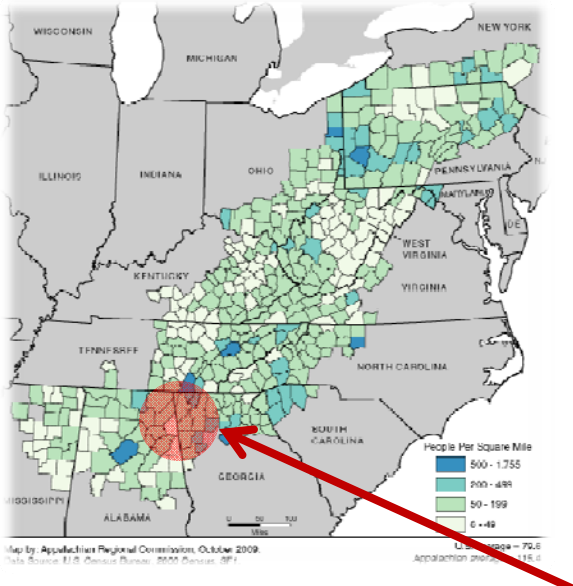
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Making 'Big Orange' Green

Presented by:
Gordie Bennett,
Sustainability Manager

About Knoxville

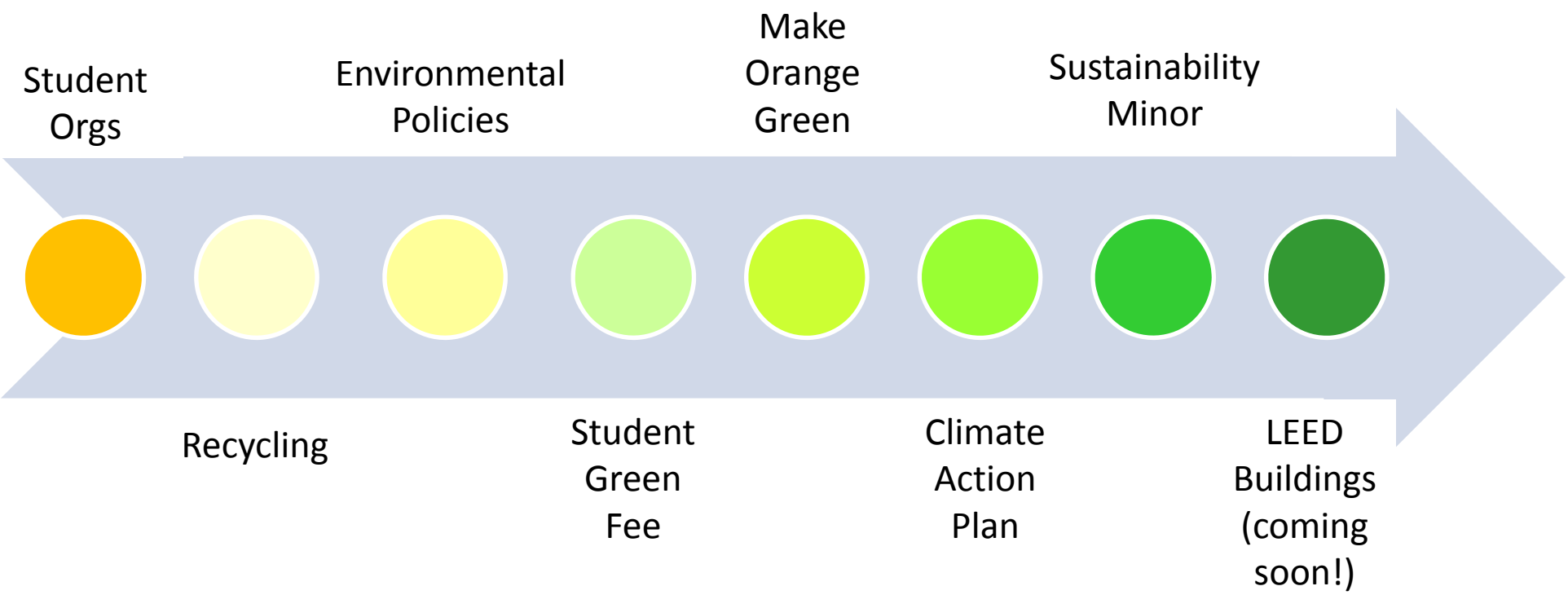


UTK – Fast Facts

- Founded in 1794
- 27,000 students
- 5,700 staff & 1,600 faculty
- 560 acres, 15 M GSF

Greening of ‘Big Orange’

(Early ‘90s to Present)



Recycling Program

- Established in 1991
- Serves 100+ buildings
- Generates $100,000 annually
- Part of UTK career ladder

UT biodiesel

http://apcsi.utk.edu/SAE/biodiesel.htm

A model for campus sustainability

Waste cooking oil is collected from UT Dining Services. An old Future Truck is being restored to collect oil.

Clean oil is mixed with methanol and lye in the processor to make biodiesel.

The University of Tennessee Biodiesel Production Pilot Plant is a model for campus sustainability.

Waste vegetable oil is collected on campus and turned into biodiesel fuel by students for use in UT diesel vehicles.

The recycled biodiesel saves the university money and reduces harmful emissions.

Using biodiesel reduces the use of foreign oil and the waste of cooking oil.

Waste cooking oil from food services is placed in drums. Valley Proteins donates the oil to the program.

Facilities Services and the Challenge X team use the quality tested biodiesel.

VENTURE LLC

- Launched fall 2009
- Over 60 participants
- Service projects:
  - Waste audits
  - Event coordination
  - Awareness campaigns

UT Harvest Market

On-campus “farmers’ market”

100% student managed

Certified organic produce

Self-sustaining operation

Energy Conservation

- "Switch Your Thinking" campaign
- Targeted towards:
  - University employees
  - On-campus students
- Promotes "energy saver" mindset
- $1 M+ saved since fall 2008

Lessons Learned

More Information

Please contact:

Gordie Bennett

Sustainability Manager

UTK Office of Sustainability

Phone: 865-974-7780

Email: environment@utk.edu