Scrappy Sustainability

John Krygier
Geology & Geography / Environmental Studies
April 21, 2017

Scrappy Sustainability

No sustainability coordinator.

No courses or faculty focused on sustainability.

No sustainability plan (yet!).

No devoted budget for sustainability efforts.

Turn to

Voluntary collaboration (students, staff, faculty): Sustainability Task Force (STF).

Create and get support for a sustainability plan.

Course projects focused on sustainability.

Appropriate funds: SIP, Tipit, WCSA, Chartwells, etc.

Empowerment, Marginalization & Public Participation GIS

Varenius: NCGIA's Project to Advance Geographic Information Science

Delaware Recreational Trails Project 1999-2004

Students, Faculty, City Recreation Director, community members

Survey will help plan city recreational trails

OWU senior also planning cleanup of abandoned tracks

By MARGO BARTLETT
Features Editor

A handful of Delaware students took part last summer in a survey about their community. The two-part exercise had them plotting out neighborhoods and frequent destinations on a map, then sorting photographs according to preference.

Analysis of participants' responses will help determine perceived neighborhoods in Delaware, including safe areas and unsafe areas, said Ohio Wesleyan University senior Tim Hawthorne. The survey results will help the city of Delaware as it plans and builds multi-use recreational trails.

Hawthorne, who is working with OWU assistant professor John Krygier, became involved in the project in a geographic information systems class last year. Two grants have helped him pursue the study, which is his senior honors project.

The summer survey was a test, Hawthorne said; he plans a larger study later this year.

A Summer Science Research Program grant allowed Hawthorne, a geography major from Chillicothe, to continue his work through the summer. Last spring, Ohio Campus Compact named him one of four Ohio Student Citizen Fellows, a designation that included another grant, which he is applying this year for and the study.

He reported on the project at the national conference of the North America Cartographic Information Society, held in Columbus last month, and will give an updated presentation at a March conference in New Orleans.

Meanwhile, he's planning a cleanup of the 1.5-mile section of railroad track acquired in October in an agreement among the Ohio Rail Development Commission, CSX Transportation and the city of Delaware. The track will be converted to a multi-use trail.

The cleanup is planned for late February or early March. Hawthorne hopes to involve OWU students and organizations, along with community organizations and individuals.

Krygier said he students have worked closely with several Delaware city staff members and citizens as part of the project. The cooperation he's seen among the city, OWU and community members involved with the trails project is encouraging, he said.

"I think it's something everyone agrees is a positive thing," he said.

Delaware Parks and Recreation Director Randy Smith said OWU classes have been involved with Delaware's bikeway plans for at

Please see TRAILS, Page 3

Ohio Wesleyan University senior Tim Hawthorne, left, and OWU assistant professor John Krygier check a section of railroad track near South Sandusky Street that will be converted to a multi-use trail.

Henry Street Tunnel
ca. 2003

Research paper on
Rails to Trails

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com
ScienceDirect
Geoforum 39 (2008) 1058–1078
GEOFORUM
www.elsevier.com/locate/geoforum

Mapping ambivalence: Exploring the geographies of community change and rails-to-trails development using photo-based Q method and PPGIS

Timothy Hawthorne [a,*], John Krygier [b], Mei-Po Kwan [a]

[a] Department of Geography, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210-1361, USA
[b] Department of Geology and Geography, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH 43015, USA

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Abstract

As the literature on trail development suggests, recreational trail projects can generate conflicts and controversies, particularly when built on abandoned rail corridors through developed areas. These conflicts are often understood as "not in my back yard" (NIMBY) reactions, suggesting a spatial proximity to conflict which increases as one draws closer to the proposed trail. This research seeks to understand local residents' perceptions and reactions to recreational trail development in the City of Delaware (Ohio, USA). It addresses two spatially infused questions: Does the potential for conflict related to trail development increase as people live closer to a potential trail (the NIMBY factor)? Can important qualitative factors about favorable and unfavorable land uses including potential recreational trail sites be defined using a participatory methodology and then represented in GIS? The study used a mixed-method approach to collect and analyze qualitative data from a group of local residents. Each participant was interviewed and asked to sort 19 pictures related to trail development. After each of the sorts, participants were asked to explain why they ranked the pictures the way they did. Results of the picture sorts were then analyzed using Q method and mapped with GIS. The results show that spatial proximity matters in the context of trail development and potential NIMBY reactions to trails. Significant differences were found in the picture sorts that reveal the importance of proximity and location, although in a manner contrary to the assumptions in the writings on rails-to-trails. Through combining qualitative methods, Q analysis and PPGIS analysis, the research shows that qualitative place-based studies are capable of generating insights about the complexities of situated geographic change such as recreational trail development.
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Keywords: GIS; Qualitative method; Q method; PPGIS; Recreational trails; Ohio

