



UNLV

Urban Sustainability Initiative

Presentation to General Education Committee

Ron Smith, Ph.D.

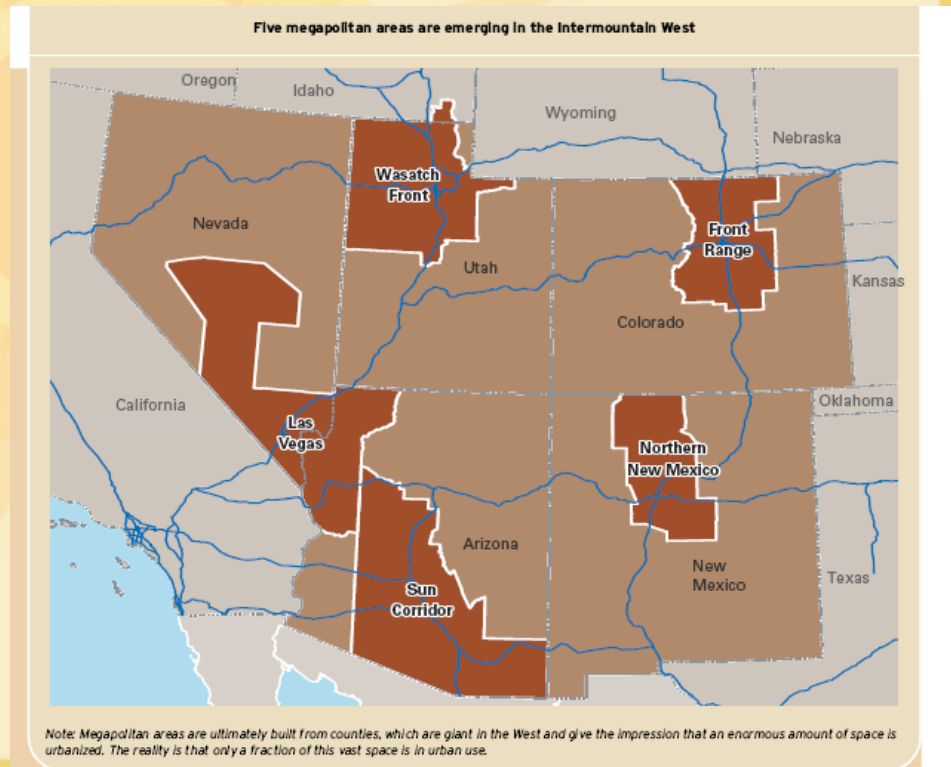
Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate College
USI Founding Executive Director
Professor of Sociology

Thomas Piechota, Ph.D., P.E

Director of Sustainability and Multidisciplinary Research
Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Drivers & Regional Challenges

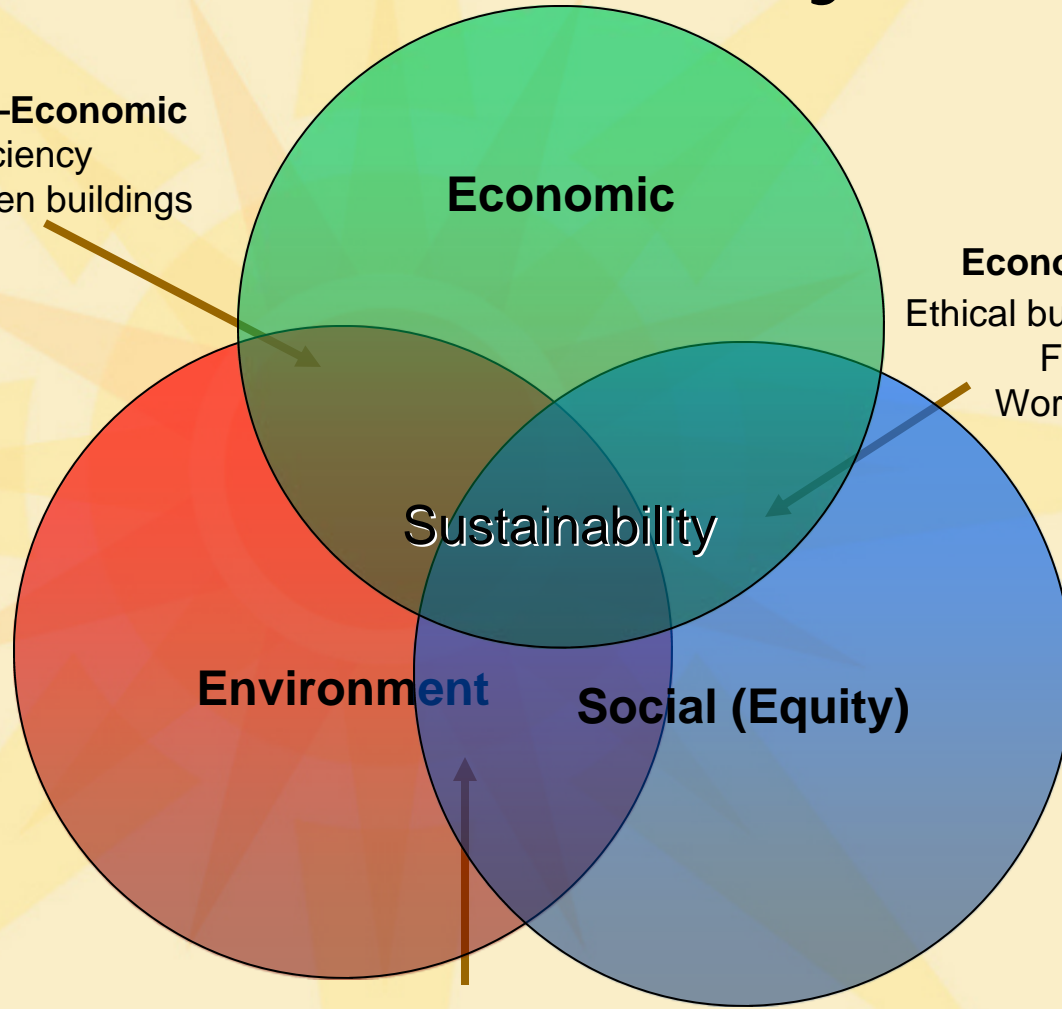
- Climate Change
- Growth of intermountain west
- Challenges
 - Infrastructure
 - Innovation
 - Human Capital
 - **Quality Places**



