



## SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

### Five Year Vision Ohio Implementation Plan Linkage

Goal: Enrich the environment for students, faculty, staff and the region

Objective: #19: Improve campus facilities and strengthen commitment to sustainability

Strategy: Promote sustainability and the continued “greening” of all campuses

### Governance Information

- Sustainability is a transformational goal for the Facilities department
- Governance on each individual initiative will vary, although multi-sector task forces and stakeholder participation will be relied on to develop plans that are widely supported

### Terms/Definitions

Sustainability: Our ability to meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Presidents Climate Commitment: The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is a high-visibility effort to address global warming by garnering institutional commitments to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions, and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate.

Energy intensity: A measure of energy efficiency. It is calculated, in the case of HB 251, as the units of energy (mmBTU) consumed per unit of facility area (gross square foot).

Greenhouse gas emission (GHG): The atmospheric release of gases associated with increased potential for global warming (e.g. carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, etc.). GHG emissions often result from the combustion of fossil fuels to generate heat or electric power.

Carbon footprint: The impact of human activity on the environment measured as the amount of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide released over a period of time.

Carbon neutrality: The state in which Ohio University has no net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to be achieved by minimizing GHG emissions as much as possible, and using carbon offsets or other measures to mitigate the remaining emissions.

### Timeframe/Timeline

The Sustainability Planning initiative includes a number of major projects:

- The Presidents Climate Commitment
- House Bill 251 implementation plan
- Campus sustainability planning process
- Construction & renovation standards for efficiency
- Energy Conservation

Key dates in the 08-09 academic year

- October 2-3, 2008: Presentation of HB 251 plan to Board of Trustees for approval
- October 2008: First GHG inventory released for Athens campus
- November: Development of campus sustainability and climate action planning processes
- January 2009: Begin sustainability planning groups

- February 2009: HB 251 energy data submitted to IUC
- September 2009: Completion of campus sustainability and climate action plans, including projected climate neutrality date

### **Where to go for updated information and to provide suggestions or ask questions**

- For information on the activities of the Office of Sustainability, visit [www.ohio.edu/sustainability](http://www.ohio.edu/sustainability)
- Planet OHIO is a web clearinghouse for information on campus and community sustainability initiatives: [www.ohio.edu/PlanetOHIO](http://www.ohio.edu/PlanetOHIO)
- To make comments, pose questions, or get involved, contact Sonia Marcus, Sustainability Coordinator, [marcuss@ohio.edu](mailto:marcuss@ohio.edu) or 740-593-0026
- Throughout the campus sustainability planning process and development of a climate action plan, open fora will be held to allow for input and participation of stakeholders across campus

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*How can my department/program/organization get involved in sustainability planning efforts at Ohio University?*

Please contact the Office of Sustainability if you would like to explore the ways in which you can engage with the planning process. We plan to solicit input from a wide variety of stakeholders, including students, faculty and staff.

*I have an idea for a project that could help to meet goals associated with sustainability. Whom should I talk to about it?*

The Office of Sustainability is a good place to begin a conversation about specific resource conservation projects. When appropriate, you will be directed toward other university community members who may be able to support your initiative.

*Will sustainability planning at Ohio University lead to forced sacrifice of comfort or convenience on the part of university staff and faculty?*

Rising utility costs and a global ecological imperative are forcing us to reexamine our lifestyles to identify areas of waste and negligence. A basic consciousness of the importance of conservation will go a long way to reducing our energy and resource footprint. Much will be determined by the extent to which all of us choose to engage in identifying and minimizing waste in all its forms. This will allow us to free precious resources for other aspects of our academic mission and our ability to provide a healthy and high-quality lifestyle for our university community members, both now and into the future.

### **Reference List**

To learn more about the Presidents Climate Commitment, visit [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org).

For general information about sustainability efforts at colleges and universities in the US, visit the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education at [www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org).

Ohio University's progress in implementing the Presidents Climate Commitment is described at [www.ohio.edu/climatechange](http://www.ohio.edu/climatechange). That site also features the implementation guidelines developed by the IUC for House Bill 251,

### **Contacts**

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