

# Sustainability Plan

As a liberal arts higher education 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

- Strengthen Environmental Studies Program
- Fund sustainability coordinator with support & facilities by 2020
- 5% yearly growth in student sustainability involvement

2

## Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

- Commit to energy-efficient building investments
- Utilize 5% solar or renewable energy on campus by 2020
- Install solar panels on campus for learning purposes
- Annual student run energy reduction challenge initiated in 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
- Purchase 15% of campus food from local and regional sources by 2020
- Develop a long-term plan for composting 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
- Expand reusable container program for campus food by 20% each year

# 1 Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus and in the Community

**Strengthen Environmental Studies Program:** By Fall 2017 expand the Environmental Studies program to include a new major in Environmental Science and a stand alone Environmental Studies major. By Spring 2018 have a plan for a faculty position to expand course offerings in sustainability and environment, as part of established faculty positions, or a new position funded by a donation. By Fall of 2019 have a Climate Studies minor in place in the program (in addition to the Food Studies minor already established).

**OWU Campus Sustainability Coordinator:** By 2020 a strategy will be developed 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. This full-time mentor and teacher will lend coherence to sustainability and environmental initiatives on campus and in the community. The coordinator would also help to enhance the interdisciplinary work of students interested in sustainability by providing hands-on experience and practical projects alongside classroom learning.

**5% yearly growth in student sustainability involvement:** 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 until the number of graduating majors reaches 20. Cross-disciplinary study with environmental topics will be encouraged and all student projects will be documented.

# 2 Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

**Commit to energy-efficient building investments:** By 2018 the university will develop a plan to invest in high return-on-investment (ROI) energy savings projects in unrenovated campus buildings in an effort to create a more efficient campus. 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 5% 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. This challenge will seek to change behaviors of energy usage that will carry over throughout the year. It will also involve monitoring of energy usage across campus.



## 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 as well as for a supervisor. 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. The campus garden will be a sustainable component of campus life.

**Purchase 15% of campus food from local and regional sources:** By 2020 Chartwells will purchase 20% of food for campus from local and regional sources starting with a 1% increase each year. An emphasis should be placed on food sources in the region, such as those provided by the Yellowbird Foodshed and related companies.

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

**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 the university will 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:** Each year commit to at least one significant campus habitat enhancement through student, staff, and faculty involvement. Seek donations for these projects and define additional projects, including native plantings, bird houses and feeders, bees, and the restoration of Delaware Run between Sandusky St. and Henry St.

**Reusable Food Container Program:** By 2022 eliminate disposable food containers in HWCC Marketplace, in an effort to limit waste. Adoption has been slow, but promotion efforts will expand the use of reusable containers by 20% each year.

## *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 understand that not all sustainability efforts the Plan details will necessarily be completed, 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 individuals and groups:

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