What is Sustainability?

***“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”
(Brundtland Report, 1987)***

Environmental—Economic
Energy efficiency
Incentives for green buildings



Economic—Social
Ethical business practices
Fair trade
Worker's rights

Environmental—Social
Environmental justice
Stewards of the environment

Adapted from the 2002 University of Michigan Sustainability Assessment



USI Mission

To reach out and collaborate with faculty, students, community groups, and national/international leaders in finding solutions for the quality of life challenges confronting the Las Vegas metropolitan area, Nevada, the Southwest, the nation, and world.

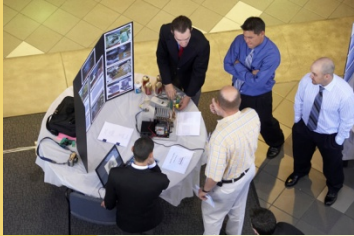
USI Goals

- Facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative activity
- Promote sustainability education
- Conduct targeted outreach to community and beyond
- Encourage campus sustainability

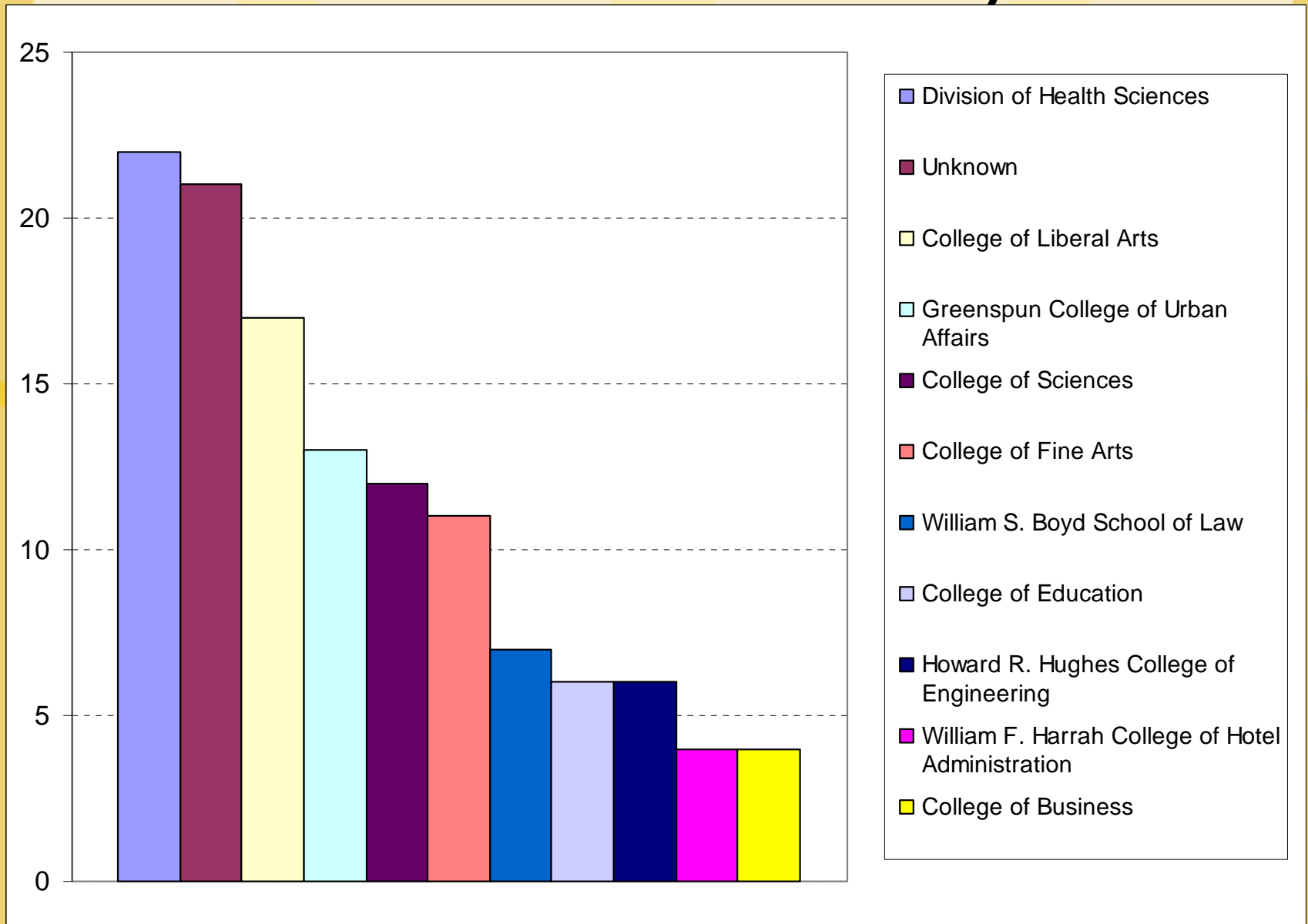


USI Support

- Faculty-Staff Advisory Committee
- Division of Research and Graduate Studies
- Community Partners
- Faculty Scholarship across units
- UNLV 50-100 Strategic Plan
- Students



USI Listserv Faculty





Research and Support



➤ Graduate Students

- Amanda Williams - Geoscience (Ph.D)
- Mark Salvaggio - Sociology (Ph.D.)
- Evgeina “Jessie” Bydanova - Economics (M.A.)



➤ Urban21 Seed Grants

➤ Undergraduate Researchers working with UNLV Recycling Center



