

Student Sustainability Advisory Council

Fall 2016 Recommendations



Sustainability at Penn State

*“Penn State will be a **leader** in research, learning, and engagement that facilitates innovation, embraces **diversity and sustainability**, and inspires achievements that will affect the world in positive and enduring ways.”*

- Penn State 2016-2020 Strategic Plan

Energy/Fiscal

- Mission
- Fall 2016 recommendations
- Summary
- Key stakeholders contacted

Energy/Fiscal: Mission

“To encourage Penn State to pursue sustainable energy options by supporting specific green energy-related projects and to encourage Penn State to pursue sustainability in its investments and purchasing power in a way that balances financial duty with the environmental and social components of the University’s strategic plan.”

Recommendation Updates

EV Charging Stations

Recommendation: Continued support for EV charging efforts, future integration with proposed solar project.

Bikeshare

Recommendation: Continued support needed by Transportation Services in releasing funds for bikeshare program.

Recommendation Updates

Electricity Restructuring/Carbon Taxing

Update: High demand for new data centers. SSAC can serve as resource as Penn State looks to continue making our databases as energy efficient as possible. SSAC involvement with OPP in electricity restructuring/carbon tax.

Sustainable Purchasing

Update: University-wide sustainability component to RFP. This recommendation is on hold until new Director of Purchasing is hired.

Context: Green Fee

Many sustainable projects on campus face issues with funding, but what if we can find a way to reduce this problem by introducing a green fee which essentially takes a small amount of the student activity fee and devotes it towards sustainable projects.



Recommendation: Green Fee

Recommendation:

Introduce the green fee concept to the Student Fee Board next semester, wherein a certain amount will be taken from the Student Initiated Fee and will be marked to fund sustainable projects within Penn State.

Context: Solar Dual Land Use

OPP current plan to build
~2MW solar array near Nittany
Medical Center on land
currently used as cattle pasture.



Recommendation: Solar Dual Land Use

- Use land surrounding ground mounted solar array for an auxiliary agricultural purpose
- Highest best use
 - Potentially lower maintenance labor costs
 - Add a marketable product to the land to potentially lower site payback period
- Potential Research Outputs
 - Co-Location studies
 - Erosion and/or stormwater studies
 - Agricultural Extension report/case study for benefit of PA Farmers and landowners



46MW Oxfordshire, UK



UMass, Amherst: Crop and Animal Research and Education Center

Recommendation: Solar Dual Land Use

Recommendation:

Within the solar lease or applicable agreement between Penn State and the developer, preserve the right to the land beneath ground mounted solar panels for the future use of Penn State entities to perform research including auxiliary Ag use, erosion studies, stormwater studies.



Context: Socially Responsible Investing

Recap (Fall 2015):

- Prioritize socially responsible investments that have returns equal to or greater than our current portfolio
- Create a team within the Office of Investment Management to estimate the financial effects of replacing/reallocating “socially irresponsible investments”



Context: Socially Responsible Investing

Updates:

- Other B1G Schools' Progress:
 - Fossil Fuel Divestment Commitment - University of Maryland: May 2016
 - Signed on to UN Principles for Responsible Investing - Northwestern
 - Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investment - Minnesota
 - SRI Policy - Ohio State, Maryland, Michigan State, Northwestern, Purdue, Wisconsin
- **There is a need for education and deeper exploration of the potential for SRI at Penn State**

Recommendation: Socially Responsible Investing

Recommendation: Support the effort to bring in an educational panel featuring professionals with expertise and experience related to SRI.

- Panel to be co-hosted by SI, Smeal, SSAC, Fossil Free, and University Administration
- **The Ask- University Administration to contribute funding and commit to attending an educational panel to discuss SRI and continue to build common knowledge on the topic.**

Energy/Fiscal: Summary

Ongoing/Past Recommendations

- EV Charging Stations
- Bikeshare
- Electricity Restructuring/Carbon Taxing
- Sustainable Purchasing

New Recommendations

- Green Fee
- Solar Dual Land Use
- SRI Educational Panel

Key Stakeholders Contacted

- Rob DeMayo, Director, Transportation Services,
- Eric Foley, Director, Smeal Sustainability
- Lydia Vandenberg, Associate Director, Sustainability Institute
- Doug Goodstein, Student Programs Coordinator, Sustainability Institute
- Steve Maruszewski, Assistant Vice President, OPP
- Wendall Landis, Beef and Sheep Center, Department of Animal Science

Community Development

- Mission
- Fall 2016 recommendations
- Summary
- Key stakeholders contacted

Community Development: Mission

“To determine areas of improvement within the campus community, to further develop sustainability by providing suggestions to refine daily routines and practices, and to promote wellness and health in our campus, both at the individual and collective scale.”

Recommendation Updates

US/IL Course Redevelopment

Approved by the Penn State Senate

MorningStar Home Support

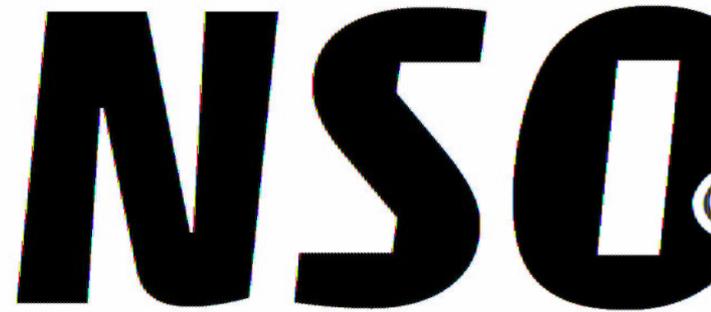
Finding a division of Penn State to manage the MorningStar Home. Further recommendations will be provided in the future.

