

# Ohio Wesleyan University Sustainability Plan

As a liberal arts institution, Ohio Wesleyan University must be a leader in progressive sustainability initiatives through educational, technical, and social means. The *Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan* is intended to invigorate and expand a culture of sustainability that has a positive impact on the environment.

## 1 Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus

- Full-time Sustainability Coordinator & facilities by 2018
- New Environmental Studies faculty position by 2019
- 10% yearly growth in students involved in sustainability projects

## 2 Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

- Commit to greening 6 existing campus buildings by 2018
- Commit to solar power for all renovated Small Living Units & one residential hall by 2018
- Annual student run energy reduction challenge initiated Fall 2016

## 3 Increase Our Health and Well-being

- Commit to a Farm and Food Collaboration with Stratford Ecological Center and the Methodist Theological School's Seminary Hill Farm by 2017 with funded staff position, student positions, internships & campus gardens by 2018.
- Successful student managed campus garden by end of 2016

## 4 Live Better on Campus and on Earth

- Commit to redevelop a residential hall as a freshman sustainable living community model by 2018
- Maintain and expand May Move Out
- Expand campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitat



## Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus

### *Full-time Sustainability Coordinator & Facilities by 2018:*

Pursue funding for a full-time Sustainability and Student Research Coordinator with an applied sustainability and environmental focus, as well as facilities and support for this position. A full-time mentor and teacher will significantly focus and lend coherence to sustainability and environmental initiatives on campus and in the community.

### *New Environmental Studies Faculty Position by 2019:*

Pursue funding for a faculty position, potentially a Chair in Environmental Studies, to cover introductory and advanced courses in areas of Environmental Studies. Interdisciplinary breadth of study is vital to this position. Expertise should include fields not adequately covered by current ES faculty, including environmental policy, political ecology, and sustainability.

### *10% Yearly Growth in Students Involved in Sustainability Projects:*

Student initiated and run environmental and sustainability projects are documented in OWU Environmental Studies & Sustainability Progress, Spring 2016 (<http://sustainability.owu.edu/?p=675>) and can be used as a baseline to monitor progress on student engagement.



## Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

### *Commit to Greening 6 Existing Campus Buildings by 2018:*

Take advantage of a building retrofit collaboration whereby OWU contracts with a company to green a series of campus buildings in return for utility savings.

- Revisit 2010 campus building retrofit proposal by end of 2016
- Seek a revised proposal for implementation by 2018.
- Revisit and update previous campus energy study
- Revisit and update recommended set of Energy Conservation Measures (ECM's)
- Enter agreement with retrofit company to design and install all ECM's at no cost to the university. The firm keeps 100% of the savings for ECM's for a specified amount of time.
- Use university funds for additional ECMs not included in the retrofit proposal.

### *Commit to Solar Power for all Renovated Small Living Units & 1 Residential Hall by 2018:*

- Commit to install solar energy panels on campus, either funded by the university or as part of an agreement with an outside firm (solar panels in exchange for utility savings)
- Place solar panels on the newly constructed Rowland Avenue Student Living Units and include solar in future SLU, Fraternity and residential hall construction and renovations.

### *Student Run Energy Reduction Challenge*

- Schedule the third or fourth week of the fall semester; affect behaviors for rest of year
- Schedule awareness events and strategies to reduce energy use; zero energy activities & pledges
- Energy use tracked by building and compared to energy use in first two weeks of semester
- Biggest percent reduction (dorm, SLU, Frat) gets rewards



## 3

## Increase Our Health and Well-being

*Commit to a Farm and Food Collaboration with Stratford Ecological Center and the Methodist Theological School of Ohio's Seminary Hill Farm by 2017:*

- Full time funded staff to manage collaboration, OWU gardens and teach
- Funded all year student positions on campus and at MTSO & Stratford
- Integrate with Food Minor
- Full composting program
- Integrate with Cooking Matters and develop "Gardening Matters" gardening program on campus: community & social outreach
- Develop business plan (regional food networks and social agenda) & expand campus gardens
- Supply food for Chartwells
- Student engagement in hands-on growing of food, application of natural science to sustainable agriculture, marketing and economics of food and regional food networks, food entrepreneurial projects, remediation of food deserts, social outreach and integration of community and campus, etc.
- Generate regional Food Charter

*Successful Student Managed Campus Garden:*

Campus garden redeveloped and staffed and growing food starting summer of 2016.

## 4

## Live Better on Campus and on Earth

*Commit to Redevelop a Residential Hall as a Freshman Sustainable Living Model by 2018:*

Emphasis on building community by living better: LEED Platinum rating building with an emphasis on life and community skills. Philosophy of permanence and hands-on skills (inspired by Crawford's *Shop Class as Soul Craft*): electronics repair, bike repair, engine maintenance and repair, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, gardening, cooking, etc. Skills learned in .25 credit courses taught in part by staff from B&G and Chartwells (and others). Potential collaboration with Repair Association ([repair.org](http://repair.org)). Emphasis on entrepreneurial opportunities which develop from engagement. Residential room design to minimize waste; refrigerators, extensive storage, washable area rugs, water conserving bathrooms, solar water heating, phantom energy reduction wiring, light sensors and green laundry, cooking facilities, composting and recycling, RAs as sustainable life assistants. Fully incorporated with other three major sustainability initiatives.

*May Move Out:*

Student initiated and run effort to reduce the amount of reusable items discarded as students move off campus in May. Maintain program and expand to encompass additional reuse and social outreach efforts.

*Expand Campus Bird, Animal, Insect and Plant Habitat:*

Continued development of student, staff and faculty projects to enhance non-human habitats on campus including the skills needed to make these project work. Includes bird nesting boxes, bird feeders, chimney swift towers, bird habitat, bee habitat and keeping, retention pond habitat enhancements, restoration of "Salamander Swamp" area, and Delaware Run restoration.

# Sustainability Task Force

*Description and members:*

## Geog 499: Sustainability Practicum

*Students, staff and faculty figure out how to make sustainability happen on campus with no full time staff and few funds. Goals Spring 2016: an actual campus sustainability plan, and three applied projects: May Move Out, Reusable Food Containers in HWCC, Food & Farm Collaboration with MTSO and Stratford*

*Students: Blake Brewer, Allie France, Emily Howald, James Ormerod, Zanna Wright*

*Instructor: John Krygier*

## Supporting Campus Organizations

*Tree House*

*WCSA*

*Environment and Wildlife Club*