

Sustainability Highlights at Penn State

February 22, 1855 Penn State chartered with a goal to apply scientific principles to farming

April 20, 1970 Penn State celebrates the planet's first Earth Day

1995 Center for Sustainability founded

2000 Green Destiny Council releases Penn State Indicators Report: Steps Toward a Sustainable University

Fall 2008 Campus Sustainability Office created

2009 Penn State's community garden is founded

Spring 2010 Green Paws Program and Green Teams are established at Penn State

September 2011 Student Sustainability Advisory Council formed

Fall 2011 Penn State offers new minor in sustainability leadership

Fall 2011 Penn State Board of Trustees adopts Sustainability Strategic Plan

January 2013 Sustainability Institute established

Fall 2013 Sustainable Communities Collaborative launched

October 2013 Sustainability Institute launches the Reinvention Fund to expand sustainability efforts at Penn State

September 2015 Council of Sustainable Leaders formed

2016 Student Farm at Penn State is established

2017 Paul Shrivastava becomes the first Chief Sustainability Officer in the Big Ten; Sustainable Communities Collaborative reaches 500 student participants

June 5, 2017 Penn State signs "We Are Still In" pledge to continue meeting US greenhouse gas emissions targets under the Paris Accord

August 2017 Zagster bike-sharing program launches at Penn State University Park

Fall 2017 City Semester Pittsburgh and Philadelphia launch; First round of strategic seed grants offered through the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

April 2018 The last shovel-full of coal is loaded into Penn State's power plant as the plant converted to a lower-emissions fuel source

May 2018 EcoCoin launched to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags

May 7, 2018 Commonwealth Campus Sustainability Forums launched

July 2018 Sustainability Institute begins stewardship of the Sustainability Experience Center

Fall 2018 Council of Student Leaders host its first Sustainability Showcase Speaker Series

October 2018 Sustainable Operations Council formed

December 2018 Seed grants awarded to expand sustainable food systems program to Penn State Behrend and Beaver

January 2019 Penn State Dining launches Leanpath to reduce food waste in dining halls; Sam Mason becomes first Sustainability Coordinator hired at a Commonwealth Campus at Penn State Behrend

April 17, 2019 First Student Sustainability Awards Ceremony is hosted by the Council of Sustainable Leaders

May 2019 Penn State Dining reports 31% reduction in food waste in South Food Districts since introducing Leanpath

August 2019 Sustainability Experience Center reaches 885 visitors in its first year over 64 tours

September 2019 Groundbreaking event held to celebrate 70 MW solar project in Franklin County, PA that will provide 25% of Penn State's purchased electricity over 25 years; Plans announced to more than double the size of the Penn State Student Farm