

Sustainability Plan

As a liberal arts institution, Ohio Wesleyan University must strive to promote sustainability through educational, technical, and social means. The Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan is intended to invigorate and expand a culture of sustainability on campus with an eye on the future of humans and the earth's environment.

1

Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus and in the Community

- Environment & Sustainability program with Sustainability major and faculty position by 2019
- Donation to fund sustainability coordinator with support & facilities by 2020
- 5% yearly growth in majors and minors in Environment & Sustainability
- Expand reusable container program for campus food by 20% each year
- Develop a long-term plan for composting by 2018

2

Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

- Commit to energy-efficient building investments
- Utilize 20% solar or renewable energy on campus by 2020
- Install solar panels on campus for learning purposes
- Annual student run energy reduction challenge initiated fall 2017

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
- Successful student managed campus garden by 2017
- Purchase 20% of campus food from local and regional sources by 2018
- Maintain and grow student-run Food Recovery Network and related programs

4

Live Better on Campus and on Earth

- Develop Sustainable Living model residence option by 2019
- OWU activity courses on sustainable practices by 2017
- Maintain and expand May Move Out
- New campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitat enhancement each year
- Work to elect humane, environmentally-conscious and scientifically-literate political representatives

1

Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus and in the Community

Environment & Sustainability Program: Environmental Studies will be expanded to include a new major in Environmental Science and an expanded Environmental Studies major *by 2018*. A Climate Studies minor will be added to our Food Studies minor by 2019. A faculty position to expand course offerings in sustainability and environment will be created and new courses developed *by 2019*.

OWU Campus Sustainability Coordinator: A donation will be pursued to perpetually fund a full-time Sustainability and Student Research Coordinator with an applied sustainability and environmental focus, as well as facilities and support for this position, *by 2020*. This full-time mentor and teacher will significantly focus and lend coherence to sustainability and environmental initiatives on campus and in the community.

Environment & Sustainability growth in majors: *5% growth per year* in majors and minors in the program will result from efforts to expand the program in tandem with recruiting work in collaboration with OWU's admissions office.

Reusable Food Container Program: In an effort to limit waste, reusable food containers are being offered by Chartwells in key dining locations on campus. Adoption has been slow, but promotion efforts will expand the use of reusable containers by *20% each year*. The ultimate goal is to eliminate disposable food containers *by 2020*.

Campus Composting: Develop a long-term plan for composting on OWU's campus *by 2018*. Options include composting bins, vermicompost, kitchen composting appliances, and collaboration with composting firms.

2

Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

Commit to energy-efficient building investments: The university will develop a plan *by 2018* to invest in high return-on-investment (ROI) energy savings projects in unrenovated campus buildings. Current practices of applying appropriate green building updates to buildings being built or renovated will be maintained.

Renewable energy on campus: *By 2020* OWU will be using 20% solar or other renewable energy on campus. B&G will continue to explore renewable energy opportunities, collaborations, and other options and report on such possibilities annually to the Sustainability Task Force.

Alternative energy on campus: *By 2018* develop a proposal to fund the installation of basic solar and wind energy technology for both pedagogical and energy awareness purposes on campus.

Annual student run energy reduction challenge: *By 2017* initiate an annual student-run energy reduction challenge with pledges, challenges and awards.

3

Increase Our Health and Well-being

Farm and food collaboration: *By 2017* commit to a farm and food collaboration with Stratford Ecological Center and the Methodist Theological School's Seminary Hill Farm. Collaborators will seek funding to develop the program. The program will enhance local food use on campus and in the community, integrate with our food studies minor as well as the campus garden. The campus garden will be developed and linked to OWU Activity Courses. Collaborators will develop a "Gardening Matters" outreach program as an extension of our current "Cooking Matters" program.

Successful student managed campus garden: *By 2017* OWU will have a plan in place to maintain our campus community garden as a sustainable component of campus life. Long-term sustainability of the garden will be the result of our farm and food collaboration, connection to OWU Activity Courses, and coordination with faculty and staff in the Environment & Sustainability Program.

Purchase 20% of campus food from local and regional sources: *By 2018* Chartwells will purchase 20% of food for campus from local and regional sources. An emphasis should be placed on food sources in the region, such as those provided by the Yellowbird Foodshed and related companies.

Food Recovery Network and related programs: *By 2017* commit to maintain, document and develop the Food Recovery Network and related programs which defer leftover, usable campus food to organizations capable of distributing the food to those in need.

4

Live Better on Campus and on Earth

Develop Sustainable Living model residence option: *By 2019* create and evaluate a model for living sustainably in a selected floor of one residence hall. This model residential option will provide infrastructure that allow students to develop life-long sustainable habits. Rooms will be equipped with common items to eliminate waste and will have infrastructure needed for other sustainable practices like cooking or composting.

OWU activity courses on sustainable practices: *By 2017* implement and evaluate two sustainability oriented activity courses to be offered for .25 credit. Initial courses will focus on repair and gardening.

Maintain and expand May Move Out: Our student-initiated May Move Out effort defers 10 tons of materials from landfills each spring by donating usable furniture, appliances, and other dorm contents to Goodwill for resale. Commit to maintain and develop this program.

New campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitats: Commit to at least one significant campus habitat enhancement *each year* through student, staff, and faculty involvement. Seek donations for these projects, such as those that will fund the construction of chimney swift towers on campus (2017). Define additional projects, including native plantings, bird houses and feeders, bees, and the restoration of Delaware Run between Sandusky St. and Henry St.

Work to elect humane, environmentally-conscious and scientifically-literate political representatives: Commit to one significant event per year to raise awareness about electing representatives who grasp the importance of a healthy environment for maintaining human rights and well-being locally, nationally and globally.

The undersigned support the Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan

Terms of support

We endorse the general aims and goals of the Plan, and the spirit with which it is intended. By endorsing this document, we are not committing to support all the sustainability efforts the Plan details, nor are we committing to spend funds to meet the Plan's goals. Implementation of sustainability efforts will, in every case, move through a typical administrative process. Endorsement of the Plan serves to raise awareness of sustainability in our community. We endorse making sustainability and sustainable options part of the conversation and process of growth and evolution of the Ohio Wesleyan campus and its community.

List of supporting groups

The Ohio Wesleyan Sustainability Plan will be revisited and updated each Spring.
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