

# Education for Sustainability at WKU

December 18, 2009

**Whereas** the Mission of WKU is to prepare its students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society; and

**Whereas** the United Nations has declared 2005-2014 the *Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*; and

**Whereas** WKU is a signatory of the Talloires Declaration, an action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations, and outreach endorsed by colleges and universities throughout the world; and

**Whereas** WKU through its curricular offerings, within and across many academic disciplines, challenges students to explore and understand principles of sustainability in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental issues of the 21st century; and

**Whereas** WKU students, through their academic coursework, involvement in student organizations, and engagement with communities, are developing the skills needed to become effective leaders in finding solutions to sustainability issues locally and globally; and

**Whereas** WKU has established an *Office of Sustainability* to develop appropriate procedural, procurement and building efforts to reduce consumption and waste while increasing energy efficiency, and to communicate the University's commitment to sustainability; and

**Whereas** WKU understands the importance of both individual and institutional commitment to living and promoting more sustainable lifestyles through daily actions as well as broader scale decisions; and

**Whereas** students have demonstrated a powerful interest in education for sustainability and WKU has many centers of excellence, courses, and study abroad programs already established;

**Therefore, be it resolved,** that President Ransdell and the WKU Board of Regents approve the adoption of 'education for sustainability' as one of the University's core values, and that this core value be stated within the University's Strategic Plan and integrated into its Strategic Goals.