

Energy

- Carbon Incentive Program
 - Over the past few years, the Office of the Physical Plant has made great progress towards reducing Penn State University's greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of a carbon incentive program would further continue this trend for the University as a whole. Referring to "carbon taxes" of other educational institutions, such as the University of Michigan and Yale University, we recommend constructing a plan for the implementation of our own through the cooperation of OPP, faculty, staff, and students. Within these groups, we recommend for a committee to be formed in order to organize the internal tax by college or department. Consequently, the money saved can be put into a "green fund" which can later be utilized in future University projects. This in turn opens up the possibility of implementing additional sustainable projects that would not have received funding in the past. Overall, we recommend that the University allows for the enactment of a carbon incentive program to demonstrate Penn State's commitment to sustainable practices today and in the years to come.
 - Contact: Bryce Buck- bdb5285@psu.edu
- Energy Dashboard and Kiosk
 - A few major areas for improvement in our university's energy consumption include student & faculty engagement and data analytics. We propose that an energy dashboard be implemented to give real-time data on our energy consumption. We also want this dashboard to be displayed on a kiosk so students can see it and interact with it. This will enable the student community to take more action to improve our energy efficiency. It will also help OPP and other faculty and staff recognize areas that can be improved. The dashboard portion is all digital and we are aware that OPP has already begun a project to develop software for this. We believe this software should be made user-friendly and distributed to the students to encourage better habits and allow more people to help the situation. Groups like Eco-Reps will easily access the info and try to make changes where we need them the most. Data requests will be a thing of the past and we will be able to study of energy consumption data as a whole, understanding trends better. Classes will be able to use the real-time data in their projects. This dashboard will increase campus engagement, decrease energy costs, and make our university more sustainable as a whole.
 - Contact: Jacob Seiler - 412-527-6097 - jcs6020@psu.edu
Louise Shaffer - 631-891-9403- lbs5399@psu.edu

- Rainwater Catchment System
 - The Office of the Physical Plant currently manages three stormwater catchment systems for Penn State's Main Campus, an effort that could be expanded to facilitate transportation and water availability. As of now Penn State's campus is prone to flooding due to high volumes of precipitation, despite having designs to prevent street flooding already implemented. With an increase in stormwater catchment systems we are able to reduce flood water in streets, and in addition would also provide Penn State with a surplus of water with no additional charge. This recycled stormwater can then go towards irrigation for Penn State's campuses and possibly plumbing systems as well. As the Energy Committees' official recommendation, it is advised that when applicable to make considerations as to where stormwater catchments systems could be placed to be able to aid Penn State's campus.
 - Contact: Noelle Ihanainen- (571)-213-8065 - nmi5048@psu.edu

Food & Waste

Food and Waste Committee recommendations focus on the establishment of relevant and accessible food and waste management systems at University Park. Two recommendations are proposed, centered on student engagement; NSO environmental sustainability education focusing on food and waste reduction, and the Green2Go Program Exclusive in East Halls.

By increasing focused material on the waste systems at Penn State within the New Student Orientation, a culture of sustainability can be generated amongst students, faculty, and staff. The insurmountable waste produced at University Park must be addressed in a tactful manner if the University seeks to reduce costs and tackle growing carbon emission concerns. Therefore, the addition of marketing and education on sustainability initiatives at PSU must be included in the yearly New Student Orientation. This would involve inserting a 2-3 minute video on sustainability at Penn State, made by volunteers from Campus Dining Interns, Eco-Reps, or Sustainability focused clubs. In addition, Green2Go will not only be explained in detail at NSO, but every NSO leader will demonstrate for their freshman students how to use Green2Go in a practical format.

The second recommendation from the committee includes creating a pilot program for Green2Go exclusive in East Halls dining. Due to the limitations of our recycling and composting facilities, it is time we take a more serious look at Green2Go as an option for carry out meals. Student's mindsets around sustainability are changing, and implementing this Green2Go only pilot program in East Dining, targeting freshmen, we can create a culture around reducing our environmental footprints as well as be a leader among Big 10 schools. There are many resources in place already that would support the structure of a

Green2Go only pilot program. For more information, details can be found on the powerpoint presentation for SSAC's Fall 2018 recommendations.

