

Multi-Level Environmental Health Promotion in a Nursing School



Marian Morris, MPH

Alexandra Garcia,
PHD, RN

School of Nursing,
The University of
Texas at Austin

Howdy Green Thinkers!

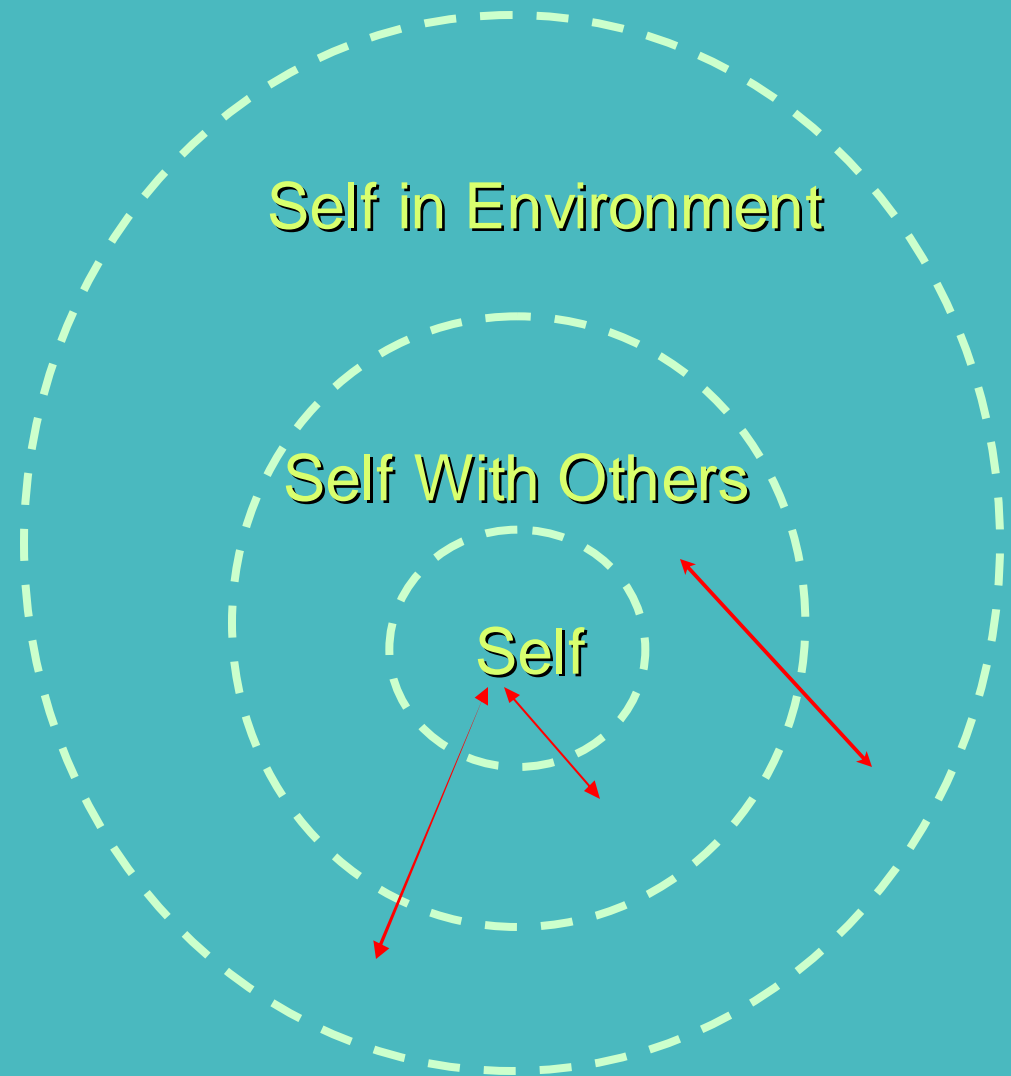
The Problem

“Currently an estimated 40% of world deaths are due to environmental degradation.”

