

Group Project: Ecoresort and Sustainability

Given your new knowledge of environmental sciences, your consulting firm was asked to create a sustainable eco-friendly island resort, while simultaneously mitigating ecological damage and restoring disturbed areas. You have several endangered species that must be protected on your Southwest Florida island that need access to upland and freshwater habitat, estuarine habitat, and offshore coral reef habitat. As a group, complete a summary of your business proposal that addresses in great detail all of the following questions listed below. You must include the concepts covered in class related to sustainability of natural resources, economic services, and ecological services.

- Elect a Board of Directors for your business and assign positions related to your majors.
- What is the company name of your resort?
- Why do people come to your resort? What recreational opportunities do you offer them? How many visitors do you receive annually? How do you mitigate environmental damage left behind from these recreational activities?
- How does your resort obtain:
 - Energy
 - Food
 - Water
- How does your resort get rid of waste? (*Simply shipping it to another location or dumping it in a landfill is not acceptable.*)
- What is the transportation plan? (*Both on the island and between other places.*)
- Describe housing available to the employees? Where is it located? How does it minimize ecological impacts?
- What types of wildlife areas have you included in your restoration plan?
 - Watershed
 - Inland terrestrial and freshwater reserves
 - Mangrove, salt marsh and estuarine preserves
 - Marine and reef protected areas
- Are these wildlife areas connected corridors or isolated islands of biodiversity? Why did you choose this type of ecological habitat restoration plan?

- Choose a key indicator species found on your island and describe its total way of life (or niche) and its interactions with the biotic and abiotic components of the ecosystem. Make sure this organism has access to all of the wildlife areas outlined above. Describe the organism's interactions in each ecosystem type.
- **Develop a learning module focused on the “4 Guiding Principles of The Earth Charter”.** Explain, *in detail*, how your resort will provide education and outreach to the local community regarding your sustainable development plans.
- How do you minimize the overall ecological footprint of the eco-resort? (Go back to the ecological footprint exercise from Nature Journal 1 to help gather ideas!)

<http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/>

- Draw a “map” that illustrates the components and layout of your ecoresort.
- Draw a Venn Diagram that includes: Environmental Responsibility, Social Well-being, Economic Growth. Explain how your resort relates to each of these underlying themes to sustainability and the triple bottom line.

Group Project 2 Deliverables:

- 1) A *webpage* that answers and advertizes all of the points outlined above in a highly descriptive and creative manner. Market your island resort as if you were an actual Board of Directors representing a major green-friendly resort. The actual layout of the webpage is entirely up to the group, but this advertisement must completely relate, in detail, all of the above information and you must demonstrate a *thorough* understanding of all concepts. (**Note:** Your group will collaborate online and submit your project via an online webpage using www.weebly.com.) **Please create a free account and provide me with your group's username and password information. Due Date: 3DEC2012 ... each group will present their webpage to the class on this day, as well.**

Please note: This project will be conducted in groups of 3 students that you will choose. Again, your group will evaluate and rate your participation and performance, which will ultimately be used to determine your individual final grade on the project. For full credit, your group must present a professional document that completely addresses the issues outlined above. Creativity is encouraged and anything else you wish to add is fine. You must, however, perform all tasks outlined on this document and submit a project that includes discussions of the topics covered in class this semester. Simply answering the questions above may not necessarily guarantee a desired grade. You must demonstrate *complete and detailed* understanding of the crucial concepts covered this semester in class and from the textbook. Keep in mind that this is worth 10% of your final average, so I expect that amount of effort put into the final product and deliverables. There will be no opportunity for late and/or make-up work.