

The background of the slide features a row of Moai statues, the large stone figures from the Easter Island culture. They are shown in silhouette against a dark, twilight sky. The statues are arranged in a line, with some appearing to be in the foreground and others receding into the distance. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

UAlbany Task Force on Environmental Sustainability

Charge from President Kermit Hall:

- *To promote a University community of environmentally responsible citizens.*
- *To develop an annual University environmental scorecard.*

Task Force Co-Chairs

Andrei Lapenas, Geography and Planning

George Robinson, Biology

Kathryn Lowery, Finance and Business

Energy Use Committee

Andrei Lapenas, Chair

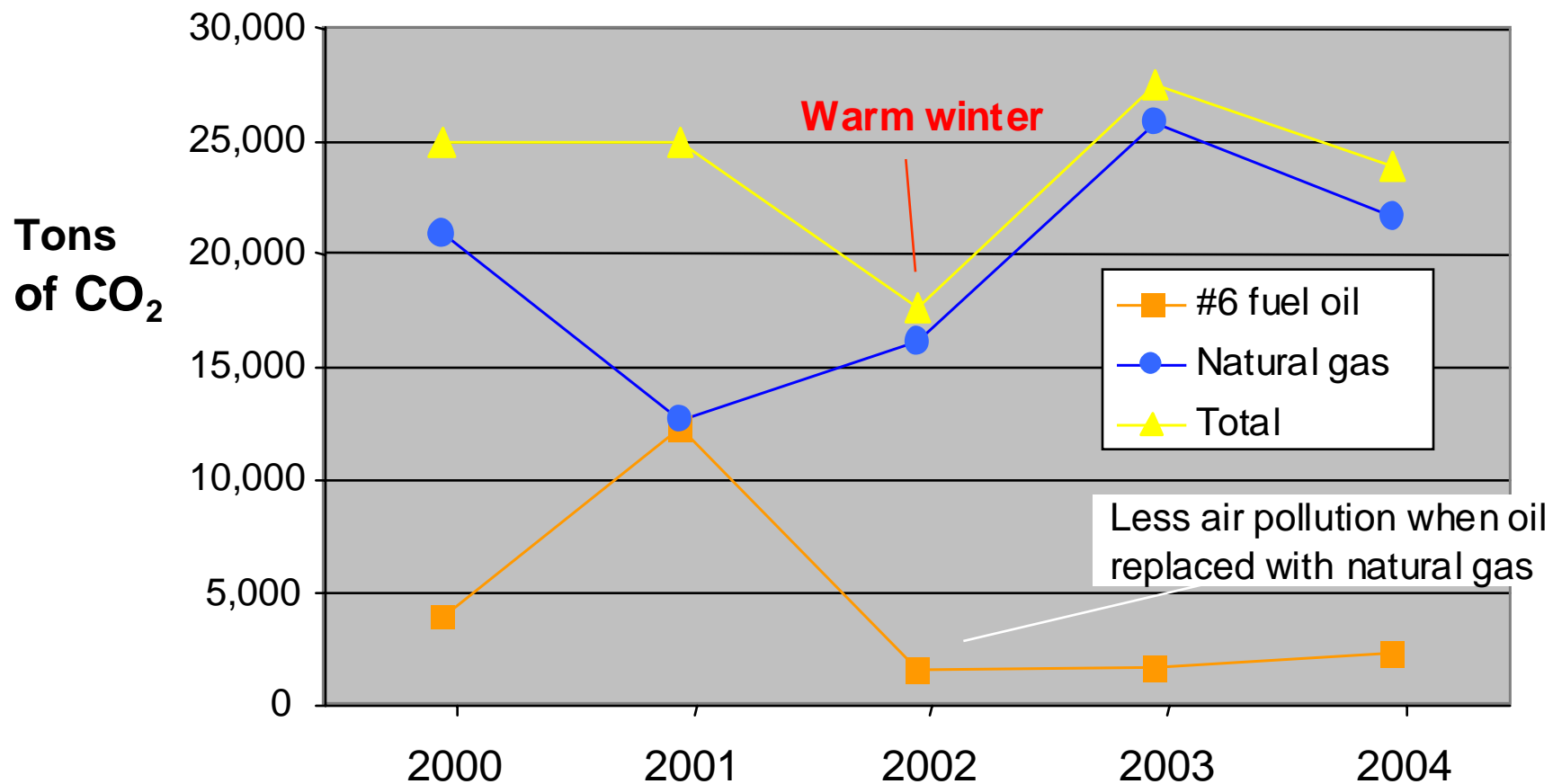
Objectives:

