

# EcoHouse

## Internal Call for Faculty Director or Faculty Co-Directors Team

The University of Connecticut is developing an EcoHouse residential Learning Community in Storrs and is seeking a current tenured faculty member to assume responsibilities as Director, or a two-person tenured faculty Co-Directors team. The 10-month appointment is proposed as half-time (or split in half for co-directors). Effective date of appointment is targeted for July 2009 and will be for a three year term.

Establishing Learning Communities in emerging areas of interdisciplinary excellence is a priority outlined in UConn's Academic Plan 2009-2014. Learning Communities are a proven pedagogy that can provide intentionality and integration amongst students' curricular, co-curricular and residential experiences. They become a foundation for a creative and holistic approach to education. They help first-year students in their transition to college and encourage all students to become engaged on campus; they enable students to have regular one-on-one or small group interaction with faculty, advisors, staff, and peer mentors; they emphasize undergraduate research and experiential learning; and they develop interdisciplinary habits of mind that encourage students to become life-long learners.

EcoHouse will open in the West Campus Hollister residence hall in Fall 2009, accommodating up to 120 students of any major and year. First-year students will enroll in a 2-credit course in both Fall and Spring with one of those credits earned each semester by engaging in a service learning project. The course will introduce students to environmental majors, topics, and research and service opportunities available on campus. Additional themed courses may be developed that students enroll in as a cohort, such as an Environmental Science English class. Interdisciplinary course proposals and workshop or activity development are encouraged.

The Faculty Director(s) will provide academic oversight and vision and engage undergraduate residents of the EcoHouse Learning Community in classroom and out-of-classroom scholastic activities. **Responsibilities include:**

- guide EcoHouse staff (which may include a part-time Program Assistant, Graduate Assistant, Hall Director, Community Assistants (CAs), and/or student employees);
- be instructor of record for a 2-credit course held each semester (1-credit seminar + 1-credit service/experiential learning activity) and hold office hours in EcoHouse;
- encourage collaboration among different environmental research/teaching/service activities taking place on UConn's campuses;
- develop a speaker series;
- write an EcoHouse-related grant annually, or take lead role in other activities leading to program enhancement;
- promote awareness of EcoHouse and attend fundraising and/or outreach events as appropriate; and
- develop program assessment strategy focused on educational outcomes

Candidates should have status as tenured full-time faculty members; commitment to undergraduate education and advising; environmental research and teaching interests; and enthusiasm and organizational skills for building a high-quality program from its inception. The Director(s) will work closely with the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities (primarily), Undergraduate Education & Instruction, Residential Life, & the Office of Environmental Policy.

### Compensation

- Faculty Director: 1 month salary or Faculty Co-Directors (2): 1/2 month salary each
- Release time/other matters negotiated between Vice Provost Makowsky and your Dean or Department Head

Applications received by May 8, 2009 will be given first consideration, but the position will remain open until filled. Email a letter of application, current CV, and contact information for three personal references to [Melissa.Foreman@uconn.edu](mailto:Melissa.Foreman@uconn.edu), Learning Communities Program Coordinator, including "EcoHouse Faculty Director Search" in the subject line. Or, mail materials to the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities; Center for Undergraduate Education; 368 Fairfield Way, Unit 2232; Storrs, CT 06269-2232. Search # 2009232. *We strongly encourage applications from under-represented groups, including minorities, women, and people with disabilities to apply.*