Proposal for Environment & Sustainability Program (April 10, 2017)

Summary and Overview

An expanded Environmental Studies Program proposal was reviewed by affected Departments in the Fall of 2016. Costs include a $1000 budget for the proposed new Environmental Science major and three part time units and summer funding for assistance with developing and teaching the revised program's three core courses: ENVS 110 (new), ENVS 198/498 (new) and BOMI 233 (revised). Upon implementation of these changes, the impact on enrollment will be assessed and the potential of adding a three year position with associated courses and curriculum development will be considered.

Program → Environment & Sustainability

Majors → Environmental Studies Environmental Science

Change the program name of Environmental Studies to **Environment & Sustainability**

Environment & Sustainability Program to include **two majors each with its own Director:**

Maintain Environmental Studies major: Major to remain largely the same as current Environmental Studies major. A multidisciplinary major with a balance of courses from the social and natural sciences, humanities and arts. Maintain Environmental Studies minor. Remove 2nd major requirement.

Maintain Director of Environmental Studies position: Currently, John Krygier (Geology & Geography): Named by Provost and open to any OWU faculty member regardless of division. Maintain current budget ($1000). Maintain a steering committee for the major (currently three faculty members).

New Environmental Science major: A new major designed by OWU faculty, drawing from existing OWU courses and including the new courses described in this proposal. A multidisciplinary, stand-alone major with an emphasis on natural science courses.

New Director of Environmental Science position: A new position to be named by Provost. Position open to any OWU faculty member with a natural science degree. $1000 budget. Director will name a steering committee for the major (three faculty members).

New and modified courses. These courses will help maintain connections between students in the two majors and also connect new majors and senior majors (cornerstone and capstone experiences).

- *Required new course:* **ENVS 110: Introduction to Environment & Sustainability** (1 unit).
- *Required revised course:* **BOMI 233: Ecology and the Human Future** (1 unit).
- *Elective: Change course discipline & number:* **ENVS 399: Sustainability Practicum** (1 unit).
- *Elective new course:* **ENVS 493: Topics in Environment & Sustainability** (1 unit).
- *Elective new course:* **ENVS 494: Topics in Environment & Sustainability** (.5 unit):
- *Required new course:* **ENVS 198/498: Conversations: Toward a Sustainable Future** (0.25 unit, taken upon electing major [198] and senior [498] year).

Revised & Expanded
Environment & Sustainability Program

Persistent enthusiasm for sustainability projects at OWU. But...

It’s easy to start projects, but hard to make real things happen.

Lots of started projects, few completed.

It takes time. More than a semester, more than a year.

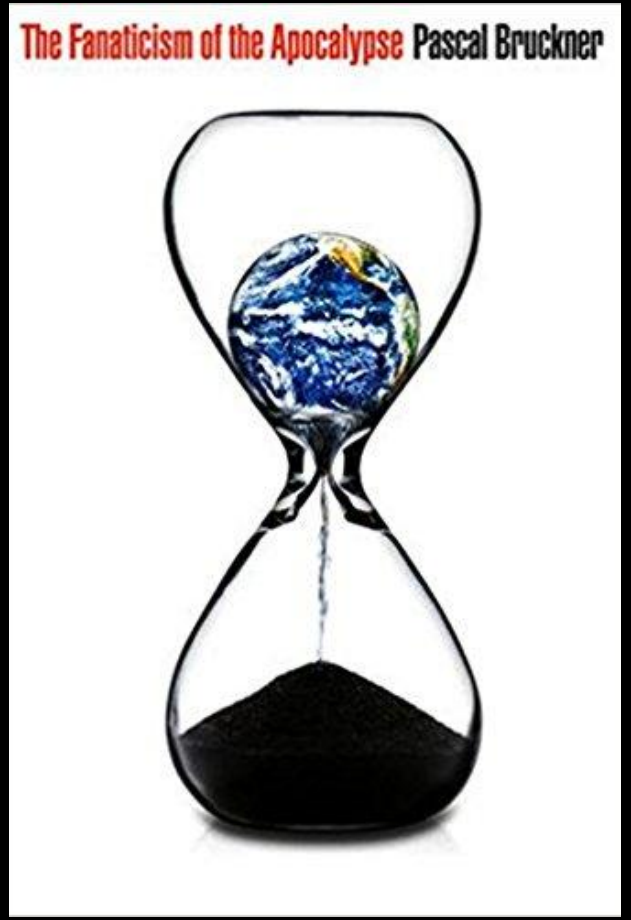
It costs money to make things happen (but can be relatively cheap)