- Assess energy use and resultant air pollution
- Promote conservation, green energy use, alternative sources
- Reduce air pollution and produce savings
- Particular focus on engagement and sustainability

General Facts:

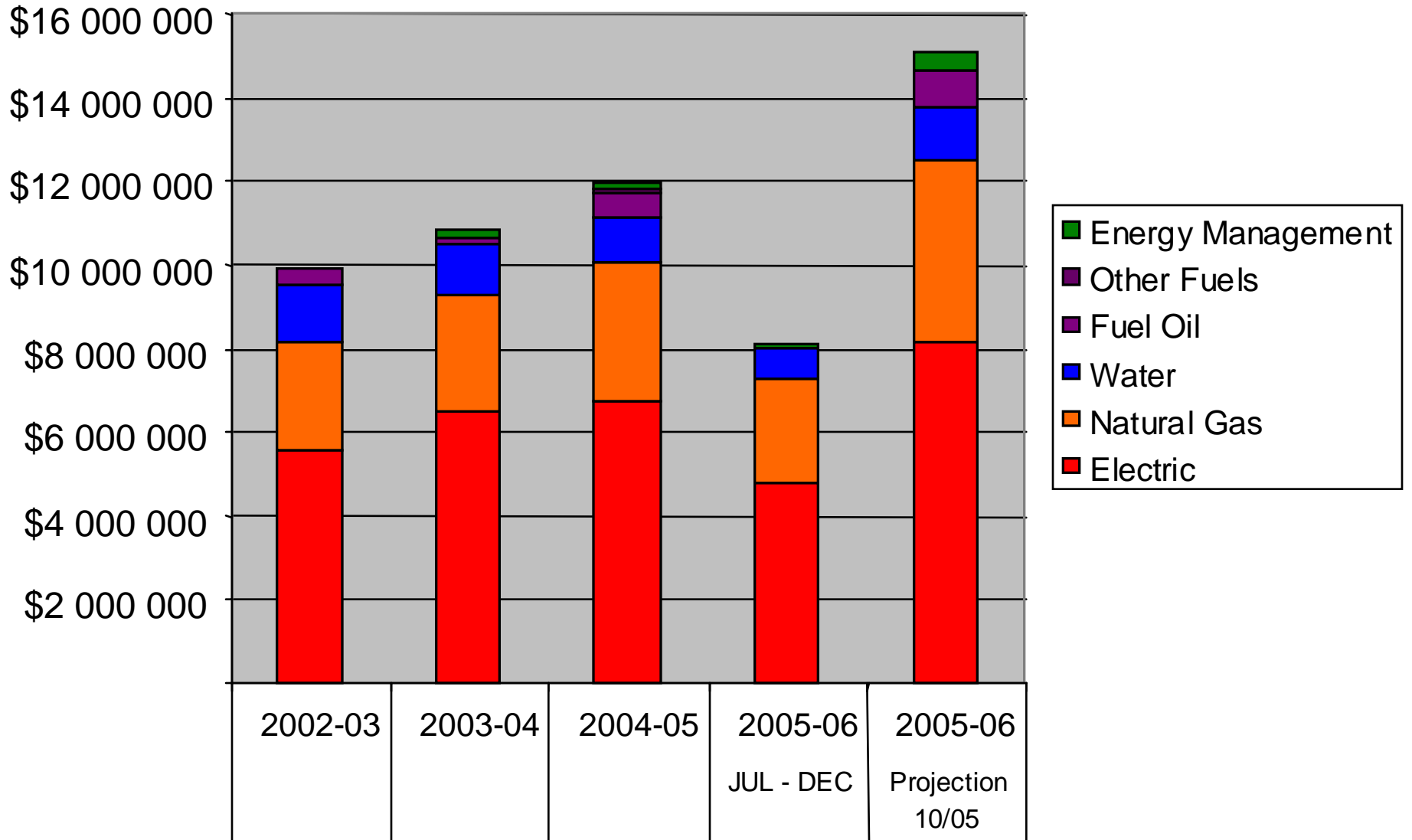
- Level of atmospheric pollution satisfactory - among the "Cleanest/Best facilities in the U.S."
- During the last 5 years, air pollution has decreased.
- New, more stringent environmental regulations on the horizon.

