

Penn State Great Valley

Sustainability Committee Charter

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Penn State Great Valley Sustainability Committee
Charter

Mission

The mission of the Penn State Great Valley Sustainability Committee is to identify, make recommendations, and assist in the implementation of initiatives that promote a green and sustainable campus. Our work is guided by the sustainability efforts of Penn State as a whole and by the broader sustainability movement in the U.S. and internationally.

Membership

Continuing the practice initiated in 2015, staff composition to the Sustainability Committee is by assignment rather than strictly voluntary. Our strategic plan calls for some of our committees to take on a more active role than they have in the past and the time commitment required for the activities go beyond what could rightfully be requested of campus 'volunteers'. In addition, it is important that these committees have representation from across the campus. Assignments are based on individual preferences, unit demands, and representation. The core group of 5 to 6 staff members along with their faculty counterparts will be tasked with fulfilling the committee's mission, and additional staff assignments may be added at a later time, as needed.

Term: Members will serve for a term of one year and may be renewed. The term runs with the academic calendar.

Meetings:

Schedule: The committee will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May. The committee may schedule additional meetings as needed.

Attendance: Members are expected to attend at least six meetings per year (in person or by video conference).

Agenda and Recordings: The committee chairs will prepare and distribute an agenda one week prior to each meeting. All meetings will be recorded in Teams.

Decision-Making: The committee will seek to make recommendations for actions where there is consensus among the group. Where consensus cannot be reached, the co-chairs will act as tiebreakers, utilizing the perspectives of the group and working in the best interest of the campus. Recommendations for actions will be made to the appropriate department.

Key Decisions and Action Items: Any key decisions or action items will be shared with committee members within two weeks following each meeting and will be stored in an open online folder accessible to all members.

Stakeholders: The committee will serve a diverse group of constituents, including students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders.

Budget: Proposals for work that requires funding will be brought to the attention of the Chancellor, and sources of funding will be identified, if approved.

Strategic Plan

Objective 3.1: Ensure a Culturally and Socially Diverse and Inclusive Work Environment

Action Item 3.1.2: Expand campus programming to address relevant societal issues

1. Identify important and timely societal issues
2. Develop or identify programming to address these issues
3. Deliver these programs

Objective 3.2: Incorporate a Holistic Approach to Sustainability Across the Campus

Action Item 3.2.1: Develop a sustainability plan focused on environment, health, and well-being

1. Review the state-of-the-art research on sustainability best practices and concepts
2. Draft plan with input of all PSGV stakeholders
3. Include sustainability in new student and new employee orientation

Action Item 3.2.2: Provide campus and educational programming on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

1. Identify and review appropriate sources for training on the UN SDGs
2. Select and administer appropriate training

Action Item 3.2.3: Achieve Green Paws certification for all campus units

1. Determine remaining steps to complete certification when we return to campus
2. Promote Green Paws across the campus

Objective 3.3: Expand Global Engagement Opportunities

Action Item 3.3.3: Connect global awareness to the UN SDGs

1. Investigate potential connections between SDGs and academic programs
2. Have Sustainability Committee facilitate discussions among faculty on SDGs and impacts on regional and global awareness
3. Encourage faculty to incorporate global awareness