As progress toward Ohio State’s sustainability goals continues, the university’s commitment to sustainability engages students, faculty and staff.
OHIO STATE: ADVANCING GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Ohio State University is a leader in global sustainability, integrating sustainable practices and programming across all university functions, spanning academics, research, operations, administration, and engagement. We proudly put forth this compilation of FY 2016-2017 successes.

Sustainability Goals Impact the Culture at Ohio State

The university sustainability goals established in 2015 are having an impact on all aspects of the university mission: collaborative teaching, pioneering research, comprehensive outreach, and innovative operations, practices, and policies. Efforts during 2016-2017 resulted in a wide range of progress toward developing global citizens with knowledge of energy, environment and sustainability issues; creating discoveries to enhance sustainability research; conserving energy, reducing waste; and protecting the environment.

Examples of important sustainability developments include:

- Ohio State Board of Trustee approval for the Comprehensive Energy Management Project, a public-private partnership that will launch an unprecedented energy efficiency program to modernize the Columbus campus and provide new resources to advance teaching, learning and research. The CEMP will support academics in specific areas requested by students, faculty and staff during the bidding process. It will be the largest single investment in the university’s academic mission.

- Establishment of the Environmental Humanities Program, funded by the Arts and Humanities divisional pilot grant program and the Humanities and the Arts Discovery Theme. The program will forge campus connections among scientists, engineers, humanities scholars and artists.

- The hiring of more than 30 new faculty members with expertise related to sustainability through the Discovery Themes Initiative.

“Time for Change Week 2017” featured the “Seeds of Service” Olentangy River clean-up and the Student Sustainability Fair, as well as many other sustainability-focused events.
Student Vehicle Teams Continue to Amaze
The all-electric Venturi Buckeye Bullet 3 shattered its own world record with an average top speed of 341 miles per hour at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in September, and in May, the Ohio State EcoCAR 3 team placed first in this nationwide competition for the fourth year in a row.

Sustainability Project Funding
Ohio State is dedicated to advancing education, research, and innovation related to energy, the environment, and sustainability. To help students succeed, the Office of Energy and Environment provided students with funding for on-campus sustainability research projects and sustainability-related travel.

Ohio State’s EcoCAR 3 team was named the 2017 EcoCAR 3 competition top team, extending their record of first place finishes for the fourth year in a row.

Energy/Environment Film Series
The School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Office of Energy and Environment hosted the Spring Semester Student Energy and Environment Film Series, featuring six films with important energy and environmental messages designed to raise awareness of climate change and its economic, health, political and environmental impacts.

Promoting Clean Water in Tanzania
The Fisher College of Business Global Applied Projects Program sent MBA students to rural Tanzania to investigate a proposed franchise business model that would help Ohio State’s Global Water Institute (GWI) improve clean water access there.

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Smart Columbus

In 2016, Columbus won the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Smart City Challenge, besting 77 other cities to create and develop the next generation of mobility options and transform Central Ohio into the nation’s premier transportation innovation region. Ohio State is the lead researcher on Smart Columbus, working to create new knowledge and solve real-world problems, such as integrating self-driving cars, using sensors to better connect vehicles for safety and efficiency, and finding better ways to move people.

Forests Fight Global Warming

In keeping the planet cool, forests play a complex role, one that goes far beyond the absorption of carbon dioxide, new research has found. Trees impact climate by regulating the exchange of water and energy between the Earth’s surface and the atmosphere, an important influence as policymakers contemplate efforts to conserve forested land.

Turning Food Waste into Tires

Researchers have discovered that food waste can partially replace the petroleum-based filler used in manufacturing tires. In tests, rubber made with the new fillers exceeds industrial standards for performance, which may open up new applications for rubber. This technology has the potential to make the manufacture of rubber products more sustainable, reduce American dependence on foreign oil, and keep waste out of landfills.

Electric Car Power Distribution

Bambwan Sosombo, integrated systems engineer, is studying the efficiency and optimal locations of electric vehicle charging stations. He has developed a model of a technique based on balancing electric computing at the Ohio Supercomputer Center to establish strategies for electric power system distribution.

Food Waste Collaborative

The Ohio State Food Waste Collaborative includes researchers, practitioners, and students working to promote the reduction and redirection of food waste as part of a sustainable food system. Launched with seed funding from the InFACT Discovery Theme, the Collaborative supports projects including food waste audits and student-led composting efforts in residence halls. Collaborative members also conduct research and consult on community food waste reduction projects.

Time for Change Week

Undergraduate Student Government, Sustainability Council, Office of Student Life and Office of Energy and Environment hosted “Time For Change Week 2017,” a series of 15 fun events, talks and outdoor activities plus a concert to focus on protecting and sustaining our Earth. The Sustainability Fair offered 700 students information on organizations on and off campus that support sustainability issues. More than 200 students cleaned the riverbanks and planted trees along the Olentangy River at the Seeds of Service event.