Emissions of Carbon Dioxide (Stationary sources only, Uptown Campus)



Annual Utility Budgets

Excluding East Campus, NanoFab, Empire Commons





Paradoxes:

- Central heating plant produces at 84% efficiency, but heat loss within buildings is enormous, comparable to a medieval home.
- Architecture is compact, but amount of area of single-glass windows is challenging.

Opportunities:

- UAlbany annual utility budget = \$15M, so 1% savings = 2 faculty lines!

Built Environment Committee

Catherine Lawson, Chair

Objectives:

Address areas around and between campus buildings and other places where people interact with their surroundings, with the goal of improving these interactions

Activities:

- Review of previous planning documents for elements of the built environment
- Self-assessment survey administered to 15 Geography and Planning Department classes
- 87% of respondents were undergraduates and 70% of them live on campus

Preliminary survey results

Current Concerns

- Weather exposure on paths
- Insufficient bus shelters
- Lack of bike paths and racks
- Uptown campus separation from the City
- Lighting on campus

Preferred Future Changes

- Quiet, well landscaped places
- Overhead canopies on key walkways
- Attractive basement podium walkway system
- Walking/biking path to Stuyvesant
- Greenhouse style café

Paradoxes and Opportunities:

- Original E.D. Stone Campus Plan and 1998 Master Plan included pathways, landscaping, and amenities – but few, if any, were built or maintained.
- Healthy activity patterns practiced while on campus could last a life-time.