It’s hard to sustain projects once established.

Success requires collaboration.

It’s easy to get pessimistic.

Individual action is largely ineffective.


The Fanaticism of the Apocalypse
Pascal Bruckner

Pessimism, or worse...

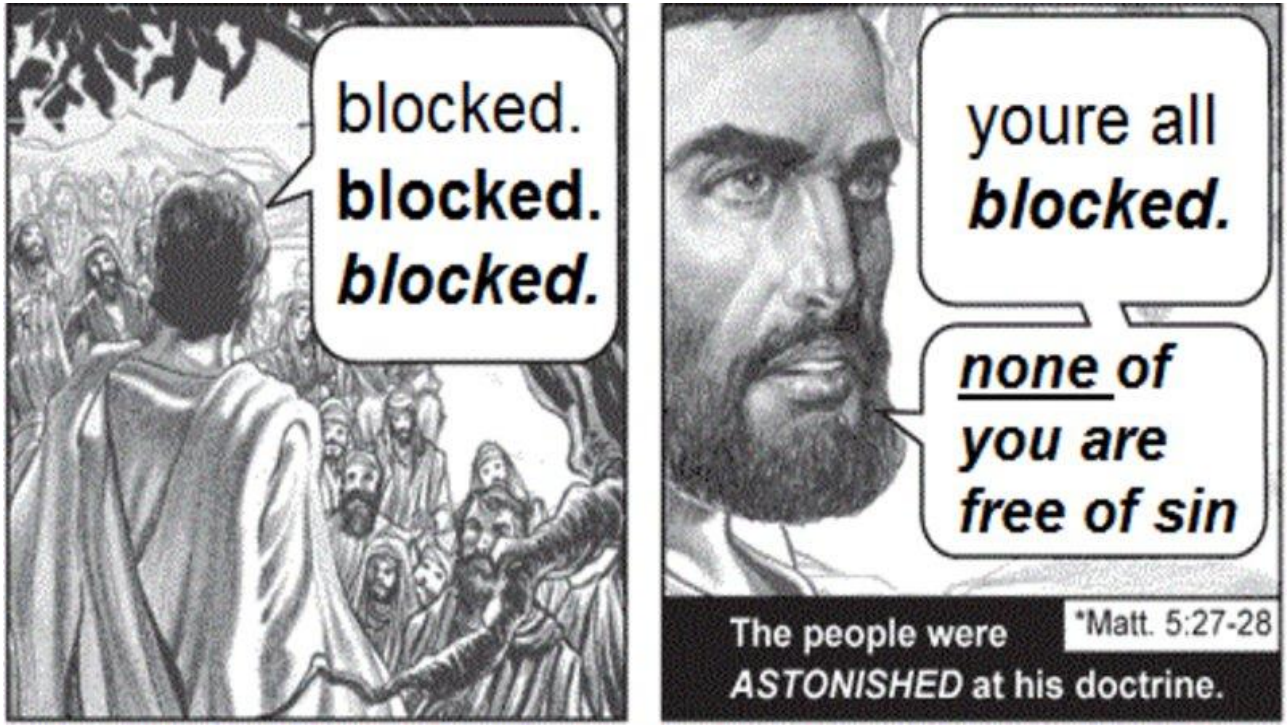
Pascal Bruckner, *The Fanaticism of the Apocalypse* (2013)

Humans are a cancer on the earth. We are invasive species. We are parasites. We are all going to die and we deserve it.