Ohio State’s First “West Fest” a Success

Hundreds of people headed to Ohio State’s West Campus to check out the first West Campus Science and Technology Festival on May 20. Hosted by the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, Center for Applied Plant Sciences, and Office of Energy and Environment, the festival encouraged central Ohioans to tour and experience the many laboratories and research centers housed on West Campus.

Sustainability Fund Enhances Our Campus

The Ohio State Sustainability Fund, with input by the President and Provost’s Council on Sustainable Options for sustainability projects that positively impact any Ohio State campus, administered by the Office of Energy and Environment, the fund in FY17 supported Columbus campus projects such as recycling programs and the installation of 168 water filling stations.

PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO VISITS

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, a longtime supporter of global environmental and sustainability issues, toured the university on Aug. 31 to see our sustainability efforts and to present a lecture on climate change. Individually and across to clean water, Prince Albert praised Ohio State’s sustainability efforts during a roundtable discussion with President Michael V. Drake and Provost Bruce McPheron. The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, founded in 2006, focuses on environmental, climate and sustainability projects and research. In May 2017, Ohio State and the Foundation signed an agreement to collaborate on sustainability efforts through research, internships and outreach.
Comprehensive Energy Management Project

In April, the university Board of Trustees approved the Comprehensive Energy Management Project (CEMP), a public-private partnership that will improve Ohio State’s energy efficiency while advancing the next generation of sustainable energy solutions. CEMP will modernize the Columbus campus and create substantial academic benefits for students, faculty and staff. In the first 10 years, energy efficiency on the Columbus campus will improve by at least 25 percent. The 50-year partnership has a total value of $1.165 billion, including a $1.015 billion upfront payment to the university and a $150 million commitment to support academics in specific areas requested by students, faculty and staff during the bidding process.

Implementation of the Resource Stewardship Sustainability Goal moved into high gear in 2016 with progress made in every subgoal category. Highlights include:

**Ohio State’s Facilities Operations and Development (FOD) received the 2016 Award for Excellence from APPA, Leaders in Educational Facilities in recognition of FOD’s support for the university’s academic mission and achievements in facilities management, by providing services for more than 200 campus buildings and 1,600 acres of green space.**

**Ohio State has constructed a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station to serve the university’s fleet of CNG vehicles, which currently includes several Transportation and Traffic Management’s CABS buses, with long-term plans to transition all CABS and other university fleet vehicles to alternative fuel models.**
Ohio State continues to strengthen its dedication toward sustainable building practices by adding two LEED Silver certified buildings in FY 17, bringing the university total to 23 buildings with LEED certification and an additional 12 projects with certifications in progress.

Ohio State Golf Courses

Scoring big sustainability points are the Scarlet and Gray Courses, which use organic fertilizers and filter surface runoff by maintaining buffer strips around the lake and streams; use natural water sources for irrigation; and reduce maintained acreage by establishing no-mow zones for areas out of play range.

Zero Waste

During FY17 13 events strove to achieve Zero Waste by using Ohio State’s Zero Waste Event Service. These Zero Waste events included all home synchronized swimming meets, Time for Change Week events, as well as the Night on the Oval celebration that concluded the But for Ohio State Campaign. For the fifth year in a row, Ohio State topped the Big Ten Conference in the annual Football Game Day Recycling Challenge by achieving a single-game high diversion rate of 96.23%. For the season, Ohio State averaged a 95.4% diversion rate and diverted a cumulative total of nearly 96 tons of recycling and compost, with only 4.5 tons of trash sent to the landfill.

At the Schottenstein Center, Athletics achieved a Zero Waste event by diverting 90.10% of material away from the landfill during a Men’s Basketball game, placing the Buckeyes in eighth place in the RecycleMania Basketball category in both the diversion rate and per capita recycling competitions.

Urban Meadows

Ohio State has made numerous changes toward more sustainable landscaping practices. More than 21 acres have transitioned from high-maintenance areas to tall grass urban meadows that only need mowed annually. Urban meadows provide improved storm water control, new habitats, reduced pesticides and herbicides, and a reduction in fossil fuels used by mowing equipment.

Producing and Purchasing Locally, Sustainably and Environmentally

The University Panel on Food Sustainability is defining local and sustainable food sourcing, and increasing the production and purchase of locally and sustainably sourced food. And the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Committee is developing standards to implement the procurement of environmentally preferred products.

Ohio State promotes sustainability in many ways. But for Ohio State Campaign.

The Office of Student Life Dining Services distributed more than 15,000 reusable cups to campus students through its MYCups program during the 2016-17 school year. MYCups are loaded with 10 complimentary Coca-Cola Freestyle fills that can be used at any Student Life Dining Services location. The program helped divert at least 20,000 cups from the landfill during the last school year.

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