Ten Principles Guiding the Integration of Sustainability into College and University Curricula
Geoffrey Chase, San Diego State University, 4-20-09

1. **Sustainability is local**

Although sustainability is about the health of our planet, it is rooted in place and in the challenges that emerge from the interrelationship of forces where we live.

2. **Sustainability is global**

From weather and water to arms markets, the WTO and religious ideologies, sustainability is also broadly international.

3. **Sustainability is about relationships**

It is about the myriad connections we have with each other, with other species, and with all the features of the natural world.

4. **Sustainability is about systems**

Sustainability calls to the foreground the interdependence that characterizes life and directly addresses both biological and social systems.

5. **Sustainability is about community**

The challenges we face emerge from the communities, large and small, in which we live, and must be addressed as community issues.

6. **Sustainability is not an endpoint but a process of questioning**

Teachers, like students, must continue learning.

7. **Sustainability leads to a focus on student learning**

The ability of future generations to address sustainability effectively, and to meet the challenges they will face, depend less on what we teach than on what students learn. Attention to learning outcomes—intended and unintended—is crucial to guide our efforts.

8. **Sustainability in the curriculum foregrounds ways of thinking and acting.**

Students and faculty, together, practice new lenses and strategies to understand and respond to sustainability challenges.

9. **Sustainability is multidisciplinary**

Education for sustainability is not the domain of Environmental Studies or the natural sciences or any discipline. It includes and requires all perspectives and disciplines.

10. **Sustainability is transformative**

Beyond simply tweaking the status quo, sustainability in the curriculum challenges all to work for transformation of society.