**Project Title:** Sustainability Policy Statements for Campus Organizations

**Description:** Work with student organizations to develop sustainability statements for their constitution or with campus departments to refine or create sustainability statements to align with organizational goals.

**Background:** University of Iowa Student Government (UISG) recently developed a “Sustainable Purchasing Guide” for student organizations. The guide provided best practices for purchases of food, advertising, decorations and supplies, t-shirts and apparel, and emphasized recycling and composting. This guide provides a helpful framework for developing a policy with student organization leaders. If you choose the student organization route, be ready to strategize and think about the following questions:

* How will you contact student organizations? Is the best approach tailored to each student organization, or would a workshop hosting multiple be most effective? Is there a minimum support of sustainable practices? Will you help create a leadership description for a sustainability executive position? How prescriptive will your recommended policies be? After meeting with student organization leaders, what was your final statement(s)? If you created a general sustainability statement, how was it received, who adopted it, and what did the policy specify? Which practices did you adopt from the UISG guide, if any, in the statement? What are the benefits of having a written policy for student organizations? How can you make sure student organizations follow through on these policies?

You might instead be interested in identifying departments or units on campus without a sustainability statement or working with a department to update an existing sustainability policy. You may want to identify several before deciding on one or two to work with. Why? Campus departments are very busy and have to deal with many priorities at once; it is important to be respectful of the fact that this will require time from them. Compared to a student organization policy statement, this may also take more time and better suited to a semester long project. What the sustainability statement focuses on may vary by department. In any case, consider some of the above questions when working with your department managers/leaders. Also consider: what focus areas make sense for this organization? Where can the biggest impacts be made?

**Helpful Resources:** UISG Sustainable Purchasing Guide for Student Organizations, <https://uisg.uiowa.edu/assets/SustainablePurchasingGuide-v3.pdf>

**Potential Collaborators/Stakeholders:**

Office of Sustainability and the Environment

Student Organizations

Campus Departments

**Desired Outcomes:** A codified, agreed upon statement(s) for a student organization or campus department. Considerate consultation with partner organization/department. A written report on the process of developing a statement, explaining the statement, and answering some of the above questions in the Background.

**Evaluation:** Was a statement successfully implemented? If not, what did you learn in the process of drafting statements and consulting with departments? Did you adequately explain the motivation for your statements, or specific goals included in them? Will you need to update the statement in the future? Did you develop a plan for gaging performance? Did you answer the questions in a concise, well-written report? Is the report written to help future groups develop statements?

**Relevant Courses/Course Areas:**

Intro to Sustainability (GEOG/BUS/URP/SUST 2013)