Context: NSO Sustainability Component

New students come into Penn State without knowing how our campus implements sustainability.

- New Student Orientation introduces new students to Penn State's Campus and Culture

Why not include different initiatives to help familiarize students with sustainable practices already in place around the campus?

The image shows a large, bold, black logo consisting of the letters 'NSO'. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow effect. The 'N' and 'S' are connected, and the 'O' is a solid circle. The logo is positioned on the right side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Context: First Year Seminar Sustainability Class Module

First Year Students are required to take an introductory seminar course. Introduced to:

- Penn State Libraries
- Penn State Equity Resources
- Resources for Student Life

Why not introduce them to Penn State's mission of Sustainability?



Recommendation: First Year Seminar Sustainability Class Module



Develop a class that seminar instructors can request be taught in their classes.

- Multiple classes would be developed through the Sustainability Institute or through the Sustainability Minor curriculum.
- Energy Ambassadors would be instructed in teaching this course.
- Seminar instructors would pick a sustainability topic to be discussed related to courses.

Provide support and funding for this recommendation in the future.

Recommendation: First Year Seminar Sustainability Class Module

Penn State will be evaluating courses for sustainability:

- Initiative to restructure courses to implement multiple sustainable course topics together in two classes taken in the same semester.
- Will contact Maggie Slattery to discuss.

We would like to recommend support for this initiative.

Context: Green2Go Redevelopment



Last fall, Food and Dining Services attempted a Green2Go program that involved reusable to-go containers rather than traditional styrofoam. Due to logistical issues, the program was not popular with students, and Food Services went back to providing styrofoam containers for to-go meals.

Context: Green2Go Redevelopment

Problems included:

- Green2Go containers not being returned.
- Students having to purchase multiple Green2Go if they forgot their carabiner and/or green container.
- Students found it inconvenient to carry Green2Go, especially those with a busy schedule.
- Students didn't like the up-front costs.

Recommendation: Green2Go Redevelopment



Recommendation:

Explore Possible Ideas for Redevelopment of the Green2Go:

1. Residence Hall Return Bin
2. Free Containers - Welcome Week
3. Charge for Lost/Damaged Containers

Community Development: Summary

Ongoing/Past Recommendations

- IL/US Cultures Redevelopment

New Recommendations

- NSO Sustainability Component
- First Year Seminar Sustainability Class Module
- Green2Go Redevelopment

Next Semester: MorningStar Solar Home Management

Key Stakeholders Contacted

- Lydia Vandenberg, Associate Director of Employee Engagement and Education, SI
- Dan Murphy, Director of Student Orientation and Transition Programs
- Katie Motycki, New Student Orientation Associate Director
- Marcus A. Whitehurst, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Educational Equity

Waste

- Mission
- Updates on Past Recommendations
- Fall 2016 recommendations
- Summary
- Key stakeholders contacted

Waste: Mission

“To make sustainable waste management more relevant and easily accessible to the student body through policy and physical changes at Penn State.”

Recommendation Updates

Outdoor Recycling program (Spring 2016)

- OPP to add 6 bins in front of the HUB in January along with stickers on existing bins
- UPUA support for more outdoor recycling

East Halls in-room waste bin pilot program (Fall 2015)

- Continue work with Finance & Business
- Sit on committees concerned with renovations or residence halls recycling



Recommendation: Reusable Mug Pilot Program

Context:

- [Western Michigan University EcoMug](#)
 - Optional and free for all freshmen, transfer students, and other students with a meal plan
 - Use at dining halls and some local businesses
 - 15% discount per use

Recommendation:

Partner with Starbucks to create a co-branded, reusable mug for students

- Similar to Green-2-Go, but with a reusable travel mug
 - We will continue to develop the logistics in the Spring semester



Recommendation: Plastic Bag Elimination Pilot Program

Context:

- In wake of city bag tax [American University](#) eliminated plastic bags all together at campus stores.
- Has proven to reduce litter in waterways in cities such as [San Jose](#).

Recommendation:

Elimination of plastic bags used for purchases at residence hall convenience stores such as “Good2Go” in East Halls commons and “Louie’s” in South/Redifer Commons.

- Incentive or fee to encourage reusable bag usage.
- Free reusable bag could be provided to freshman, as well as education about it by RA’s or EcoReps.

Recommendation: Freshman “Goodie Bag”

Context:

- Freshmen currently receive bag during Welcome Week.

Recommendation:

Include items in the Freshman Goodie Bag that engage students in and promote Penn State sustainability efforts.

- Information on sustainability initiatives at PSU
- Reusable mug?



Waste: Summary

Ongoing/Past Recommendations

- Outdoor recycling
- East Halls in-room waste bin pilot program

New Recommendations

- Reusable mug program
- Plastic bag elimination
- Freshmen goody bag

Key Stakeholders Contacted

- Ryan McCaughey, Grounds & Equipment Manager, OPP
- Jim Richards, Associate Director Residential Dining, Auxiliary and Business Services
- Harold Glasser, Executive Director, Campus Sustainability at Western Michigan University
- Alicia M. Farrow, Manager, Nutrition Marketing at Villanova University

Sustainability at Penn State

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