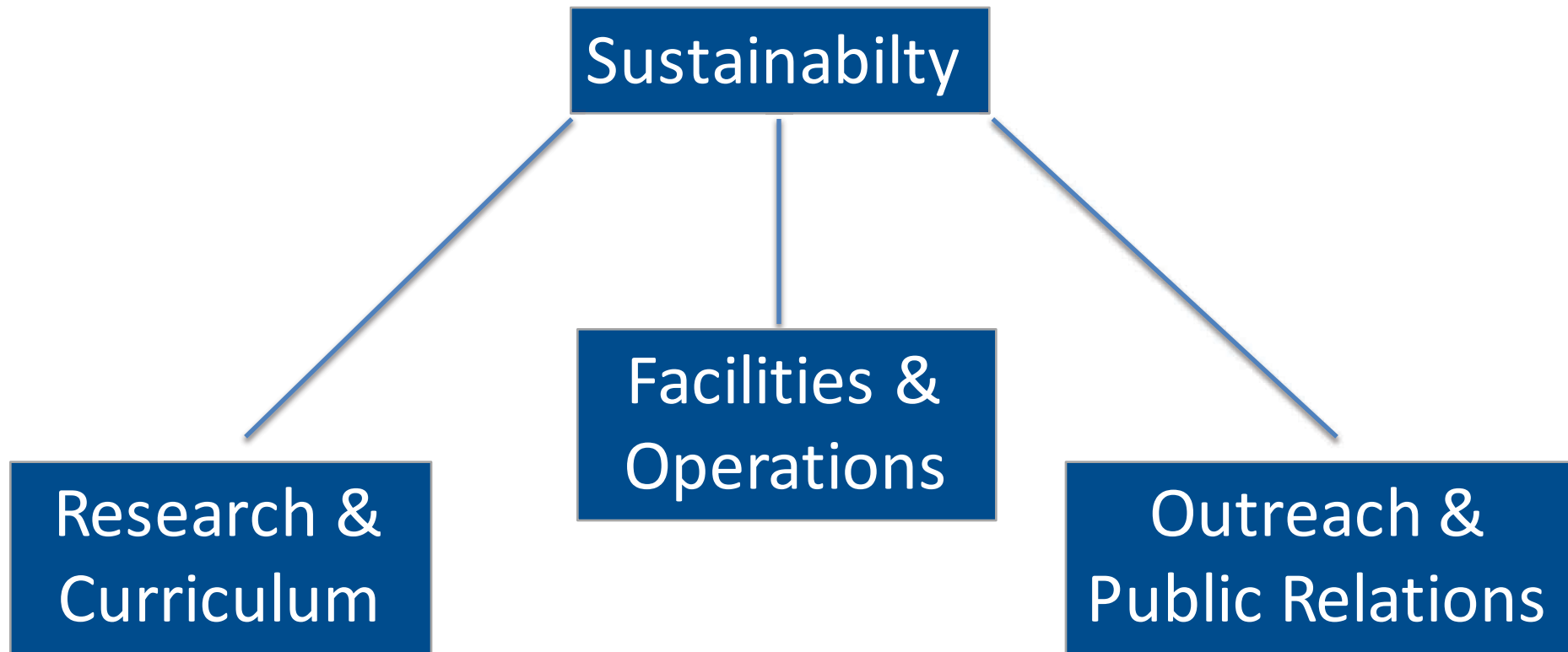


# Collaborations are Critical to Success

- Sustainability issues are
  - Complex
  - Impact multiple departments across divisions
  - Impact students, faculty and staff differently
- Solutions can not be just be top-down
- Nor can they be just grassroots
- The only solution is collaboration



# Collaborations are Critical to Success



# Sustainability at UNF

- UNF Sustainability Committee
  - Coordinates sustainability efforts at UNF
- Main tasks are:
  - Implementation of the climate action plan
  - Overseeing the Sawmill Slough Preserve
  - Making recommendations to university administration
- Open meetings held monthly

# Sawmill Slough Preserve



- 382 acre protected area
  - Formally designated in 2006
- Over five miles of trails, originally built by students and faculty
- Preserve is utilized for:
  - Education
  - Research
  - Recreation