Environmental Landscape Committee

George Robinson, Chair

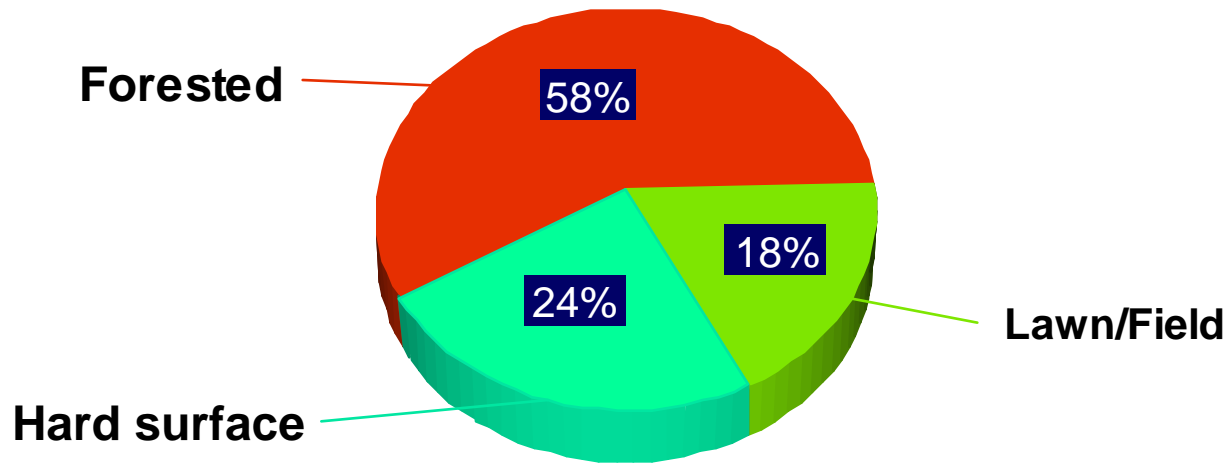
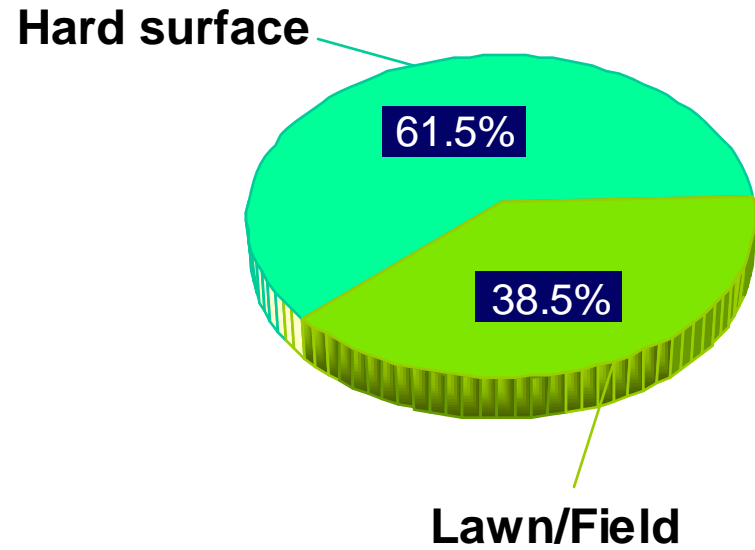
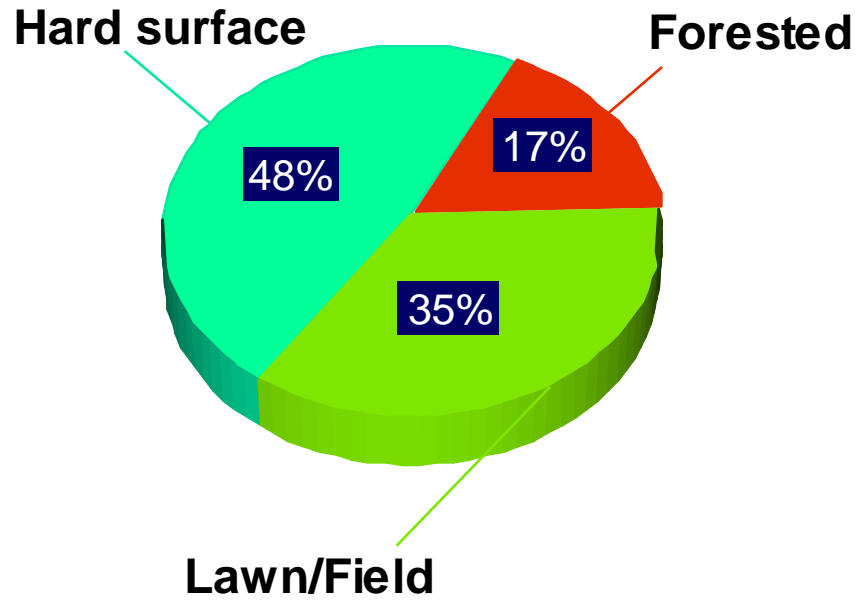
Objectives:

- Build information base on land holdings, land cover, and surface waters
- Develop policies for sustainable land planning
- Create more interesting and appealing campus grounds

General facts:

- Three campuses - 45% hard surface, 32% lawns and fields, 23% forest
- 600 tons of deicing salt applied annually
- High rates of forest loss
- New stormwater regulations looming

Land Cover



Paradoxes:

- Students rank campus grounds worst among University Centers, but most are unaware that we have a pond and wooded areas.
- SA and UA Foundation manage wilderness preserves in the Adirondacks, but our on-campus deforestation rate = that of a poor, developing country.
- We have research initiatives in watershed ecology, but we continue to add more hard surface (= more stormwater runoff) to the region.
- UAlbany's Master Plan includes principles of landscape integrity, but we have no matching policies or oversight.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Committee