Community Outreach

- ULI-USI Integrated Resource Management Roundtable
- National Clean Energy Summit (Aug 2008)
- Brookings Institution Roundtable (Oct 2008)
- Climate Change Conference (Mar 2009)
- North American Energy Roundtable (Mar 2009)

Campus Sustainability Efforts

President's Climate Commitment Statement

- **Campus Recycling Efforts**



- **Xeriscape Environments**



- **LEED Certified Facilities**



Education Efforts



- Connections to student organizations & student-sponsored events
- Undergraduate and graduate curricular changes
- Internships
- Conferences and seminars

Examples of UNLV Undergraduate Courses

ENV 101	Environmental Science	3
ENV 206	Introduction to Climate Change	3
ENV 430	Land Use Management	3
GEOL 110	Global Warming	3
GEOL 303	Global Environmental Change	3
CEM 350	Facility Systems Design and Construction 1	3
CEM 351	Facility Systems Design and Construction 2	3
CEM 480	Sustainable Construction	3
CEE 454	Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering	3
CEE 795	Climate Change	3
AAE 330	Design With Climate	3
AAL 330	Design With Climate	3
ABS 331	Environment Control Systems 1	3
PSC 403D	Global Environmental Politics	3
SOC 407	Environment and Society	3
GEOG 116	Introduction to Oceanography	3
GEOG 140	Conversations With Earth	3

Other Programs/Resources

- Undergrad and Graduate Programs
- Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