D. Pimentel, Cornell University, [Human Ecology: An Interdisciplinary Journal](#), online July, 2007.

Ecological Systems Theory

- ◆ Nested systems
- ◆ Humans as organic systems
- ◆ Humans affect and are affected by other systems within which they are nested.



The Link to Nursing

“[Nursing] ought to signify the proper use of fresh air, light, warmth, cleanliness, quiet, and the proper selection and administration of diet – all at the least expense of vital power to the patient.”

Florence Nightingale (1858), Notes On Nursing, p. 8



UT-Austin School of Nursing Green Team

- Formed Fall 2006
- Membership 30 - 60.
- Active core group of about 10-20.
- Running Wish List
- Ebb and flow to activities




Accomplishments

In 8 months:


- ◆ 2-3 truckloads of garbage diverted
- ◆ 47 large bags of plastic bottles and aluminum cans
- ◆ 100 diverted or recycled ink cartridges
- ◆ 40 cell phones donated
- ◆ Commitment to recycled paper
- ◆ Topics included for public health nursing class
- ◆ Regular orientation of new students
- ◆ 3 tabling events to raise awareness

School of Nursing Green Team Website

www.utexas.edu/nursing/greenteam



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GREEN  TEAM ... REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | SCHOOL OF NURSING

Welcome to The School of Nursing Green Team

We are University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing staff, faculty, and student who are interested in protecting and promoting the health of the environment, at all levels. Our mission is to reduce the school's environmental impact and promote environmental stewardship ... [learn more](#).

Join Us

If you would like to join our team please fill out the [Green Team Join Us Form](#) or just come to one of our periodic meetings. Get Involved!

News

- Sony Now Recycling Electronics
- Rooted in Green
- Recycling Ink Cartridges

Events

- Fall Meeting Schedule
- Upcoming Fall Events

Last Updated: September 19, 2007
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Campus-Wide Momentum

<http://www.utexas.edu/utakecharge/>

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

UTakeCharge

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Taking charge. That's what the UTakeCharge program initiated by the Facilities Services and Project Management Construction Services is all about. The University of Texas at Austin is taking charge of reducing energy and water consumption by undertaking several renovation projects. While these projects will do a lot to control demand, the program will only be successful if

UTakeCharge

Our students, faculty members and staff are already conservation-savvy, participating in numerous initiatives to reduce environmental impact and promote environmental stewardship. Even more can be done. UTakeCharge calls the entire campus community to expand conservation awareness and activism into everyday activities.

Check back frequently to monitor our progress and celebrate our shared success in conserving and promoting sustainability of resources.

UTakeCharge — creating a culture of sustainable energy management and conservation.

University Launches UTakeCharge
October 15, 2007
Dr. Patricia Clubb unveils UTakeCharge.

National Campus Sustainability Day
October 24, 2007
East Mall
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visit the UTakeCharge booth at this campus-wide event to learn more about sustainability.

Why has this worked so far?

- ◆ loose organizational and logistical process
- ◆ buy-in from administrative heads
- ◆ existing infrastructural support for & history of environmental health movements
- ◆ community-building
- ◆ tie-in of pro-health and pro-environment messages with nursing
- ◆ environmental health promotion as individual, interpersonal, & ecosystem health promotion all at once

Psychophysiology of Altruism

- ◆ Improved health outcomes for those who advocated for others
- ◆ Green Team is good work in and of itself.
- ◆ GT work might improve the overall well-being of its members.



Struggles and Challenges

- ◆ Sustaining the effort
- ◆ Tracking our accomplishments when we're loosely organized
- ◆ What do you do when people are ready and organized, but decision makers are ambivalent?
- ◆ Inspiring intention and action

The Future

- ◆ Continue to have team exist and connect with each other.
- ◆ Strengthen GT's connection to nursing
- ◆ Strengthen connections to self-health promotion
- ◆ Do more stuff!

References

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MANY THANKS

