The Committee on Sustainability was established in Fall 2008. In accordance with the duties and responsibilities outlined in the senate bylaws, the Committee on Sustainability set out the following charges for the academic year 2009-10:

- Maintain the *Sustainability at UIS* website
- Participate in Freshman Orientation (Sustainability Pledge and Sustainability Panel)
- Sponsor and Organize Campus Recycling Brown Bag Panel
- Sponsor CWLP Community Energy Forum
- Examine general education curriculum for sustainability literacy
- Co-sponsor and organize the UIS Sustainability Week
- Co-sponsor and organize the Earth Day Keynote event
- Examine 2009 UIS Waste Reduction Plan
- Discuss the campus copier operation and renewal of copier fleet contract
- Discuss the UIS Prairie Expansion Project

*Sustainability at UIS Website*
Last year the committee created a website aiming to provide resources and involvement opportunities for the UIS community regarding initiatives or activities in sustainability. The committee has been in charge of maintaining the website since its creation.

*UIS Sustainability Pledge*
Last year, in collaboration with the Offices of Sustainability and Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, the committee also developed the *UIS Sustainability Pledge* for members of the UIS community, including students, faculty, and staff. The pledge is for those who would like to take personal actions in order to help reduce our collective impact on the planet. The pledge is available via the *Sustainability at UIS* website. This year the committee has also introduced the pledge during the freshman orientation, the 2nd annual UIS Sustainability Week, and the Earth Day Keynote event.

*Recycling and Waste Reduction*
In accordance with Illinois Public Act 86-1363, Section 415 ILCS 20/3.1., UIS conducted a waste generation and composition study in November 2009. The results of the study show that UIS has achieved and surpassed the waste reduction goal of 0.1225 tons per student per year. The recycling grant received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the recycling awareness brown bag talk and panel have helped our waste reduction efforts.
**Sustainability Literacy in General Education**
In order to raise the awareness of sustainability and cultivate change agents among the next generations, the committee also looks into the issue of incorporating sustainability literacy into the general education curriculum. Our first step is to examine the existing gen ed courses that address sustainability. The ultimate goal is for all students graduating from UIS to have a good understanding of the scope of sustainability and the imperative of achieving sustainability, as well as to become sustainable leaders regardless of their future professions. This will be an on-going effort.

**Earth Day Keynote Event**
As part of the educational outreach efforts, the committee also co-sponsored and organized the 2010 Earth Day Keynote Event. This year’s speaker is Terry Tempest Williams, an internationally acclaimed nature and environmental writer. She spoke on “The Open Space of Democracy” at 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 22 in Brookens Auditorium. The event was well attended.