**Project Title:** Sustainability Awards or Incentive Systems

**Project Description:** Develop a standard for awarding excellence in sustainability for student organizations, departments, faculty, or other units of the University.

**Background:** To incentivize widespread adoption of sustainable practices and award the innovative work already being done on campuses, many colleges and Universities have adopted systems to recognize the achievement of faculty, students, and departments in sustainability. The University of Washington is one such example, where they award “Husky Green Awards.” They describe this system:

 *The Husky Green Awards are sponsored by the*[*UW Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC)*](https://green.uw.edu/esc)*and are made possible by the 2008 Senior Class Gift for Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability. The awards are the only recognition program at the University which recognize a commitment to sustainability.*

*Winners are presented with an award made from recycled glass, and the UW Botanic Gardens plant 10 plants in each winner's honor.*

The “Green Room Certification” here at the University of Iowa is a program which gives a certificate to recognize students with residence hall rooms who have adopted sustainable practices. In that same vein, this project will focus on developing an award system that focuses on many facets of sustainability and help drive competition at the University.

Some things to consider: Will there be different award categories (energy efficiency, waste reduction, academics, etc.)? What are the criteria? Who decides? Will you recruit judges from across the University, or will the Office of Sustainability be the primary reviewer? How many will be awarded to students, faculty, or departments? What will the prize(s) be? Will there be an annual or semester based recognition? How will you inform people of this competition to ensure widespread involvement? Will you be “scoring” the candidates? How will you ensure equitable, fair award systems? Will there be a nomination process that allows individuals to make nominations?

**Helpful Materials:**

2019 Husky Green Award Winners, University of Washington <https://green.uw.edu/hga19>

Campus Sustainability Awards, University of Colorado <https://www.colorado.edu/ecenter/greening-cu/campus-sustainability/campus-sustainability-awards>

**Desired Outcomes:**

* An awards program proposal designed in a written document with clear criteria for nominations, a delineated nomination process, guidelines for ensuring equity, scoring criteria, the type of award, whether there will be an event, and a structure for ensuring the awards are annual/semesterly. If someone chooses, they may want to work with the Office to have a page on the website to draw attention to the awards and describe what they are and how to earn them.

**Potential Collaborators/Stakeholders:**

* **Office of Sustainability and the Environment** (can guide project focus and help acquire data students determine to be important)
* **Academic Departments/Colleges**

**Evaluation:** Based upon successful consideration of background questions and delivery of desired outcomes.

**Course Relevance:** Intro to Sustainability, Web Design, Event Planning