



**Academic Review Committee
Request Form: Program Revision**

ARC Use Only:
 ARC #: _____
 Program ID: _____
 Status: _____
(A=Approved, I=Info item only, R=Returned)
 Date rec'd by ARC: _____

Please submit the ORIGINAL of this request form and supporting documents (along with an electronic version) to your unit ARC representative who will deliver them to the Academic Review Committee.

SECTION A: Program Information

Program Title¹: Environmental Studies Major
 School(s): SSHA Convening Group(s): Environmental Studies
 Proposal Date: 10/1/15 Effective Date: Fall 2016²

Please attach a description of the proposed changes, and all supporting documentation.

SECTION B: Approvals

Reviewed and Approved by:

Title	Print name	Sign	Date
Convener	Michael R Edolstein	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/1/15
Graduate Council Chair			
School Curriculum Committee chair			
Dean	ARON LORENZ	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/15/15

ARC Disposition:

- Information item only - no ARC approval necessary
- Faculty Assembly approval not needed; ARC approves
- Faculty Assembly approval not needed; ARC does not approve
- ARC recommends approval by the Faculty Assembly
- ARC does NOT recommend approval by the Faculty Assembly

ARC Chair: _____ Date: _____
print & sign

The ARC recommends the following:

Office of the Provost Use Only:

Approved Not Approved Provost Signature _____ Date: _____

¹ If the request is to change the program title, enter the *current* title here
² For Fall 2015 implementation, the proposal must be received by ARC by October 15th 2014

ARC Proposals from the Environmental Studies Convening Group

Michael R. Edelstein, Convener

**Re: Name change of major from “Environmental Studies” to
“Environmental Studies and Sustainability.”**

October 15, 2015

Abstract

With this proposal, we apply to change the name of the Environmental Studies Program to the “Environmental Studies and Sustainability” Program.

In a separate action, we also propose a new minor in Sustainability.

Ramapo College of NJ pioneered the new field of Environmental Studies in the 1970s. Subsequently, we were the locus for the development of the concept of Social Ecology. By the 1980s, we were among the earliest developers of the integrative concept of Sustainability. As a result, our major program in Environmental Studies has had a significant Sustainability focus ever since.

In recent years, Sustainability finally caught on and has become a nearly ubiquitous concept, with many colleges and universities developing new programs with Sustainability in the title.

It is, therefore, time that we change the name of our major so as to keep up with the laggards while claiming our leadership in this substantive and popular area. At the same time, we are loathe to abandon the title Environmental Studies with its strong meaning for our more than 2,000 graduates and its continuing significance for many of our majors and as an interdisciplinary area of study. Thus, a balancing act suggests the linked title we now propose.