

Sustainability director ready to build partnerships, promote stewardship

Sustainability projects at Purdue have a devoted champion.

Robin Ridgway became the campus's director of sustainability and environmental stewardship in late 2008.

"In her role, Robin will lead, coordinate and contribute to sustainability initiatives throughout the University community in support of New Synergies goals," says Robert McMains, vice president for physical facilities.

Ridgway is a natural for the job. She has served as a technical resource for alternative energy projects at Wade Utility Plant as well as helped to form Purdue's Sustainability Council, for which she serves as chair.

Now, Ridgway hopes to act as a channel for sustainability ideas across campus.

"There are times when someone looking at a project is just thinking about going to completion, and they may not be thinking about how it works into the larger picture of energy, water or resource stewardship here at the University," she says. "I see one part of my role as helping people to see that bigger picture."

"Another part is helping people get connected across the Univer-



PHOTO BY MARK SIMONS

Robin Ridgway is helping to lead Purdue's sustainability efforts as the director of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Ridgway is standing in front of Boiler No. 1 at the Wade Utility Plant. Boiler No. 1 will be replaced by a clean-coal technology circulating fluidized bed boiler.

sity to achieve their sustainability projects. For instance, the green roof project at Schleman Hall involved connecting students from the Boiler Green Initiative with Physical Facilities, and then Physical Facilities with researchers."

In addition, Ridgway acts as a point person for upper-level administrators who have questions about or would like to discuss sustainability initiatives.

Ridgway is excited about the progress being made on campus, including campus-wide utility metering, Qualified Energy Savings projects in Brown Laboratory of Chemistry and Stewart Center, and the inclusion of storm water management within the development of the Mackey Arena expansion.

She also mentions a project under way at Wade Utility Plant involving the installation of two

For more information

Questions about sustainability can be directed to Robin Ridgway at www.purdue.edu/sustainability. The Web site also has an option to join an e-mail list to receive updates on Purdue's sustainability initiatives.

new cleaner-burning boilers. The Board of Trustees in July approved a project to prepare for the installation of the natural gas-fired Boiler No. 7 and the purchase of a clean-coal technology circulating fluidized bed Boiler No. 6 to replace the existing 49-year-old Boiler No. 1.

In addition, Ridgway says the Sustainability Council will be developing a sustainability strategic plan for the University to be unveiled on Earth Day 2010 (April 22).

"What excites me about sustainability at Purdue is that the University is focused on what we can do right now to reduce our impact on the environment while at the same time it is generating new ideas that will likely have a profound impact on society in the long term," Ridgway says.

Green Week 2009 set for Sept. 21-25

Purdue will sponsor its second Green Week on Sept. 21-25 to raise environmental awareness on campus and in Greater Lafayette.

Similarly to last year's event, each day of Green Week will have a theme: Monday, reduce, reuse, recycle; Tuesday, water; Wednesday, energy; Thursday, transportation; and Friday, environmental stewardship. There will be opportunities for students, faculty and staff, and community members to participate throughout the week.

More details and a list of events are available at www.purdue.edu/sustainability.

Gatewood building on its way to LEED certification

The Roger B. Gatewood Wing addition to the Mechanical Engineering Building is being constructed as the University's first building certified in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program



of the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED establishes standards for new construction that support the ecosystem and promote a healthy work environment. The standards are in six categories — sustainable building site, water efficiency, energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas production, building materials and resource efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and design innovation.

Depending upon a building's

adherence to these standards, it may receive platinum, gold, silver or LEED-certified status.

"Every credit or initiative in LEED construction is carefully planned and thoroughly documented," says Luci Keazer, a LEED-accredited engineer in the Office of the University Architect. Keazer says Purdue was originally planning for certified or silver certification, but now a gold rating looks possible.

The Gatewood building has several features that earn LEED points in the category of sustainable building site:

- Development density and community connectivity: The new building is being constructed on previously developed land within a half-mile of a residential zone and

within a half-mile of at least 10 basic services that are accessible by pedestrians. These include banks, a fire station, library, restaurants, place of worship, and fitness and community centers.

- Alternative transportation: Bicycle storage and changing rooms. The new building will feature exterior bike racks, lockers, and men's and women's shower rooms.

- Alternative transportation: Parking capacity. Selected parking spaces in the Northwestern Avenue Parking Garage are to be reserved for carpools.

- Alternative transportation: Low emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles. Selected parking spaces in the Northwestern Avenue Parking Garage are to be reserved for hybrids.