

GOALS for Sustainability

GOALS for Sustainability – (Generating Original Active Learning in Soccer for Sustainability)



The PA:SS Project

PA:SS (Promoting Awareness: Sports and Sustainability)

Guiding Concept: Developing a sports action curriculum and presentation to promote sustainability principles as analogies to core principles in team sports

Applicants:

Project Leader: Professor Scott Benjamin

Project Coordinator: Jake Beverlin Assistant Men's Soccer Coach

ABSTRACT

Sports and Sustainability share many core concepts. Concepts dealing with energy use, fairness, natural resources and efficiency, are core principles of both team sports and environmental sustainability. The PA:SS for GOALS project allows BHCC athletes to develop an action based, curriculum to teach the principles of sustainability as analogy to principles in sports. The project has two main projects.

Project 1 – Develop and deliver a Sports, Skill and Sustainability Action Clinic. BHCC player will deliver soccer clinics to local middle schools and youth soccer programs, as well as BHCC students. Clinics correlate soccer skills with sustainability principles - teaching concepts of like personal energy resources as natural resources; storages and flows in carbon cycles as passing connections between teammates. Local partners, including America Scores, a literacy through sports program in Boston; Charlestown Youth soccer; and the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown; will provide youth audiences. BHCC athletics and sustainability club will assist to organize Action Awareness Clinics from BHCC students. The presenters will also research sustainable options for athletics at BHCC. Topics may include uniforms and equipment from recycled materials, developing ride sharing schedules for practice, water conservation on fields. These topics can be used as part of their curriculum or public presentations (see Project 2).

Project 2 – PA:SS Demonstrations. Athletes will develop and deliver a short public, awareness, presentation that demonstrates soccer skills as analogies to sustainability. Topics could include ideas such as conservation of resources, equity and fairness; and energy efficiency. This is something akin to a Harlem Globetrotters skills display that will relate soccer principles to concepts of sustainability. Demonstrations will be organized in collaboration with the BHCC Sustainability Club and will be delivered to our students at Earth day or other events. Presentations will be made into a short video message used for promoting sustainability here at BHCC and hopefully be used to highlight the project for national conferences.

Project 3 – “Goal for the World – Sustainability” Video Project

This idea was inspired by our speaker for Professional Development Day, who showed a short video of a wombat talking about sustainability and encouraged us to think of creative and big ideas. Using the concepts developed from the PA:SS activity, including video from demonstrations and clinics. The project coordinator and PA:SS captains will develop a 2 to 5 minute video illustrating ideas of sustainability through examples in soccer. This will be a fast action, eye catching and unique video that will stress, global cooperation, and ecological connections. The final video (which will be developed using BHCC resources in the TLiTC, can be used by the PA:SS project itself, the Sustainability Club, BHCC classes and will hopefully be of quality to be shown at conferences, and even larger venues such as Youtube to garner awareness and demonstrate BHCC’s commitment to sustainability

Project Significance

Many core principles of team sports equate strongly with core principles of sustainability. Teaching principles of sustainability through active engagement in sports is a fun and original pathway to awareness. This method has potential to interest and reach audiences that typical environmental curricula do not. Soccer in particular, with its global appeal and interest, has the potential to act as a medium to spark interest and facilitate understanding of sustainability in many populations, including international students, and underserved minority and immigrant populations. These populations typically have fewer opportunities to learn about sustainability. A program like this will facilitate learning for local youth populations, larger numbers of BHCC students; as well as create more community visibility for BHCC from sustainability standpoint. With the help of the Sustainability Club – presentations and workshops for our own, very soccer oriented international, population, will be an exciting avenue to increase awareness of our own students. With presentations and workshops we could potentially reach many more students than the development of a typical sustainability unit in a course. There are no other programs like this. Developing a pilot program could potentially have greater impact, transferring to other sports programs at the college, or attract national attention. The activities described would directly facilitate the college goal to “raise institutional and individual awareness of and commitment to the responsible use of natural resources.” Our goal is to reach over 200 middle school and BHCC students.

