

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College

Olympia, Washington 98505

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A group of students enrolled in the Environmental Design studies program at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, has received the green light from the institution's Board of Trustees to utilize a 7.2-acre section of campus property for an experimental housing structures academic project.

Goal of the project is the creation and maintenance of an ecologically-sound development that will provide Evergreen students with a long-term learning experience beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. The project will emphasize various facets of planning, designing, and constructing of non-permanent living structures.

Eleven students are involved in the project: Kathleen Baker of Vancouver, Washington; Bruce Bulloch of Bellevue; Bev Buttigan of Olympia; Kent Christman of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Tim Dougan of Erie, Pennsylvania; Peter Friedman of Enumclaw; Peter Lawson of Denver, Colorado; Lee McDonald of Bellevue; Jerrold Moos of Tacoma; Gary Norton of Endicott, New York; and Craig Stewart of Olympia.

Two faculty members--Phil Harding, an architect, and Chuck Nisbet, an economist--work with the students. Harding conceived the idea and has spent many hours helping the students get the project under way.

Students spearheading the project said in their report to the trustees: "By ecologically sound we mean using our scientific and technological skills to gain an understanding of the components and interrelationships of the ecosystem. Then, on the basis of this understanding, designing a development that is as much as possible in harmony with those components and interrelationships. We also intend this development to be a laboratory for experimental architectural design and community organization and management."

Dick Nichols, Director  
Information Services

The project is open-ended, in that work on the housing study program can be carried forward from year to year as new students enter the college and become interested in the planning, design, and construction effort. Initial construction work is scheduled to begin May 15 and be finished by next fall. Structures will be erected in cleared areas of the site which are not scheduled for college buildings and where disruptions of natural conditions will be minimized.

The seven acres of land is part of a 27.5-acre tract that serves as an ecological study site. Some 20.3 acres of land will be utilized for other kinds of academic work, including marine biology and study, research and monitoring of the effects of man on his environment by the Evergreen Environment Program and other groups.

The experimental housing project is one of several special tasks undertaken this year by the Environmental Design Coordinated Studies Program. Others include the design of a park for the City of Lacey, creation of a campus Organic Farm, and formation of the Cooper Point Association, a citizens group of students, faculty and community residents which is heavily involved in land-use planning studies of the area surrounding the college.

Work on the housing project began earlier in the school year when interested students and faculty conducted an intensive and thorough campus survey for a suitable construction site, drew maps and charts, built a contour land model, and completed an ecological survey. Spring Quarter activities include completion of a master plan for the seven-acre area, and the start of construction on at least one experimental housing unit. Work also includes studies into possible structural materials, and systems for water sewage, and power, as well as development of drawings and models for design of the first housing unit.

As explained by the students, the project "will use a master plan concept very similar to that of the college master plan. It will be open-ended, that is, the

plan will not be a static blueprint for development which is drawn and then strictly adhered to until the completion of the project. On the contrary, the blueprint may not be a correct interpretation of the situation the development will face or will create. Therefore, we intend to constantly evaluate what we are doing and planning so that we may be sensitive to and may make any changes that the situation dictates.

"This is an academic project. In our data gathering and decision making we will make use of the same structures and mechanisms that any other program would use, such as group meetings, seminars, group, and individual projects."

Students emphasized that activities of the project will be coordinated with Evergreen's office of Facilities Planning, other college staff, faculty, and the Board of Trustees.

The group planning the experimental structures project is not asking financial assistance from the college, but several alternatives for assistance are being pursued, including use of materials from structures being demolished elsewhere, grant funding, and through cooperation of the business community in the Northwest region. A portfolio is being produced to send to firms for assistance with the project.

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