

Committee on the Environment

Mission Statement

The Senate's Committee on the Environment was created in 1990 in response to the growing university need for discussion and action on environmental issues. The committee's charge was prepared by an ad hoc committee consisting of Professor Donald Shure, Dean Bill Murdy of Oxford College, University Secretary Tom Bertrand, and Professor Harvey Ragsdale.

Emory's Senate Committee on the Environment will be the principle body to formulate a broad ecological understanding of the Emory environment and, in that context, evaluate environmental issues to develop specific recommendations for action. The creation of an environmental vision of the Emory campus is necessary for establishment of environmental policy to guide the Committee on the Environment and others who engage in planning, development, and sue of the Emory environment.

Environmental issues at Emory will be resolved by the Committee on the Environment through discussion, proposals, policy statements, and review of potential environmental impacts from Emory's activities within the campus and the activities of others which may impact the Emory campus. Environmental issues are defined in a broad context to include topics such as energy, air, water, soil, outdoor and indoor pollution, environmental public health, waste, recycling, natural areas, managed areas, and environmental values. The committee on the Environment will consider specific environmental issues, not in isolation, but in the context of the whole Emory environment -- the Emory ecosystem. In the spirit of self-governance, the Committee on the Environment will receive written or verbal presentations from students, staff, faculty and administrators as part of its environmental deliberations.

The Committee on the Environment will function with in the Emory community in several ways, each leading to recommendations for campus activities which have environmental impacts. large scale campus projects are of special concern since their environmental impacts may be lessened or negated most easily if addressed earl in the planning stage. Accordingly, the Committee on the Environment will review early development plans for large scale projects to provide its initial environmental recommendations. Final environmental recommendations for all projects will be given after reviewing finished plans. The results of environmental reviews will be shared with committees which approve other aspects of campus projects and with the administration. To facilitate communications between the Committee on the Environment and the Campus Development Committee, one member of the Committee on the Environment will serve as an official liaison member of the Campus Development Committee. Administrators serving on the Committee on the Environment will be designated as liaison to Emory's administration. When appropriate the Committee on the Environment will meet with other Emory committees to resolve environmental concerns.