

## **CSU Program to Turn All Majors “Green”**

**The School of Global Environmental Sustainability is expected to reach out to all of the university’s departments.**

*By Allison Sherry The Denver Post*

Colorado State University has launched a School of Global Environmental Sustainability that will eventually touch all academic disciplines and push even English majors to learn about technology that could clean up the Earth.

The university will spend \$350,000 in the first year to develop the new school, which will eventually have its own majors and offer certificates in environmental sustainability.

But it will also take existing CSU colleges and force professors to work together on a new set of classes that will teach students in creative ways — about environmental technology.

Engineering majors could get a certificate in environmental economics, for example. Interior design majors could take a course in green building materials. History majors could learn about American environmental history.

CSU president Larry Penley told researchers at a briefing in Denver on Tuesday that he wants to focus on sending students into careers that “will ultimately make our lives better.”

The new head of the school, environmental researcher Diana Wall, said human effects on the environment are substantial and “it’s going to take more than just me and my discipline” to solve its problems.

“What this does for our students is prepare them for the greening workforce,” she said.

CSU leaders point to a study that says the renewable-energy job market could create 40 million U.S. jobs by 2030.

CSU has seen a 12.8 percent increase in applications to the university — something Penley said could be attributed to the school’s increasing reputation for churning out experts in green technology and science.

Penley has traversed the country talking to venture capitalists and investors about technology developed by CSU scientists, including clean-burning cookstoves, which are being produced in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Ecology research scientist Ed Ayres said it would be helpful to have economists and other experts around to collaborate with on research. While he knows about ecology, he said he can’t be an expert in everything he needs to know on big projects.

“I know just one side,” said Ayres, who moved from the United Kingdom for CSU doctorate work a few years ago. “I can learn a little, but there is no way I can be an economist.”

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