Our carbon footprint is “the gaseous equivalent of Original Sin, ...the stain that we inflict on Mother Gaia by the simple fact of being present and breathing…” (2)

“Western humanity has taken a sudden dislike for itself.” (2)

An era of ecological apocalyptic catastrophism.


blocked.
blocked.
blocked.
youre all
blocked.
none of you are free of sin
The people were *ASTONISHED* at his doctrine.
*Matt. 5:27-28

Pessimism, or worse

“Saving the world requires us to denigrate everything that has to do with the spirit of enterprise and the taste for discovery.” (15)

“A vision of the earth as an impoverished family that has to scrimp on everything in order to get along. A rehabilitation of meanness and stinginess.” (151)

“Ecology has a choice: declaring anti-humanism as its principle, celebrating rivers and forests the better to castigate human beings, or adopting an open anthropocentrism that embraces humanity, nature, and animals in general good will, so that no category suffers pointless harm.” (100)

Individual action is largely ineffective

We can't opt out of the system, we like the perks.

The message we hear: we are individually responsible for collective economic system impacts on the environment.

Cognitive dissonance: painless behavior (reusable grocery bags, recycling, etc.) that allows us to feel we are doing our part - and to avoid despair and pessimism.

"Individual solutions are insufficient or even counterproductive unless they contribute to structural changes, too." (Stoknes, p. 89)

What We Think About

When We Try Not To Think About Global Warming

Toward a **NEW PSYCHOLOGY** *of Climate Action*

Per Espen Stoknes

Foreword by Jorgen Randers

The problem: It's a social psychological issue Stoknes, *What We Think About...* (2015)

Distance: environmental problems are often far from us and in the future: humans are not good at dealing with the future, nor things remote from us.

Doom: framing climate warming as a disaster to be addressed by loss, cost, and sacrifice forces most people to avoid the topic: humans are loss-adverse.

Dissonance: when we can't resolve what we do with what we think; engage in symbolic but largely ineffectual activities (recycling, reusable grocery bags, etc.).

Denial: that there is a problem at all; humans do this in self-defense, believing that their livelihoods and lifestyles are being attacked.

Identity: humans seek information that strengthens existing belief and identity; identity is difficult to change; easy to be offended if you think your identity is being attacked; fear of and anger about being "controlled" by others. (82)

Some solutions:

Social: use the power of social networks.

Supportive: employ frames that support the message in a positive way.

Simple: environmentally friendly behaviors easy and convenient.

Story-based: meaning and community created by the power of stories.

Signals: use indicators for feedback on societal response.

Solution: Act as Social Citizens.

"Pushing changes in personal behavior as the main solution … can also make us complacent and less vocal for change at the political and social level." (91)

Proposed OWU Sustainability Plan

Students, Faculty, Staff on STF, in courses, 2+ years

Ohio Wesleyan University *March 29 2017*

Sustainability Plan

As a liberal arts higher education institution, Ohio Wesleyan University must strive to promote sustainability through educational, technical, and social means. The Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan is intended to invigorate and expand a culture of sustainability on campus with an eye on the future of humans and the earth's environment.

1 Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus and in the Community
- Strengthen Environmental Studies Program
- Fund sustainability coordinator with support & facilities by 2020
- 5% yearly growth in student sustainability involvement

2 Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change
- Commit to energy-efficient building investments
- Utilize 5% solar or renewable energy on campus by 2020
- Install solar panels on campus for learning purposes
- Annual student run energy reduction challenge initiated in 2017

3 Increase Our Health and Well-being
- Commit to a farm and food collaboration with Stratford Ecological Center and the Methodist Theological School's Seminary Hill Farm by 2017
- Purchase 15% of campus food from local and regional sources by 2020
- Develop a long-term plan for composting by 2018
- Maintain and grow student-run Food Recovery Network and related programs

4 Live Better on Campus and on Earth
- Develop Sustainable Living model residence option by 2019
- OWU activity courses on sustainable practices by 2017
- Maintain and expand May Move Out
- New campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitat enhancement each year
- Expand reusable container program for campus food by 20% each year