Project Plan

During the spring semester of 2011 PA:SS personnel will develop an active learning curriculum and a demonstrations that can be used to teach principles of sustainability. Contacting and coordinating with the BHCC sustainability club the project staff will organize and schedule two to three demonstrations to take place at BHCC. For example, demonstrations could be organized for Earth Day, Spring Day and one during the fall semester. During spring and fall semesters, PA:SS personnel will schedule 3-4 youth clinics with local groups. One to two clinics will also be scheduled for BHCC students. These may connect to the presentations mentioned. Using footage from the PA:SS demonstrations the group will develop an informational video to promote environmental awareness through sport. This will be completed by the fall semester.

Project Personnel

Project Leader (1) – Oversee the project, provide curriculum development guidance, develop assessmentsurvey, facilitate and coordinate with local youth groups and BHCC clubs and classes. Also the project leader will be the main person involved developing the Goal for the World video

Project Coordinator (1) – Organize, schedule and facilitate meetings with BHCC athletes for curriculum development. Schedule clinics with local youth groups. Collect, organize and analyze, surveys, data

related to numbers of participants, worksheets, and other materials used in clinics and presentations. Provide progress reports to project leader. Oversee time sheet collection for stipends to PA:SS Captains.

Project Personnel Cont'd

PA:SS Captains (2 to 3)– Student leaders for PA:SS clinics and demonstrations. PA:SS Captains will:

- 1) – act as lead researchers in curriculum development. Researching facts, and information that will be used as part of clinics and presentations
- 2) – attend bi-weekly meetings to develop PA:SS curricula
- 3) - manage and deliver Action Awareness Clinics for youth and BHCC students
- 4) - act as demonstration MCs
- 5) – administer and collect awareness surveys
- 6) – assist in the analysis and reporting of pre and post awareness surveys

PA:SS Presenters (4 to 5) – These are other students that will assist leaders in presentations and demonstrations. PA:SS Presenters will:

- 1) – attend three workshops to learn how to implement PA:SS curriculum and presentations
- 2) – assist in clinics
- 3) – perform in demonstrations
- 4) – assist in the administration and collection of awareness surveys

Enhancements of Student Outcomes

This project designed to reach a broader population than a typical classroom project or course. The students who will be actively involved in developing the curriculum and presenting clinics (PA:SS Captains, and PA:SS presenters) will have the most intense connections with learning about sustainability. As they research and teach the curriculum themselves they will develop a deeper understanding and hopefully, a commitment to future advocacy for the environment. It is hypothesized that the novelty, and action, surrounding the curriculum in the clinics and presentations, will facilitate new awareness in youth and BHCC students that participate. We believe that these activities for the participants, and presenters alike will be memorable and contribute to an overall awareness of sustainability issues we face. The final video product as well can help promote sustainability. It can be shown in classes and at conferences and meetings.

Statement on Assessment Plan

This project is not designed for a typical classroom activity; so assessment will follow a survey format.

Effectiveness of Action Clinics - As part of the project the PA:SS personnel will develop a ten question sustainability awareness survey. This quick survey is to be administered pre and post PA:SS clinics or if we have smaller presentations audiences. Changes in pre and post surveys will be analyzed to judge the effectiveness of this active learning style.

Effectiveness of PA:SS Presentations - Given the nature of a presentation to an audience in a gym or field pre and post measures are not practical for larger presentations. For larger groups a different 5 to 10 question survey including questions based upon a Likert scale will be developed. This tool will be administered after the presentation.

Assessment for PA:SS Captains and Presenters - The 7 to 10 PA:SS Captains and Presenters are BHCC students. They will be required to write a two to three page reflection discussing how the participation in the project helped them learn about sustainability and how it may influence their future perspectives on teaching and advocating for sustainable ideas.

Our target goal for clinics and presentations is 200 people (youth and BHCC students combined). We may exceed this goal. Last year, we worked a one day clinic with America Scores at BHCC and had over 150 kids at one session. If presentations at BHCC are well attended we could reach 50 – 100 students

Budget worksheets

Personnel Stipends

Project Leader -	\$500
Project Coordinator -	\$400
PA:SS Captains -	\$700 (2 @ \$350)
PA:SS Presenters	\$700 (max) (\$20 per presentation or clinic x 5 presenters x 5-7 presentations - clinics)
TOTAL	\$2300

Materials

Books, paper, flyers, handouts, copies, thumb-drive **\$250**

Total Budget = \$2,550