2021 Sustainability & Climate Action Plan

Sustainable Living Hub

Food
Grounds
Student Life
Transportation
Food
Hub: Living

Aspiration: OHIO campus members will choose to consume mindful neighborhood foods

Where we are now
- Benchmark 14: Increase purchase of local food. Target exceeded. 12% increase as opposed to 2% proposed.
- Benchmark 30: Provide information to diners regarding sustainability attributes of food options. Target met.

Moving forward

Goal 1: Support the local food economy with preference to "neighborhood food" products (Metric: % local food spend)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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Proposed strategies:
- Create baselines and develop goals for "neighborhood food" purchasing and food business spend in FY20
- Develop or maintain sustainability initiatives which advance the goals and strategies of Culinary Services
- Continue Farm to OHIO Working Group
- Promote 30 Mile Meal specials in Latitude 39
- Utilize FoodPro data labeling and analysis

Benefits of Goal 1 Strategies | Costs of Goal 1 Strategies
--- | ---
Community engagement & economic activity | Staff time (O&M)
Emissions reduction | Labor costs
Reputation | Certification costs (externality)
Soil regeneration (externality) | Business modification costs (externality)
Human health benefits

The Ohio Student Farm high tunnel, photo credit: Ohio University/Rob Hardin

Moving forward

Goal 2: Promote mindful foods choices; collaborate with communities to provide education on impacts of food choices (Metric: implement 15 of 15 AASHE STARS initiatives at OHIO; see attached list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 initiatives</td>
<td>15 initiatives</td>
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Proposed strategies:
- Create Culinary Services operating guidelines which outline sustainability priorities, goals and strategies (including AASHE STARS initiatives)
- Embark on marketing and educational campaigns for mindful food choices
- Continue high impact, low cost, community-engaged programs (CSA, Discovery Kitchen) as well as other programs which promote mindful food choices
- Create food programming impact database & annual report

Benefits of Goal 2 Strategies | Costs of Goal 2Strgs.
--- | ---
Reputation | Staff time (O&M)
Informed & improved consumer choices | Emissions reduction
Community engagement & economic activity

Notes and Definitions
1 "Local" food as defined by AASHE STARS
2 "Neighborhood foods" are defined as "Grown or processed within a 100-mile radius from the Athens campus with preference given to sources that are closer to campus OR within that 100-mile radius, grown or processed within the Ohio Appalachian counties as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission". Food/food products as defined by AASHE
3 Reputational benefits include student attraction and retention, OHIO's reputation as a national leader in food health.
4 In addition to the benefits of healthier campus members, there are potential insurance spend benefits

Emissions from Food are an underestimate for FY19, but are at least 8% of total campus emissions
# Food

**Hub: Living**

Aspiration: OHIO campus members will choose to consume mindful neighborhood foods

## AASHE STARS initiatives to implement and/or maintain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host a farmers' market, community supported agriculture (CSA) or fishery program, or urban agriculture project, or support such a program in the local community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host a sustainability-themed food outlet on-site, either independently or in partnership with a contractor or retailer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support disadvantaged businesses, social enterprises, and/or local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through its food and beverage purchasing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host low impact dining events or promote plant-forward options</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have a vegan dining program that makes diverse, complete-protein vegan options available to every member of the campus community at every meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inform customers about low impact food choices and sustainability practices through labelling and signage in dining halls</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in a competition or commitment program and/or use a food waste prevention system to track and improve its food management practices</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implement trayless dining (in which trays are removed from/not available in dining halls) and/or modified menus/portions to reduce post-consumer food waste</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Donate food that would otherwise go to waste to feed people</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divert food materials from the landfill, incinerator or sewer for animal feed or industrial uses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a pre-consumer composting program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a post-consumer composting program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilize reusable service ware for “dine in” meals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide reusable and/or third party certified compostable containers and service ware for “to-go” meals (in conjunction with an on-site composting program)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offer discounts or other incentives to customers who use reusable containers instead of disposable or compostable containers in “to-go” food service operations</td>
<td></td>
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Grounds
Hub: Living

Aspiration: Create and maintain healthy, natural, biodiverse and beautiful campus grounds

Where we are now

✓ Benchmark 13: Prohibit the installation of permanent irrigation systems that rely on potable water **Target met. Prohibition exists.**
✓ Benchmark 17: Institute storm water management plan **Target met.**
✓ Benchmark 26: Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) **Target met. IPM Plan written and approved.**

Moving forward

**Goal 1:** Create and maintain healthy, natural, biodiverse and beautiful landscapes that can act as the foundation for sustainability-oriented experiential learning opportunities (Metric: percent of acres managed in accordance with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan; ft² of naturalized/pollinator space; # of innovative sustainability grounds practices; acres of green space)

- **FY17**
  - 0%; 193K; 7; 572
- **FY26**
  - 100%; 250K; 7; 572

Potential Strategies
- Develop and publish a Sustainable Tree and Landscape Management Plan
- Develop organic land care standard and determine acres managed in accordance with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan
- Consider biodiversity in ecosystem management planning
- Maintain Baker Edible Garden, Child Development Center (CDC) Garden and green roofs
- Add bat and bluebird boxes in appropriate locations
- Implement Bee Campus USA Program
- Increase square feet of pollinator/naturalized areas
- Consider using goats for weed management
- Implement mini & micro-clover pilot programs
- Update Tree Care Standards in University Design & Construction Standards
- Maintain protected space on the Ridges

**Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies**
- Community engagement
- Emissions reduction
- Reputation

**Costs of Goal #1 Strategies**
- Staff time
- O&M costs

**Goal 2:** Reduce carbon emissions from grounds-related activities (Metric: MT e-CO₂)

- **FY17**
  - 18.04 MT eCO₂ (fertilizer only)
- **FY26**
  - Reduce 20% from FY21 baseline

Potential Strategies
- Purchase electric lawn care vehicles and tools
- Reduce fertilizer use
- Offer continuing education for Grounds staff
- Develop no-idle policies that are appropriate for Grounds staff

**Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies**
- O&M savings
- Capital costs
- Emissions reduction
- O&M costs

Notes:
- ¹Data provided by Susan Calhoun, Landscape Coordinator, Fall 2020.
- ²Data provided by Matt Trainer, Data & GIS Specialist, Voinovich School, Fall 2020.
Where we are now

- Benchmark 19: Increase use of green cleaning products. Target met: Facilities Management has a green cleaning program.
- Benchmark 22: Implement recruitment strategies targeting sustainability-minded students, faculty and staff. Target met partially: sustainability student recruitment brochure created and mailed.

Moving forward

**Goal 1: Support and promote student wellbeing and resilience**
(Metrics: # of faculty participants in mental health and wellbeing trainings; # of student participants in peer wellbeing coaching programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0; 0</td>
<td>10; 20</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Potential Strategies**
- Create a comprehensive plan for student physical & mental health, wellness & resilience
- Utilize RA Outreach/Residential Life Curriculum to promote wellbeing
- Develop off-campus living education on wellbeing and resilience
- Enhance and promote [OHIO Basic Needs Initiative](#)
- Continue [OHIO Guarantee](#)
- Enhance and promote [OHIO Signature Awards](#)
- Engage student employees about wellbeing and resilience
- Identify new & enhance existing programs & services that help students build community and feel connected

**Benefits of Goal #1 Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruitment/retention</th>
<th>Staff time (O&amp;M)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social justice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student success</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive environmental behavior</td>
<td></td>
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**Costs of Goal #1 Strategies**
- Recruitment/retention
- Staff time (O&M)

Moving forward

**Goal 2: Prioritize sustainability, diversity and inclusion as positive student attributes in recruitment and retention efforts**
(Metrics: proportion of students that have participated in cultural competency or sustainability training; % student diversity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some; 21%</td>
<td>Most; maintain diversity that matches or exceeds State of Ohio diversity</td>
</tr>
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**Potential Strategies**
- Develop cultural competency training for students
- Develop sustainability training for students
- Encourage inclusivity as a core design principle in teaching and learning
- Incorporate student sustainability, diversity, and inclusion information into recruitment materials and Bobcat Student Orientation
- Utilize [Sky Factor survey](#) to determine if sustainability efforts affect student satisfaction

**Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Recruitment/retention</th>
<th>Staff time (O&amp;M)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emissions reduction</td>
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<td>Student success</td>
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<td>Proactive environmental behavior</td>
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Notes: 1Student diversity percentage is calculated from the number of students reporting their race/ethnicity as non-Caucasian.
### Transportation

#### Hub: Living

Aspiration: Every OHIO community member will have access to alternative transportation

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**Where we are now**

- Benchmark 1: Reduce institutional greenhouse gas emissions **Target exceeded and in progress.**
- Benchmark 16: Improve sustainability profile of student, staff, and faculty vehicles **Ineffective target and goal.**
- Benchmark 18: Improve sustainability profile of campus fleet **Target nearly met and data collected.**
- Benchmark 27: Decrease use of Single Occupancy Vehicles **Target baseline created (fuel economy) and target met (CAFE).**

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**Moving forward**

#### Goal 1: Reduce carbon emissions from transportation (Metric: MT e-CO₂)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>25,208 MTeCO₂</td>
<td>20,000 MTeCO₂</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Potential Strategies**

- Increase options for and use of alternative transportation to, from and on campus
- Offer opportunities for carbon offset purchases for airline and conference travel
- Increase marketing of alternative transit and carbon emissions reduction initiatives
- Increased use of hybrid vehicles in campus fleet
- Educational campaign to expand campus bus ridership
- Educational campaign to encourage alternative transportation usage
- Improve fuel economy of University vehicles
- Continue Campus Circulation Thru Transit program

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**Moving forward**

#### Goal 2: Create safe, efficient, affordable and healthy routes and options for non-SOV (single occupancy vehicle) transit (Metric: miles of non-motorized transportation routes, number of bus routes, number of monthly small shared mobility device users)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>FY26</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>3; 7; 2,500</td>
<td>3.5; 12; 2,750</td>
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**Potential Strategies**

- Offer expanded Shared Mobility Programs
- "Share the Road" educational campaign
- Utilize Complete Streets framework
- Identify additional non-motorized transportation routes

**Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of Goal #2 Strategies</th>
<th>Costs of Goal #2 Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating cost reductions</td>
<td>Capital expense increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health benefits</td>
<td>Operating costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community impacts</td>
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**Notes:**

1. Includes Bikeway, campus roadway bike lanes, and multi-modal Sweep.
2. Includes all transit available with Bobcat Pass from Athens Public Transit and from campus transportation services.