

# **Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change: An Integrated USM Initiative**

**October 11, 2007**

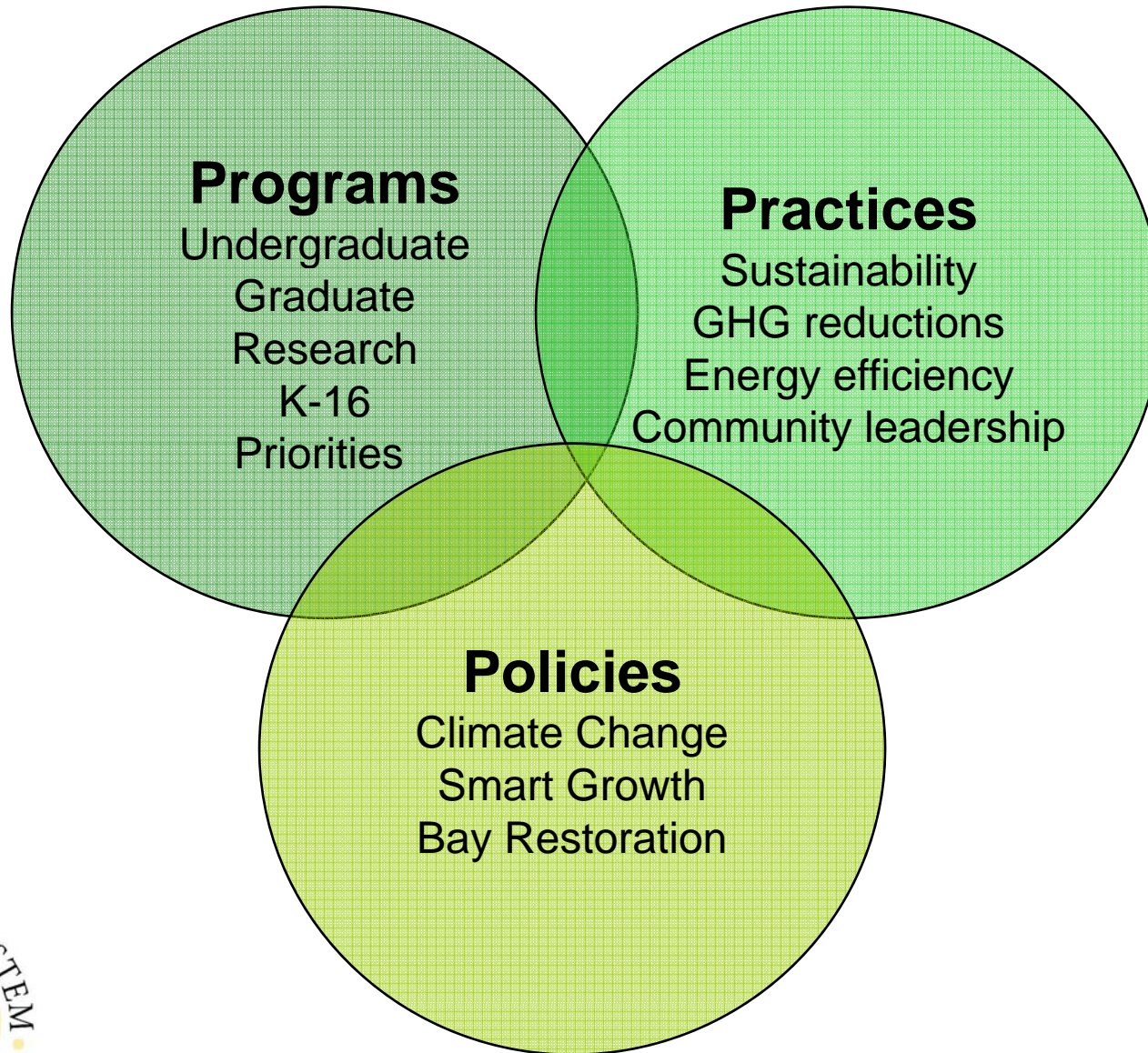


# Environmental Sustainability: Including Global Climate Change

The objective of this initiative is to **focus, accelerate and integrate the University System of Maryland's contributions to environmental sustainability in the 21st century, particularly society's response to the challenge of global climate change.**



# Three Integrated Pillars Concept



# Policies

**Facilitate the effective contribution of USM expertise to the development and implementation of public policies that ensure environmental sustainability.**



# Policies

- State Commission on Climate Change
  - Statewide goals and working groups
- Chesapeake Bay Restoration
- Maryland Smart Growth
- USM leadership and expertise
  - Research and policy development



# Programs

**Focus and enhance instructional and research programs that provide the human resources and knowledge required for environmental sustainability.**



# Programs

- Curricular offerings for undergrads
- Specialized graduate programs
- Web-based research inventory
- Systemwide coordinating body (research and instruction)
- Attracting/enhancing Federally supported research funding



# Practices

**Undertake two parallel tracks of activities, one at the System level and one at individual institutions. Tailor mitigation efforts to the steps recommended by the ACUPCC.**





# Practices: Integrated Response

- System-wide efforts
- Institutional efforts
- Coordination activities



# Practices: System-wide

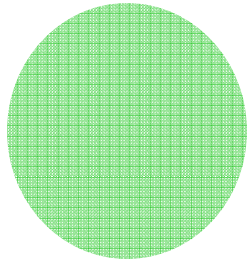
- USM Strategic Plan
  - Greenhouse gas emissions/carbon footprint reduction
  - State Climate Change Commission findings
- System-wide Workgroups
- Mechanisms for accountability
- Implementation, reporting, evaluating, updating



# Practices: System-wide (cont'd)

- Coordinated response
  - System office
  - Institutions
  - System-wide Councils
    - SHRC
    - Admin. VPs
    - Students
    - State relations
    - Others
- System office coordination
  - All units involved





# Practices: Institutional

- If not already, sign the ACUPCC
- Integrate GHG emission reduction & carbon footprint strategies into Strategic Plan
- Committee or taskforce (with adequate staff support and top-down leadership) dedicated to Sustainability & Climate Change Mitigation
- Take immediate steps, including
  - Inventory of GHG emissions
  - Target date and interim milestones
  - Immediate (short-term) actions in identified areas



# Practices: Institutional (cont'd)

- Integrate climate change mitigation and smart growth in the Facilities Master Plan
  - (More on this later today)
- Create mechanisms for institutionalization and accountability
- Prepare budget requests (capital & operating) that reflect GHG reduction plan
  - Organizational costs
  - Operating-scale improvements and capital projects related to climate change
- Implement, report, evaluate and update





# Practices: Coordination

- Capital programs
  - Master planning
  - Construction & renovation
- Human resources/SHRC
  - Telecommuting & flextime
  - Union contracts
- Procurement
  - Construction materials
  - New equipment



# Practices: Coordination (cont'd)

- Finance
  - Relations with Wall Street/bond rating agencies
- Budget (operating & capital)
- Planning & Accountability
- Education & research



# Practices: Coordination (cont'd)

- Public Affairs
  - Website
  - Updates on progress & new projects
- Advancement
  - Private foundation grants
- State relations
- Board of Regents
  - Policy changes





# Discussion

