

## Opportunity Finder - Sustainability Strategic Planning Self Assessment

The Opportunity Finder is an important step towards creating sustainability strategies that support the goals in a unit's strategic plan. This online tool helps units develop a baseline of their current sustainability efforts and identify potential new opportunities. Units that gather the information as a team and share it with a larger group for discussion get the most benefit from the Opportunity Finder.

If you wish to preview the questions, please [click here](#). Once you have the answers, completion should take ~15 minutes.

### Information About Your Unit

Your Name (so we may contact you if we have questions)

Your E-mail address

Please specify your Campus.

Please specify your College/ School or Support Unit.

Colleges/ Schools

- Arts & Architecture
- Agricultural Sciences
- Business
- Communications
- Earth & Mineral Sciences
- Education
- Engineering
- Health & Human Development
- International Affairs
- Information Sciences & Technology
- Law
- Liberal Arts
- Nursing
- Schreyer Honors
- Science

Support Units

- Development & Alumni Relations
- Educational Equity
- Finance & Business
- General & Academic Administration
- Global Programs
- Graduate School
- Information Technology Services
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- Outreach
- Research
- Student Affairs
- Undergraduate Education
- University Budget Office
- University Libraries
- University Relations
- World Campus

Will your responses to this survey represent:

- the entire unit selected above
- some smaller sub-unit (e.g., a unit within a commonwealth campus, an academic department within a college, or a division within a support unit)

Please provide the name of the sub-unit your responses will represent.

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## Teaching and Co-curricular

Q1 Does your unit offer academic courses with sustainability content?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please provide a list of the course(s) and/or contact information for a person who can provide that information.

Q2 Does your unit offer any undergraduate or graduate sustainability-focused major or minor degree programs?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please provide a list of the program(s) and/or contact information for a person who can provide that information.

Q3 Do any of your courses or academic programs specify sustainability learning outcomes?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please indicate which courses or programs specify learning outcomes.

Q4 Does your unit offer any *immersive experiences* related to sustainability?

[These include experiences such as community-based internships and study-abroad programs that give students first-hand experiences with sustainability challenges and solutions. These experiences last one week or more, and may take place on or off campus.]

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please describe the immersive experiences offered.

Q5 Does your unit have an ongoing program to encourage students to conduct sustainability research?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please describe what encouragement is offered.

Q6 Does your unit provide students with opportunities to engage in sustainability-related activities outside of the classroom (e.g., clubs, symposia, student-run enterprises, etc.)?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please describe these opportunities.

Q7 Does your unit apply the “campus as a living laboratory” concept, by using campus infrastructure and operations as living environments for multidisciplinary student learning and applied research in sustainability?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please describe.

## Research

Q8 Do your unit's faculty members conduct research on sustainability topics?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please list the topical areas of research.

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Q9 Does your unit support one or more research centers or sub-units that conduct research relevant to sustainability?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

If yes, please list.

## Public Engagement

Q10 Does your unit offer short courses, certificate programs, workshops, or conferences on sustainability topics that are open to the general public?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Please describe your programs for public education in sustainability.

Q11 Does your unit have formal partnerships with the local community, including school districts, government agencies, non-profit organizations, or other entities, to work together to advance sustainability within the community?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Please describe your sustainability partnerships with the local community.

### Unit Policies and Administration

Q12 Is there an individual or committee within your unit charged with promoting sustainability activities and initiatives?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide the name of the individual or committee chair.

Q13 Does your unit give positive recognition to interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research during faculty promotion and tenure decisions?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q14 Do your unit's Faculty Activity Report guidelines request identification of sustainability-related teaching, research, and outreach activities?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

## Operations

Q15 Does your unit use sustainable practices when planning events and functions (e.g., using reuseable or compostable plates and utensils, giving preference to sustainable caterers, etc.) For ideas to consider when planning a green meeting click [here](#).

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q16 Does your unit participate in a recycling program, such as the UP campus's [Mobius](#) program?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Applicable

Q17 Does your unit participate in a composting program, such as the UP campus's [Mobius](#) program?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Applicable



Q18 Does your unit consider sustainability when making purchasing decisions (e.g., energy efficiency, recycled content, reduced packaging, durability, low toxicity, etc.)?

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Applicable

Q19 Are your unit's administrators familiar with the guidelines in Penn State's Energy Conservation Policy, AD 64? For more information, click [here](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q20 Does your unit offer a condensed work week or telecommute option or encourage employees to commute to and from campus using more sustainable options, such as walking, bicycling, vanpooling/carpooling, taking public transportation, riding a campus shuttle?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q21 Does your unit participate in a program in place to recycle, reuse, and/or refurbish all electronic waste generated by the unit?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q22 Does your unit participate in Penn State's furniture reuse program? For more information on this program click [here](#).

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q23 Does your unit have policies to restrict paper use? (i.e. Is your unit's default to not print course catalogs, course schedules, and directories, but instead make them available online?)

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q24 Does your unit encourage employee participation in professional development opportunities in sustainability? (e.g., Environmental Forum, Speakers Series, conferences, etc.)

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never
- Not Applicable

Q25 Does your unit have one or more Green Teams? Click [here](#) for more information on Green Teams.

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Q26 Do your unit's employees participate in Penn State's Green Paws (sustainable office practices) certificate program? For more information on Green Paws click [here](#).

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

Does your unit have any programs, initiatives or achievements in the area of sustainability that are not captured by your responses above? If so, please highlight them below.

Thank you for using the Opportunity Finder. A report reviewing your answers and providing additional resources for you will be generated and sent to the email you provided. These reports are generated every Friday, so you should receive your report the Friday following your completion of this survey.

Do you have any feedback on the Opportunity Finder? We are always looking for ways to improve, please email Sharon Hoover at the Sustainability Institute: [saw132@psu.edu](mailto:saw132@psu.edu).