**Designing Integrative Sustainability Assignments**Modified from Curriculum for the Bioregion Initiative’ and Jean MacGregor, Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education  
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

**Goal of this Activity:**Incorporate sustainability concepts, skills, and habits of mind into courses in ways that have curricular integrity and "standing" – both for faculty and students.

**Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Form Groups (e.g., Grand Challenges)

**Step 2:** Working individually, identify key "tree trunk" concepts in your course related.to your Grand Challenge. Working individually, identify what, for you, are the key concepts or "big ideas" that form the "tree trunk" of your course related.to your Grand Challenge. Write each concept legibly on a separate sticky note. Generate about 3 - 5 concepts. (3 - 5 minutes)  
  
Key "tree trunk" Concepts are:

* Theories, principles, questions, and animating ideas that matter to your course.
* Key concepts should be powerful enough that students can remember them, see them at work, and use them years into the future.
* Key concepts are those that you want your students to take away from the class and if they don’t you would feel disappointed.

**Step 3:** Discuss and distill your concept lists  
In your small group, "put your concepts on the table" in a way that everyone can see what has been generated. For about 10 minutes, share your concepts and develop a general prioritization list.

**Step 4.** Continuing with your small group, brainstorm and generate a list of sustainability concepts that can be linked to the concepts in step 3 and incorporated into an assignment that can be used in your class. Feel free to move around and group up the sticky-notes to move along your discussion. (~30 min.)

**Step 5.** Develop an outline and details if there is time for an engaging assignment or activity that you could use in your class that will create a learning opportunity that integrates geoscience concepts and sustainability concepts.

**Step 6.** Provide a brief overview of what you accomplished.