Vincent Franconere, Michelle McConville, Co-chairs

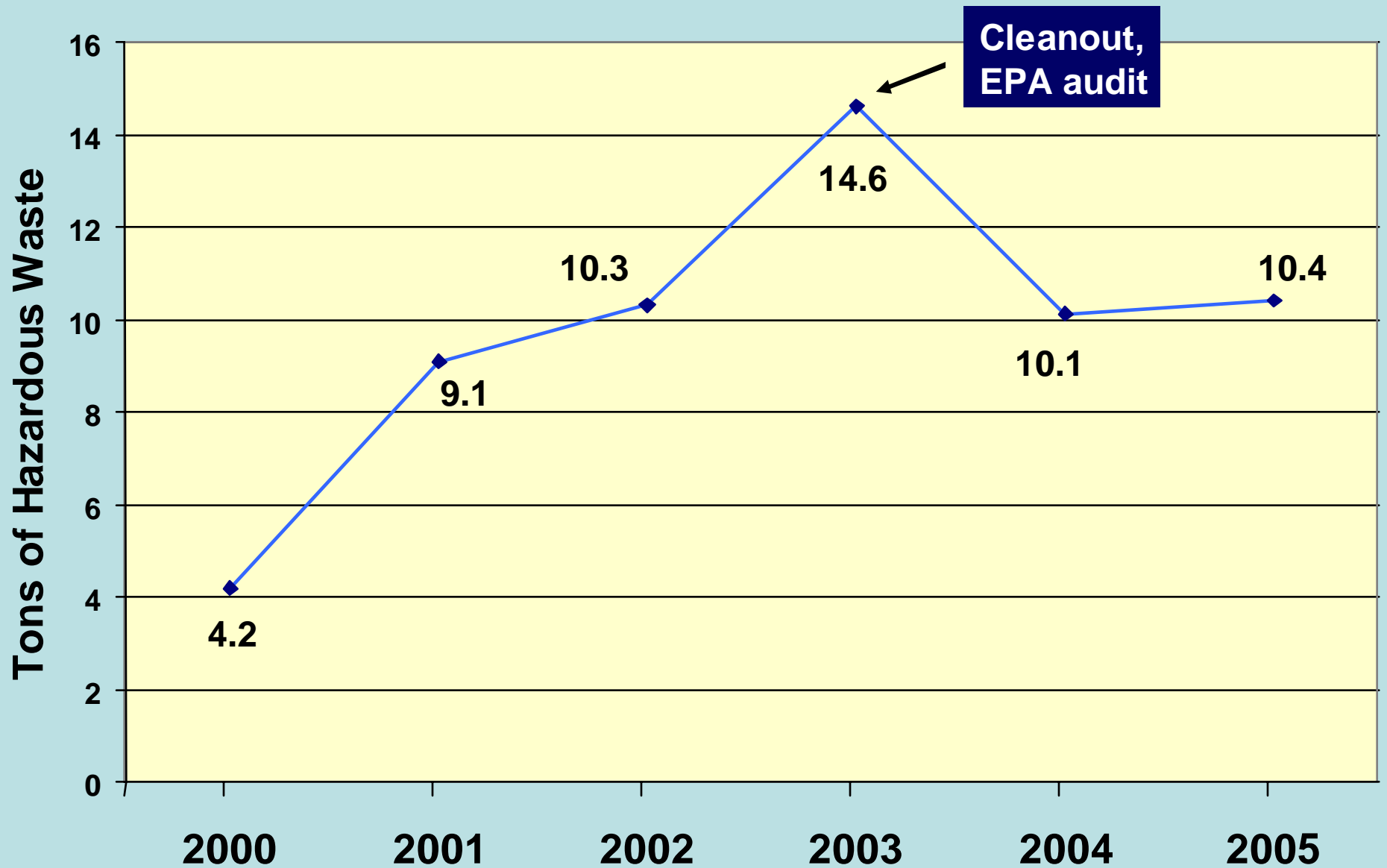
Objectives:

- Understand sources of waste production on the campuses
- Develop more proactive, responsible ways of reducing waste

