

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 with support & facilities by 2019
- Environment & Sustainability program with Sustainability major and faculty position by 2019
- 5% yearly growth in majors and minors in Environment & Sustainability

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 end of 2016
- Maintain and grow student-run Food Recovery Network

4 Live Better on Campus and on Earth

- Develop Sustainable Living Model Residence Option by 2020
- OWU Activity courses on Sustainable Practices by Spring 2017
- Maintain and expand May Move Out
- New campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitat enhancement each year

1

Commit to a Sustainable Future on Campus

Full-time Sustainability Coordinator with support & facilities by 2019:

Funding will be pursued 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. 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 program with Sustainability major and faculty position by 2019:

As part of the new Environment & Sustainability program revision, a faculty member will be hired to teach new courses and develop a Sustainability major. The current Environmental Studies program will be enhanced to include major tracks in sustainability, climate, and food studies. An Environmental Science major will also be developed.

5% yearly growth in majors and minors in Environment & Sustainability:

The 5% growth in majors and minors within the program will result from advertising and building the program to attract prospective students. Cross-disciplinary study with environmental topics be encouraged. Past, current, and ongoing student projects should be documented and used to promote the program.

2

Reduce Our Impact on Global Climate Change

Commit to energy-efficient building investments:

- The university will seek funding for a small group of high energy saving projects in non-renovated campus buildings. A subset of budget savings will be applied to subsequent capital intensive energy efficiency projects.
- Maintain current practice of appropriate green building updates as buildings on campus are renovated.

Utilize 20% solar or renewable energy on campus by 2020:

- Energy acquired through collaboration on a regional solar field or purchasing of energy from renewable energy sources to significantly reduce our Campus carbon footprint.

Install solar panels on campus for learning purposes:

- Install limited set of solar panels with data monitoring capabilities on the Schimmel-Conrades Science Center as a source of renewable energy learning.

Student Run Energy Reduction Challenge

- Students living on campus will be encouraged to reduce energy usage by a yearly challenge.
- 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:

- Develop OWU Activity Course focused on maintaining campus garden
- Develop internship positions with partial duties working on campus garden
- Integrate with Environment & Sustainability program and Food Minor
- Develop plan for composting campus food waste
- Grants to integrate with Cooking Matters and develop "Gardening Matters" gardening program.
- Develop business plan (regional food networks and social agenda) & expand campus gardens
- Generate regional Food Charter

Successful Student Managed Campus Garden:

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

Maintain and grow student-run Food Recovery Network:

Food Recovery Network unites students on college campuses to fight food waste and hunger by recovering perishable food that would otherwise go to waste from their campuses and communities and donating it to people in need.

4

Live Better on Campus and on Earth

Develop Sustainable Living Model Residence Option by 2020:

For students living on campus, this residential option will be a model for living sustainably. It will be designed to allow students to learn sustainable living within the dorms, with an emphasis on life-long sustainability skills and habits. Rooms will be equipped to eliminate year-end waste, including extensive storage, carpets, recycle bins, microwaves and refridgerators. Link to activity courses on sustainable practices such as growing and cooking food and maintenance (cars, electronics).

OWU Activity courses on Sustainable Practices by Spring 2017:

Two new 0.25 credit Activity Courses will be offered, teaching students hands-on sustainability practices. The initial courses will focus on repairing or building items and gardening. After initial test courses, the possibility of expansion will be explored.

Maintain and expand May Move Out:

May Move Out collects reusable items from students at the end of the school year and donates them to Goodwill to recycle or sell. Over 10 tons of items are saved from the dumpster each spring. Greater outreach in the future can expand the program.

New campus bird, animal, insect and plant habitat enhancement each year:

Engage students, staff, and faculty to enhance habitats on campus: at least one significant project should be completed each year. Projects include chimney swift towers, bird feeders, bird houses, bee keeping, and exploration of the restoration of the Delaware Run.

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

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Supporting Campus Organizations

Tree House

WCSA

Environment and Wildlife Club