END OF SEMESTER PROJECT: WHAT’S WORKING (10% of your final grade)

Deadlines: By March 2, select a topic and tell Dr. Lubinski what your topic is.
By April 11, give Dr. Lubinski a tentative outline of your presentation or poster, and schedule a date and time for your presentation. One week grace period, after which points will be taken off at 1 pt/day.
Presentations given April 30 and May 2

There is no question that we as individuals, as a society, and as a planet face the possibility of worsening environmental and societal conditions in this new century. We do, however, have choices in our individual and collective actions, which can influence our future direction.

Research a topic that is already contributing to, or has the potential to contribute to a more sustainable future. The topic you select should be meaningful and interesting to you, and also be a topic that you want your classmates to know about. The last two or three class periods of the semester will be devoted to your reports. These reports can be either oral or in the form of a poster. In addition to your presentation, hand in a 1 to 2 page typed, double-spaced summary of your report with references. DO NOT rely on one or two web sites for your report. This is poor research practice, and will be marked down.

Guidelines for Oral Presentation: A well organized 10 minute presentation to the class. Visual aids such as slides, overheads and/or handouts are encouraged. This should be an instructional presentation. The focus is on teaching your classmates, not performing for your teacher.

Guidelines for Poster Presentation: A well organized sequence of pictures, figures, flow diagrams, or other visual images, with brief accompanying texts, complete with introduction and summary paragraphs. The poster should thoroughly present the topic (what you want to say about the topic) so that a person can read and understand your presentation without further explanation from you. You will stand by your poster for individual questions, but the poster should encompass everything that you want to convey to your audience. Examples of posters can be found in the hallways of most science departments, including Geology, Chemistry, and CIRES. Consult Dr. Lubinski for advice if needed.

Possible Topics. You are not restricted to topics on this list. This list is given to stimulate your thoughts. Another good resource for ideas and information is the CU ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER in the UMC. Case studies (i.e. an example of the application of your topic of interest) are highly encouraged. This could be a specific project, if your topic is wetlands reclamation for instance, or it could be the history and present work of an organization, such as the Environmental Defense Fund. Library research and contact with professionals who may be willing to share materials with you are encouraged.

Water
Wetlands Reclamation
Wetland engineering for wastewater treatment
Riparian (Riverside ecosystem) Restoration
Remediation (clean up) of a River or Groundwater system
Remediation Technology for a specific pollutant (preferably a compound which can be neutralized or transformed, not shipped out for isolation)
Water Conservation: policy, products, community involvement
Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency
Solar Energy applications: automobiles, buildings, progress in photovoltaic cell technology
CNG (compressed natural gas), automobile use, future trends
Hydrogen Fuel, applications, future trends
Alternative Transportation: bicycle/pedestrian corridors (the history and future of Boulder Bicycle pathways, bikeways on abandoned railroad beds)
Energy Efficiency Technology

Food
Organic Farming - the practice (reports on scientific research of the benefits of organic agriculture vs. conventional chemically-intensive farming, case study of a specific crop - such as cotton or wine vineyards in California)
the business (profiling a local organic farm, or profiling the organic foods industry through Wild Oats/Alfalfa’s Market)
Preservation of Diversity: seed companies such as Seeds of Change
Foods native to the Colorado Area, or to your home region - what did people eat when diet was impacted more by local environment?
City-wide composting - Seattle, Washington case study; state of CU Boulder’s composting project

Recycling Industry
Technologies For Recycling (teach the class HOW a specific resource is recycled)
Recycling on around the world: The example of Germany, or another country with aggressive recycling policies.
(Check with Jack DeBell at CU Recycling if you are particularly interested in recycling issues.)

The Business of Sustainability
Profile of a Company marketing alternative products, such as Real Goods or Jade Mountain (be careful that your presentation is not taken over as a marketing outlet for the company; emphasize start-up and growth, trends in consumer purchasing, accessing products to market)
Banking For a Sustainable Future: Debt-for-nature organizations. Case studies of success stories in investment for sustainability.

Reclamation, Preservation, Reintroduction of Species
example case study of a local or regional project: Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat
Reintroduction of the California Condor to the Grand Canyon (should include political debates as this is a federal government project)

Societal issues
Case study of a successful project for elective reduction in family size.
Rediscovering community and shared resources: CoHousing or other intentional environmentally conscious community projects
Environmental Justice: successful projects or organizations with successful results

Personal Profiles
Interview and profile a person who is working for a sustainable future in some way. This should be a detailed profile of someone you can personally interview; on the person, their accomplishments, and their vision for future work in their field.

Possible topics are endless! Be sure to pick a topic which is well focused and feasible for the time you have to research and present.