# Sawmill Slough Preserve





# LEED Buildings

- President Delaney made a public commitment that all new construction will be LEED-certified
- 12 LEED-certified buildings
  - First LEED building in Northeast Florida (2006)
  - 3 gold certified buildings



# Climate Action Plan

- Signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

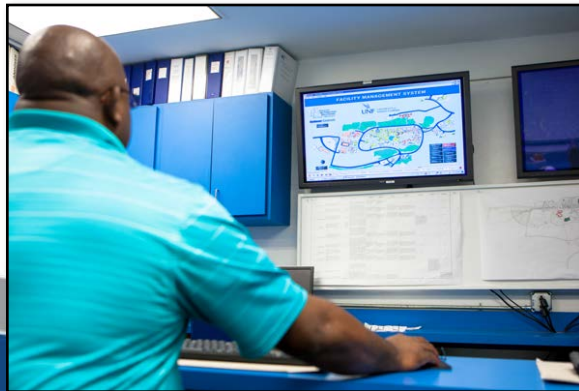


# Climate Action Plan: Draft CAP

- Phase I: Planting the Seed (2013-2020)
  - Education/community involvement
  - Research
  - Minor infrastructural improvements
  - Secure funding
- Phase II: Growing the Seed (2020-2035)
  - Academics
  - Building retrofits & LEED EBOM
  - Explore renewable energy sources
  - Alternative fuel fleet
- Phase III: Ensuring its Future (2035-2050)
  - Expand renewable energy
  - Purchase offsets
  - Facility improvements
  - Major investments

# Energy reduction

- Buildings are re-commissioned on a cycle to ensure they are working efficiently
- UNF deploying LED lighting in parking garages and along roadways.
- Occupancy sensors deployed in most buildings
- Utilize an energy management system



# Sustainability Recognition

- STARS Bronze designation (expired Sept. 2015)
- Sierra Club Cool Schools
- Princeton Green Guides
- City of Jacksonville



# Let's Talk Trash

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"Listen, we can talk about politics, religion,  
but lay off the trash talk, OK?"

# Solid Waste at UNF

- The State of Florida has set a goal for all state entities to reach a 75% diversion rate by 2020
- Annually, UNF generates 2.5 million pounds of solid waste
  - Current recycling rate hovers around 25%
- Two related goals
  - Reduce total waste
  - Increase recycling and composting



# UNF Garbage on the Green





# Garbage on the Green

- Annual waste audited started in 2007
  - Also serves as an educational opportunity
- Originally designed by Stacey Wheeler
  - Stacey Wheeler also helped design and launch RecycleMania
- Collaborative event by nature
  - Academics – conducts the audit
  - Operations – coordinates trash collection
  - Student Affairs – helps with student volunteers