Contact:

Lydia Carey-

Idalys Bonet- ibb5025@psu.edu

Haley Stauffer- hbs5066@psu.edu

Community Development

The Community Development Subcommittee's recommendations for the Fall 2018 semester continued to build on past initiatives while developing new ideas. The defining goals of the Subcommittee aligned with its mission to promote a culture of sustainability and inclusion through small but effective changes. First, the Subcommittee moved forward with its commitment toward environmental justice by encouraging the Sustainability Institute to add an Environmental Justice Track to the Sustainability Leadership Minor. The new track would be an exciting opportunity for students who are underrepresented in the environmental movement to see the connection between social and environmental justice. Furthermore, the minor option could assess the current state of Penn State's environmental justice curriculum and expose areas that could use improvement. The next recommendation introduced an Environmental Bridge Program for incoming high school students.

Contact: Janelle Thompson jxt5329@psu.edu

- Penn State Environmental Bridge Program for Transitioning Students
 - There is a lack of opportunity for transitioning incoming freshmen to Penn State to become fully immersed and engaged with the sustainable community at the University. This program allows for a group of selected incoming freshmen to enhance their leadership skills, knowledge, and discovery while working to explore opportunities in sustainability with faculty and current students. There are other such orientation programs such as the Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences, Science-U Camps, AURORA, and other University lead programs that work to engage with high school to incoming first-year students that this proposed program can be structured after. The recommendation is for a pilot structure of a week long orientation that takes faculty partners and explores sustainable initiatives and industries in Centre County, engaging in dialogue of sustainable topics, learning how their major connects to sustainability, and investigating ways to get involved on campus. Cost of the program would be food, housing, faculty, and student mentors. Penn State benefits as the students upon completion of the program can gain possible credits and the students will be able to give

back to the community and University with their sustainability efforts. In the future the program could be adjusted for rising high school seniors who are still trying to decide on where to go for higher education.

- Contact: Jillian Barskey jzb5966@psu.edu
- Environmental Justice track for the Sustainability Leadership Minor
 - The Sustainability Leadership minor is an effective way to get students to integrate sustainability concepts into their major studies. There are currently several tracks to the minor, including Design for Sustainable Communities, Educating for Sustainability, Humanistic Understanding of Sustainability, and Sustainability and Food Systems. These tracks cover important aspects of sustainability in our society, but Environmental Justice is missing. Typically marginalized populations are impacted the most by climate change, and sustainability must bring up all people while creating harmony with the environment. Penn State can make significant strides towards their goal of equity by adding an Environmental Justice track to the Sustainability Leadership minor. The track would combine departments from African American studies, women and gender studies, ecology and environment, and more to create a holistic perspective of Environmental Justice. The track has the potential to turn into its own minor as popularity is assessed.
 - Contact: Claire Talley cmt22@psu.edu

Business

- Every apparel supplier to student bookstore must be on par or better than current university sustainability goals and strategy
 - The business subcommittee understands the importance of sustainability from upstream suppliers all the way to the end customer. Similar to how Penn State changed the entire carpet industry with the purchasing and installation of Interface carpets, the business subcommittee believes the HUB Student Bookstore can have an impact of equal magnitude on the apparel industry. By requiring all apparel suppliers to the HUB Student Bookstore be on par or better than the university's current sustainability goals and strategies the university can have monumental social, environmental, and economic impact of the greater world far beyond the walls of the university itself. The university must, first, develop a supplier scorecard to identify what the ideal supplier might look like in areas such as price, carbon footprint, financial health, among others. This scorecard should also be heavily weighted in sustainability metrics. Once this scorecard is developed the university would be able to understand which of the current suppliers are most sustainable and which ones are lagging behind. Some of these suppliers, particularly the ones which are lagging a bit, are perfect for creating strategic relationships. As a

world-leading research institute, Penn State has the capability to turn these suppliers into more sustainable businesses. In return, Penn State will almost certainly receive many benefits from such companies. Often times these suppliers are able to provide higher quality products at lower costs. Finally, the business subcommittee believes better utilization of Smeal Corporate Sponsors can be a great addition to the university at large. These corporate sponsors are often industry experts around sustainable business and should be better utilized because of their eagerness to help our students. Through these initiatives, Penn State will solidify itself as a top sustainable university in the world and shape how sustainable business is conducted for many years after.

- Contact: Brian Dougherty bpd5153@psu.edu
- John Kenney: juk51@psu.edu