



Ohio Wesleyan University | Environment & Sustainability | Spring 2021 Environmental Science | Environmental Studies | Geography | Food Studies (minor)

sustainability.owu.edu

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A selection of ongoing activities focused on environmental and sustainability by Ohio Wesleyan students, staff, faculty, and off-campus collaborators. OWU E&S has over 50 majors who participate in program and campus efforts:

OWU Courses focus on the environment from a broad range of perspectives:

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

ENVS 111: Introduction to Earth Science | **ENVS 113: Ecology & the Human Future** | **ENVS 399: Sustainability Practicum**
Environmental courses in Biology, Chemistry, Politics & Government, Economics, Philosophy & Religion, History, HHK

We have a growing number of **local and regional externships and internships** that 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



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

BOMI 355 Plant Responses to Global Change in Alaska / Brazil
GEOG 347 Environmental Alteration in Costa Rica
ZOOL 345 Marine Biology in Belize

Environmentally-themed campus life: Tree House Small Living Unit, OWU Citizens Climate Lobby, OWU Outdoors Club, Food Recovery Network, Annual Green Week events, Renewable Energy Group, Sustainability Task Force

A Collaboration between OWU student Janelle Valdinger and the City of Delaware led to the construction of **three Bioretention cells** (rain gardens, right). The cells were designed with plants that appeal to local pollinators and are low maintenance.





Ohio Wesleyan University senior Brianna Graber spent her last three semesters at OWU 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. 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.

OWU ENVS is working with the **Delaware Entrepreneurial Center (DEC)**, a collaboration between OWU and the city and county of Delaware, on green entrepreneurial and business startup efforts which fully engage students.

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** (right) on the residential side of campus is fully funded and scheduled to be constructed in 2021. 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 hosts a **daylong regional watershed conference** on campus each fall, the Olentangy Watershed Forum. This allows students to connect to and network with regional environmental professionals. We also work extensively with the OWU Career Connection.



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.



More information at sustainability.owu.edu