



**Executive Summary of the University of South Florida's new
School of Global Sustainability
December 3, 2009**

Vision: Our vision for the School of Global Sustainability is inclusive and holistic, based on integrated interdisciplinary research, scholarship and teaching. Its strength will derive from the committed involvement of faculty representing natural and social sciences, engineering and education, business, the humanities, arts, and health. There will be a role for faculty and students throughout the university to contribute to its growth and evolution, according to their skills and interests. Our definition of sustainability rests on the concepts of environmental management, social equity and economic viability, known as the "three pillars". Our definition of sustainability is the improvement of the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting eco-systems. It is a system in which human, societal, environmental, material, and economic activities are fundamentally integrated dimensions that are mutually reinforcing.

Structure: The School is launched with the Master of Arts in Global Sustainability program, but the vitality of the school will be generated by performances, collaborations, courses, discussions, shared ideas, research, explorations, and engagements from all USF affiliated faculty and students. The School will be guided and administered by a Director and Affiliated Scholars. The MA degree on Global Sustainability will focus initially on water; other concentrations will be developed in response to faculty and student interests. Concentration courses are planned on such themes as global sustainability and food security and health, the designed and natural environments, gender, ethnicity and class, global citizenry, microbiology of marine life, climate change, coastal wetlands, the history of sustainable communities, the role of the arts in megacities, and the functioning of civic responsibility.

Development: The future of the School will depend up the involvement of faculty, students, and colleges. It might develop a series of dual MA degrees, perhaps an MS degree, and even a doctoral program. Along with certificates, the creation of an undergraduate minor might be considered if there was sufficient interest. It is possible to imagine funding opportunities such as multi-year seed grants for faculty and students to conduct integrated interdisciplinary research, teaching, and creative activities. We hope that outreach to local and global communities will be constant and that an External Global Advisory Board from business and industry will be created in addition to the Faculty Advisory Council. We anticipate the creation of a network of agencies – nonprofit, for profit, governmental, industrial – that would work with the SGS because of the quality of our faculty and students. Internships would be mutually beneficial, providing our students with real world experience and providing agencies with excellent students.