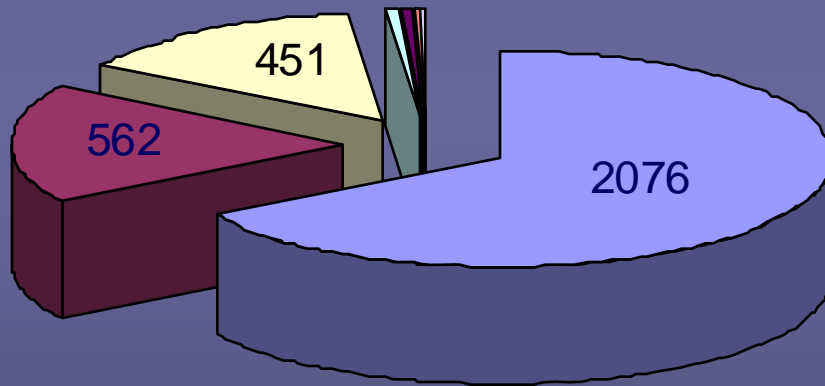
General Facts:

- Hazardous Waste is an unavoidable product of University research.
- We send 2,000 tons of garbage to the Albany Landfill per year.
- We recycled over 3,000 tons over past 4 years.
- Largest component of regulated waste is fluorescent light bulbs.

UAlbany Hazardous Waste Disposal (tons per year)



Recycled Material in Tons '01-'05



- Mixed Paper Products (2076)
- Metal (562)
- Yard Waste (451)
- Used Electronics (21)
- Glass (16)
- Motor oil (7)
- Batteries (all types) (6)
- Plastic (5)



Challenges:

- Regulatory mandate from EPA
- Re-education of the “disposable” society
- Adoption of research techniques that minimize hazardous chemical usage

Paradoxes and Opportunities:

- Growing strength in research inevitably leads to growth in regulated waste.
- Growth of campus inevitably leads to more waste generation.
- Waste management and recycling costs can be reduced, many behaviors improved.

Green Commerce Committee

Gary Kleppel, Chair

Objectives:

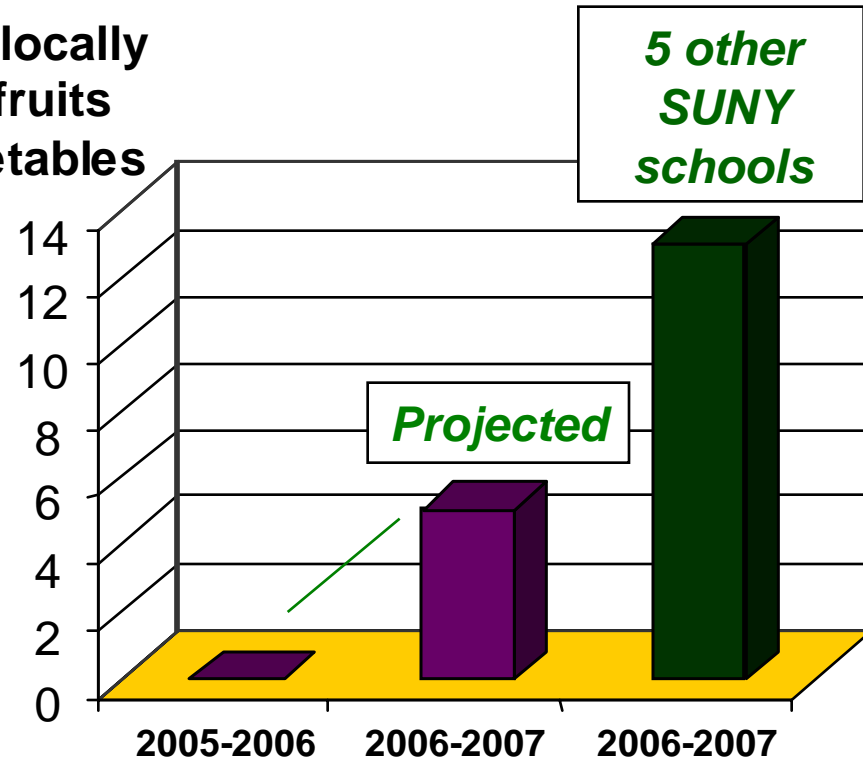
- Examine procurement practices at UAlbany
- Assess the waste stream and potential for composting & replacing "disposables" with "re-usables"
- Focus on "green" product purchases

General Facts:

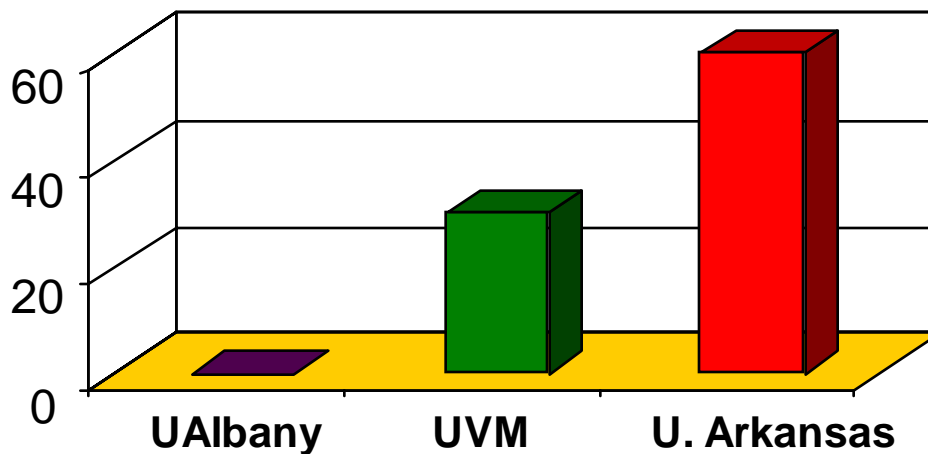
- We purchase no food from local growers & compost none of the wastes.
- Replacing "disposables" with "re-usables" is both "green" and economical.
- 51% of paper has recycled content; UAlbany uses "green" cleaning products.

Purchasing fruits and vegetables from local, organic producers and meats from local pasture-based farms is good for our environment, our local economy, and our health.

Kinds of locally grown fruits and vegetables



Percent of food purchased from local producers





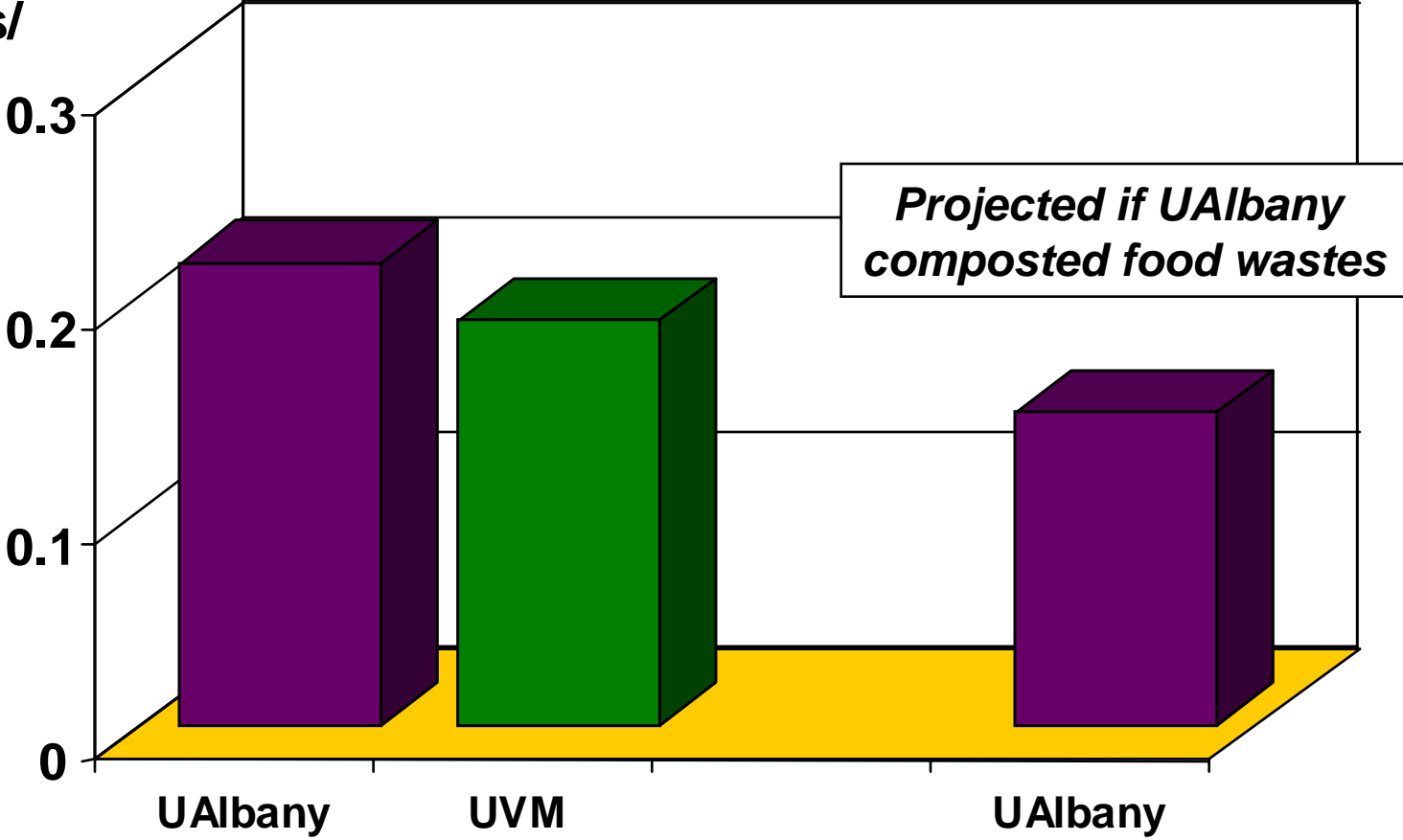
Paradoxes:

