



Ohio Wesleyan University | Environment & Sustainability | Fall 2020

Environmental Science | Environmental Studies | Food Studies (minor)

More information at sustainability.owu.edu

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*A selection of ongoing activities focused on environmental and sustainability by Ohio Wesleyan students, staff and faculty and off-campus collaborators during the **Fall of 2020**.*

OWU's E&S Program has nearly 50 majors who participate in program and campus efforts:

OWU Courses focus on the environment from a range of perspectives including ecology, economics, geography, literature, ethics, politics and government, and history.

We have a growing number of **local and regional externships and internships** which can be taken as a full credit course during the semester or summer. We are happy to consider talented freshmen for these externships if they come in with relevant experiences. Some examples:

- Seminary Hill Farm (@ MTSO Campus): Organic farm + food justice
- Stratford Ecological Center: Organic farm + environmental education center
- Delaware Preservation Parks: seasonal naturalist positions, environmental education, etc.
- City of Delaware: Interns working on city projects, environmental projects & mapping
- DelCo Water Co.: Infrastructure mapping & water quality

New courses: ENVS 110: Introduction to Environment & Sustainability, and ENVS 198/498: Conversations Toward a Sustainable Future are new courses first taught Fall 2020. These are project and OWU connection-based courses, linking new students to upperclassmen, faculty, campus staff, and our regional partners.

New course: ENVS 399: Sustainability Practicum puts sustainability principles into practice on the OWU campus and in Delaware, Ohio via group efforts and collaborations with campus and regional partners



Travel Learning courses: Bahia Ballena, Costa Rica (left)

BOMI 355 Plant Responses to Global Change in Alaska or Brazil
 GEOG 347 Environmental Alteration in Costa Rica
 P&G 280 Environmental Politics in Utah
 ZOOL 345 Marine Biology in Belize

As of the fall of 2019 we have an **E&S themed floor** in the Residential Halls. Students are connected to upperclassmen in the Tree House SLU, Environment & Wildlife Club, and with E&S faculty and campus staff, and have specific campus projects: E&S freshmen will be...

- working on campus recycling and the May Move Out initiative to divert unwanted dorm items to local charities
- members of our campus Sustainability Task Force
- working on the design of a sustainable living floor in a future dormitory renovation

A Collaboration between OWU student Janelle Valdinger and the City of Delaware led to the construction of **two bioretention cells** (rain gardens, right) installed in Spring 2018 with more coming this fall and next spring. The cells were designed with plants that appeal to local pollinators and are also very low maintenance.



Ohio Wesleyan University senior Brianna Graber has spent the past year planning and conducting water-quality research on the Delaware Run, which flows through the university campus and into the Olentangy River. Her work included collaborating with the City of Delaware to install a 4-foot-high, 18.5-foot-wide, concrete-weighted **storm drain net** directly into the waterway. Put in place by crane Sept. 9, the 13,000-pound trapezoidal net is now capturing trash and green debris (organic waste such as lawn clippings and leaves). The net is one of the first installed in Ohio and the nation.

OWU has a range of **mapping, Geographic Information Systems, and Remote Sensing** (satellite and drone imaging of the earth) courses along with internships in these growing geospatial technology fields.

Dr. Nathan Rowley (Geology & Geography) is teaching a series of introductory and advanced **weather and climate** courses tied to his research specialties in global climate change.

A student and alumni project to construct a large brick **Chimney Swift Tower** (left) on the residential side of campus is fully funded and scheduled to be constructed in 2020. The tower will be designed with custom ceramics created by our campus Art Department faculty and students, with tiles representing the ecosystem and history of OWU.



E&S is hosting a **daylong regional watershed conference** on campus in October of '20: the 17th Annual Olentangy Watershed Forum. This is a great way for students to connect to and network with regional environmental professionals.



OWU Sustainability Plan (left): 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 created largely by students as part of their coursework at OWU, was officially adopted in 2017 and is currently being updated.

May Move Out: A student-initiated project, in collaboration with Goodwill, to divert usable materials from the trash as students move off campus in May. We divert about 10 tons of reusable furniture, appliances, clothes, bikes, etc. on average, each May. Ohio Wesleyan's

May Move Out program was awarded the 2015 Recycling Award from the Keep Delaware County Beautiful Coalition.



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