Solution: Supportive Frames

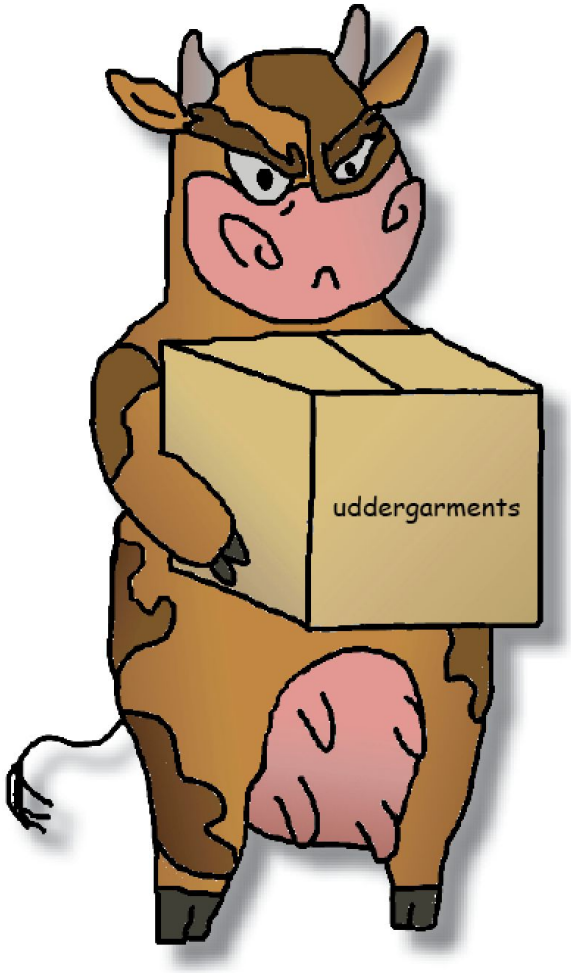
"I have a nightmare" way of communicating environmental concern is not effective.

Instead focus on insurance, health, security, preparedness, and opportunity (111)

goodwill

DONATE STUFF.
CREATE JOBS.

May Move Out
3+ years



Solution: Keep it Simple

Modify “choice situations” to make green options easy: Green nudges.

As long as there are few opportunities for easy green behavior, and the message causes fear and guilt, there will be backlash against the message. (64)

Green carryout food containers
2+ years

Solution: Social Signals

In the presence of others, behavior, attention, and performance are changed. Social attention is a very powerful motivator. (55)

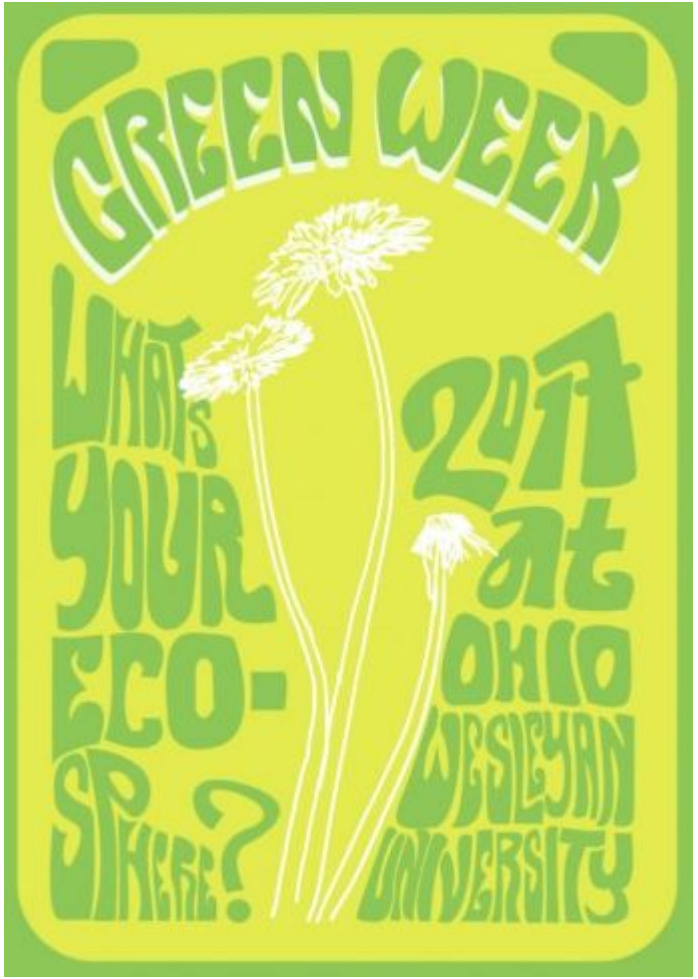
People have to be convinced that many others are Doing something, and it is the norm, before they change their behavior. (31)