- 2 family-owned orchards in Albany County - yet we buy apples from Washington state.
- While we produce 1.5 tons of food waste daily (about half of it compostable), we use large amounts of chemical fertilizers in our gardens.

Opportunities:

- Food waste can be reduced by composting; the compost can replace some artificial fertilizers.
- UAS & Chartwells are exploring new initiatives on local foods and re-usable products (bags, cups).

Annual food waste (tons/student)



Sustainability Education Committee

Helmut Hirsch, Chair

Objectives:

- Assess incidence of daily choices that reflect ecological knowledge
- Incorporate concepts of sustainability into all academic activities
- Develop campus sustainability service-practicum

General Facts:

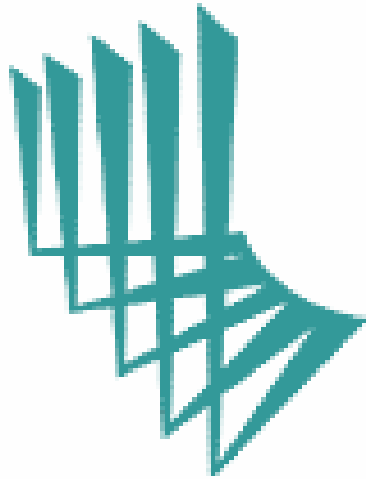
- < 10 lower division courses currently offer material on sustainability.
- UAlbany supplies academic leadership in environmental research, technological innovation, and policy.

Paradoxes:

- Levels of academic expertise in environmental science & policy not reflected in undergraduate curriculum or campus-wide behaviors.
- We reward students for many different achievements, but not for environmental citizenship.

Opportunities:

- Baseline assessment begins a hoped-for cultural shift at UAlbany towards ecological awareness.
- Many students, staff and faculty will contribute knowledge and enthusiasm.



ULSF

Association Of
**UNIVERSITY
LEADERS
FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**

The Talloires Declaration

- ❖ Composed in 1990 at an international conference in Talloires, France
- ❖ 10-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities
- ❖ Signed by over 300 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries
- ❖ UAlbany signed on in 2005

http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html

A row of Moai statues on a grassy hill under a cloudy sky. The statues are dark and weathered, standing in a line. The background is a bright, overcast sky.

Plan of Action (8-month charge)

1. Assessment and raising awareness in preparation for annual scorecard
2. Planning and testing early improvements

Long-term Goals

3. Cultural changes in the UAlbany community
4. Commensurate changes in policy and practice

Please join us!