Overall question: Which sustainability projects have the potential to benefit the California higher education system by being connected throughout the system and beyond?

Desired Outcomes:
1. Participants cross-fertilize ideas from different disciplines and perspectives.
2. One or two unifying efforts are prioritized as high potential for success.
3. Barriers to success and potential solutions identified.
4. Name, email, and phone collected to enable future connection and action: distribute café notes and contact information via email to interested participants.

1st Conversation:
A. Which projects already exist that have potential to be connected statewide?
B. Are there any other innovative ideas that could have this potential?

Then, prioritize ideas based on these criteria:
Important / Mission-critical, Broad impact, Do-ability / High potential for success, Inspires participation

TOP 3 IDEAS:
1. Expand the UC Strategic Sourcing Initiative---bring in CSU, Community Colleges, non-profits, State/Local government, students

2. Environmental Education: like CSU Chico offers in their curriculum: focus on individual, student handbook on sustainable living, community handbook

3. Develop peer network with EFS West to create technical assistance exchange with peers.
Second step: University efforts go into community

OTHER IDEAS:
1. Adopt a systemwide LEED tracking database: costs, environmental benefits, savings over time, SF Dept of Environment is producing this in fall. AND drop the UC “LEED Equivalent” excuse
2. UC, CSU, Community Colleges, Municipalities: Drive manufacturing to change designs for efficiency community-wide
4. Website to host UC-wide Environmentally-Preferred Purchasing
5. Include Social equity values in purchasing practices
6. Research regulations to make it easier for purchasing fair trade
7. Get students involved more in sustainability-related research
2nd Conversation -
For each of the top 3 priorities: A. What are the potential barriers to success?
B. What are potential solutions to those barriers?

1. Expand the UC Strategic Sourcing Initiative—bring in CSU, Community Colleges, non-profits, State/Local government, students

POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:
- Bureaucracy/ lots of stakeholders
- Key people being left behind—some discussions only things moving fast now
- Hard to organize true multi-stakeholder process: diversity, people at different levels
- Re-educating purchasers
- Student involvement is necessary
- Higher first costs of some products
- Values compromised in broader coalitions
- Trust of information source, e.g. University vs. City
- Strict timeline on a lot of products
- Too willing to back down

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:
- Build networks of champions/change agents (key)
- Bring team together to prioritize products for EPP standards, then bring multi-stakeholder processes in to address individual products.
- Have campuses work together with institutions; take on different aspects, share the load and information
- Value of broad based coalition; it’s worth it for long view
- Mandates from presidents’ offices
- Early success; start with low hanging fruit
- Empower and inform students about their power

2. Environmental Education: like CSU Chico offers in their curriculum: focus on individual, student handbook on sustainable living, community handbook

POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:
- Integration of sustainability into curriculum
- Pure scientists have hard time/resistance
- Bureaucracy
- Separation of departments into fiefdoms
- Who gets funding/credit for interdisciplinary classes
- Faculty involvement/slow change over time
- Student-initiated courses can be difficult
- How different the schools are as far as interest and levels of support

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:
- Bring curriculum policy committees to next year’s conference (Academic Senate Committee on Educational Policy)
- Ethics integration into curriculum
- Class to do research into putting ballot initiatives (CSU Chico)
- Make environmental literacy class fulfill Gen Ed requirement
- Vision and strategy: break into manageable pieces
- Student initiated courses
- Pull professors from other departments to give guest lectures (e.g. “How chemistry affects the environment”)

3. Develop peer network with EFS West to create technical assistance exchange with peers. Second step: University efforts go into community

POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:
- Funding
- Large organizing challenge
- Private vs. public sector
- Reality on the job vs. policy discussion
- Not being done as a business model

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS:
- Allows hand-holding to go on between institutions with similar challenges
- Motivation: emphasize and share best practices
- Use resource-sharing rather than decision-making
- Greater connection between university and the public