Hydration stations
5+ years

Solution: Stories

Meaning and community created by the power of stories.

OWU's Green Week
5+ years

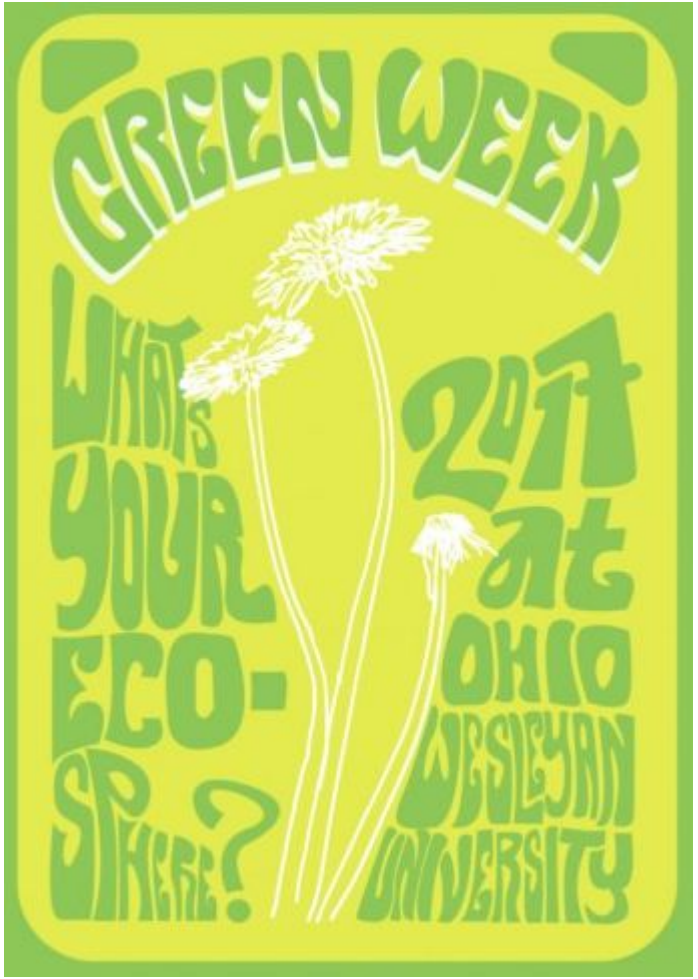


The problem of identity & sustainability

People with hierarchical and individualistic values tend to be skeptical of environmental risks and to dislike regulations to limit those risks, since regulations restrict free choice, commerce, and industry.

People with egalitarian and communitarian values see commerce and industry as self-interested and polluting entities that create unjust disparity, and which require regulation. (73)

Conservatives or libertarians don't question climate science (and other environmental concerns) because they are ignorant. Rather, it is a way of of expressing who they are - their identity. (74)



Scrappy Sustainability?

Students, staff and faculty figure out how to make sustainability happen on campus with no full time staff and few funds: sustainability isn't going to get done otherwise, at least in the short term. It is a good experience to try to make something real happen under challenging circumstances.

Benefits to distributed, community-based sustainability

- diverse group of active collaborators (vs. dependence on sustainability coordinator).
- many people involved: less likelihood of any one person getting in trouble.
- many people involved: diversity of ideas and approaches.
- excellent theory-into-practice experiences.
- it is possible to get some things done, maybe more meaningful.
- there is something a bit troubling about high-cost, conspicuous sustainability.
- building a strong foundation for sustainability, into which a sustainability coordinator could step, and make even more progress.