# Garbage on the Green

Three components of Garbage on the Green

1. Record examination
2. Facility walkthrough
3. Waste audit

# Garbage on the Green

## 2014 Summary Report



*Prepared by:  
The UNF Environmental Center  
Jacksonville, FL November 2014*



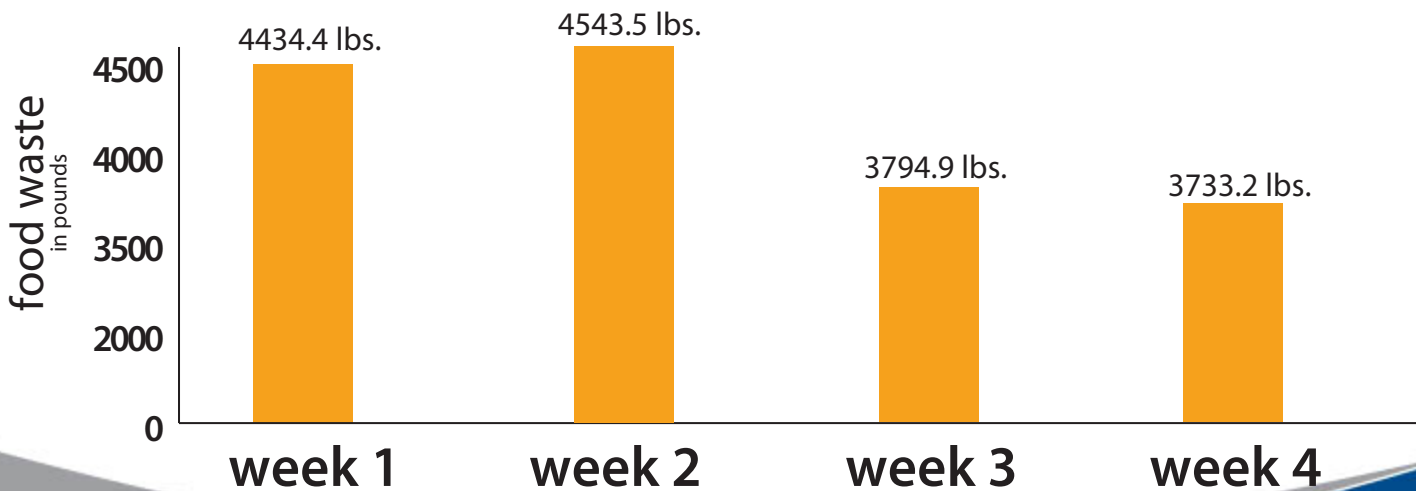
# Hydration Stations

- 3 Units installed in Student Wellness Complex
  - Over 300,000 water bottles since 2012
- Sustainability Committee is installing 18 more units
  - Funding provided by Pepsi Co. and Environmental Center



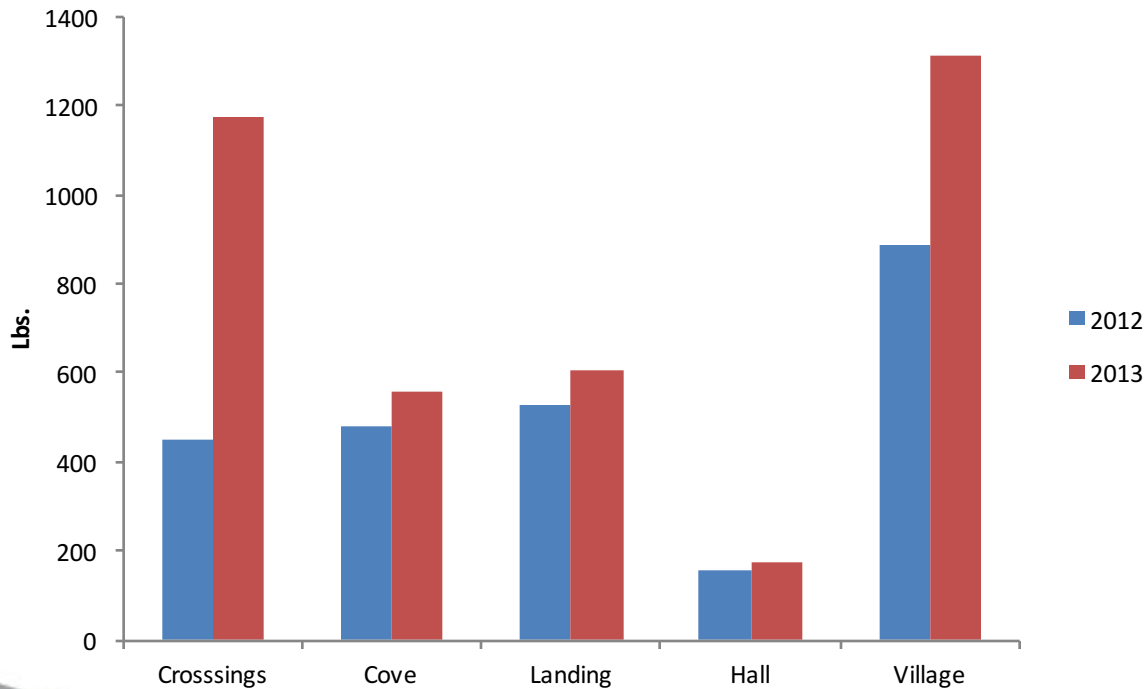
# Project Clean Plate

## We reduced food waste by 16%



# Recycling at Housing

RecycleMania 2012 vs. 2013 Total Weight





# UNF's Next Steps for Reaching 75%

- **Expand data collection efforts!**
- Institute composting and food recovery programs
- Address lack of classroom recycling
- Special event waste reduction and recycling
- Improve move-out collection and reporting
- Expand electronic waste recycling