The screenshot shows the AASHE website homepage. At the top, the AASHE logo is displayed with the tagline "Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education". A navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, About AASHE, Programs, Professional Development, Resource Center, Membership, Business Partnerships, Contact Us, FAQs, Member Login, and Search. A "SUBSCRIBE TO AASHE BULLETIN" button is located below the menu. The main content area features a large banner for "AASHE2008" with the text "Thank you for coming!" and "2ND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE & EXPO NOVEMBER 9-11 RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA". Below the banner is a section titled "AASHE 2008 Conference & Expo" with a brief description and a link to view photos and blog posts. To the right, there is a "Member Spotlight" section featuring a photo of students at Pomona College and a description of their sustainability initiatives. Below the spotlight are "Top Resources" including links to the AASHE Digest 2007, Academic Programs in Sustainability, AASHE Bulletin, ACUPCC Reporting Tool, and Campus Sustainability Profiles. At the bottom left, there is a "Campus Sustainability Perspectives" section with a "Recent Posts" list, including an article about clean renewable energy bonds used to fund wind turbines at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

AASHE Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Home
About AASHE
Programs
Professional Development
Resource Center
Membership
Business Partnerships
Contact Us
FAQs
Member Login
Search

AASHE Features

AASHE2008
Thank you for coming!
2ND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE & EXPO
NOVEMBER 9-11
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

AASHE 2008 Conference & Expo
Over 1,700 people turned out for AASHE's second national conference. The conference featured 400 presentations, compelling keynotes, exhibits, campus tours, and lots of fun. View the conference website or View photos and blog posts uploaded by participants

Announcements

- [AASHE Seeks Applicants for Business Manager Position](#)
- [AASHE Seeks Applicants for STARS Program Manager Position](#)
- [AASHE Holds Largest Campus Sustainability Gathering](#)
- [AASHE Announces Campus and Student Sustainability Award Winners](#)
- [ACUPCC Reporting Tool Now Accepting GHG Reports](#)
- [AASHE Announces New Member Discounts on Sustainability: the Journal of Record, Sustainable](#)

Program Highlights

[American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment](#)
An initiative addressing global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the research and educational needed to stabilize the earth's climate.

[Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability \(DANS\)](#)
A network of professional associations working on professionalizing sustainability research and teaching.

[Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium \(HEASC\)](#)
A network of higher education associations working to advance sustainability within the

Member Spotlight

Pomona College (Claremont, CA) is our current spotlight campus! Pomona College has made free CFL bulbs and dorm-sized drying racks available to all students, added a fleet of folding bikes, has a baseline waste diversion rate of over 60%, and composts all kitchen scraps at the student-run organic garden. [Learn more](#)

[Spotlight your campus](#)

Top Resources

- [AASHE Digest 2007](#)
- [Academic Programs in Sustainability](#)
- [AASHE Bulletin](#)
- [ACUPCC Reporting Tool](#)
- [Campus Sustainability Profiles](#)

Campus Sustainability Perspectives
News & Views from AASHE's Staff

Recent Posts

- Clean Renewable Energy Bonds Used to Fund Wind Turbines at the University of Minnesota-Morris

Sustainability and General Education Requirements

- About ¼ of universities in 2008 had some type of requirement (down from 1/3 in 2001)
- Require courses in
 - Environmental literacy along with..
 - Social responsibility or civic engagement requirement
- Infuse sustainability across curriculum
 - Aligned with writing and critical thinking across curriculum
 - Faculty support for development
 - Ponderosa Project (Northern Arizona University)
 - Discipline specific

Outreach – USI Website

<http://urban21.unlv.edu>

Urban Sustainability Initiative UNLV

University of Nevada, Las Vegas UNLV Urban 21 Search GO

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE HOME

- About Sustainability
- Conferences/Events
- UNLV Sustainability Efforts
- Sustainability Task Force
- Publications
- Resources
- Graduate Assistantships
- Internships

Contact Us

Challenges to Sustainability

With a predicted local population of 4 million in 2036 and 72 percent of Nevadans now living in the Las Vegas metro area, we have become a very urban state that faces many challenges if we are to achieve a sustainable community. These challenges include:

- economic growth and diversification
- labor training
- affordable housing
- water supply
- air quality
- traffic and congestion
- security and safety
- health care
- immigration
- the best use of land
- public places
- recreation
- and the list goes on

Blue Moon, Acrylic Painting, 4' x 5' by James B. Pink, Professor Emeritus, UNLV Art Department

Welcome

A grassroots effort has emerged among faculty and professional staff at UNLV to reach out and partner with the community in finding workable solutions to the challenges facing the Las Vegas metro area.

Our goal is for UNLV to play a major role in achieving a sustainable Las Vegas community with all its interrelated dimensions, including environmental, economic, and social/cultural sustainability. We view this initiative as one that is of vital importance to our students, faculty, and the entire community. We earnestly believe that the community is our campus. Together, not only can we change our community, but we can change it for the better.

Join our ListServ [more info »](#)

Apply for USI GA