Sustainability
The 21st Century's Greatest Imperative

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Loss
- Urbanization & Population Growth
- Pollution
- Clean Energy
- Economic Development
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Social Justice & Equity
- Environmental Stewardship

Mr. Will Allen -- Urban Farmer, Founder of Growing Power, & Sustainability Entrepreneur
What Would a Sustainable Future Look Like?

Environmental resources are conserved for both future human generations as well as non-human biota.

Economic development occurs not at the expense of the natural environment, but in a way to mitigate ecological costs and impacts.

Equity – social, economic, and environmental justice – governs the process of sustainable development.

Hiking Northerly Island, 2011  
(photo by L. Bryson)
Sustainability at Roosevelt
Off to a Running Start Since 2010

Sustainable Buildings & Operations

- Wabash Building
- Goodman Center
- Schaumburg Campus Redevelopment

Academic Innovation

- Sustainability Studies (BA, BPS) program launched Fall 2010
- Environmental Science Minor retooled in Fall 2012

Student Organizations & Activism

- RU Green (campus events)
- Net Impact (business and sustainability)
- RU Reforesting (conservation)
- RU Urban Pioneers (Schaumburg garden)
Sustainability at Roosevelt
Awards & Recognition in 2012-13

Campus Operations / Facilities

- LEED Gold: Wabash Building
- LEED Silver: Goodman Athletic Center
- Tree Campus USA for RU Schaumburg
- Green Innovation / Green School award from USGBC
- Green College selection by Princeton Review

Academics

- Real Estate grad students win 2013 Eisenberg competition
- RU Reforesting travels to Tanzania to do environmental conservation
- SUST students win prestigious NSF research fellowship, garner local internships, write for SUST blog
Sustainability beyond the Campus
Connecting Curriculum to Community

Address real-world problems & challenges

Empower students through research, field experiences, & service learning

Advance sustainable development & social justice

Integrate, enhance, & develop academic programs & partnerships
Sustainability Studies Program at RU

- **Fosters environmental literacy** through interdisciplinary work in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities;
- **Engages public policy** concerns surrounding consumption, energy usage, and viable economic growth;
- **Explores social justice** issues on a range of fronts, including environmental justice, resource allocation, urban development, and social equity;
- **Educates students to be leaders** on issues of sustainability, one of the critical issues of the 21st century.
Sustainability Studies Curriculum

Core Courses
SUST 210  Sustainable Future
SUST 220  Water
SUST 230  Food
SUST 240  Waste

Advanced Courses
SUST 310  Energy & Climate Change
SUST 320  Sprawl, Transportation, & Planning
SUST 330  Biodiversity
SUST 340  Policy, Law, & Ethics

Special Options
SUST 350  Service & Sustainability
SUST 390  Special Topics
SUST 395  Internship
SUST Curriculum Features

Crosscutting Themes

- Science and Environmental Literacy
- Environmental and Social Justice
- Urban and Suburban Systems

Pedagogical Highlights

- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Field Trip Experiences
- Service Learning Opportunities
- F2F, Online, and Hybrid Classes
Mapping Schaumburg's Biodiversity (Schaumburg Biodiversity Plan, 2004)
Suburban Sustainability: Greening RU's Schaumburg Campus

Sustainable landscape plan: native plants, prairie plots, walking paths, orchard, urban farm

Water conservation strategies: bioswales, cisterns, rain gardens, pervious paving

Outdoor education / recreation: experimental wetland restoration, native plant gardens, RUrbanPioneers community garden, greenhouse, EcoSpace courtyard

Academics + Community Engagement:

Schaumburg's Sustainable Future student-authored [website and blog]
Soil Service Day at RU's Schaumburg Campus, 20 April 2013
Sustainable Landscape Plan for RU's Schaumburg Campus, August 2013
Prescribed burn of detention pond/wetland (April 2011)
Prairie restoration at detention pond (Fall 2012)
Research, Field Experiences, & Service Learning

RU students and Friends of the Chicago River canoe trip (October 2011)
Canoeing Bubbly Creek on Chicago's South Side (May 2009)
Canoeing the North Branch, Morton Grove IL (Oct 2012)
Research, Field Experiences, & Service Learning

Testing the water quality of the Chicago River's North Branch (May 2010)
Research, Field Experiences, & Service Learning

Visiting Angelic Organics Farm / Learning Center in Caledonia IL (July 2012)
Learning about sustainable design at the CCGT, Chicago IL (Feb. 2011)
Research, Field Experiences, & Service Learning

Hauling trash out of Bubbly Creek on a service field trip (Feb. 2013)
SUST 350 Service & Sustainability / Spring 2013
Action Research Projects for the Chicago Lights Urban Farm

Sustainable Development & Social Justice
Bennett Institute for Real Estate student team: Winners of the 2013 Eisenberg Foundation Midwest Real Estate Challenge
Integrating & Enhancing RU's Academic Programs through Sustainability

- Sustainability Studies
- Biology & Chemistry
- Bennett Institute of Real Estate
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Environmental Science
- Mansfield Institute for Social Justice
Building Community Partnerships in Sustainability

Field Museum of Natural History

Friends of the Chicago River

Growing Power / Chicago Lights

Chicago Architecture Foundation

Chicago Wilderness

Center for Humans & Nature
Forging Academic Partnerships through Sustainability (and more!)

WCC's Plano Campus
(photo: Jim Steinkamp)

RU's Chicago Campus
(photo: RU Public Relations)
Community College / University Partnerships

Connecting urban, suburban, and rural communities and ecosystems through academic collaborations and transfer agreements
At the End: It's about the Student Experience

SUST students and Growing Power / Chicago Lights staff & interns at the Chicago Lights Urban Farm in Cabrini-Green (May 2012)

Two SUST majors who've made huge impacts on RU: Kenton Franklin (BPS 2012) and Troy Withers (BPS 2013)