The Ohio State University, as a flagship institution of public education and research, recognizes its responsibility to provide sustainability leadership that society so critically needs. The Ohio State University defines sustainability as adopting business strategies and activities that meet the needs of Ohio State and its stakeholders today while protecting, sustaining, and enhancing the human, fiscal, and natural resources that will be needed in the future.

This university is committed to placing sustainability at the core of its mission by:

• Making sustainability principles integral to the fulfillment of research, teaching, and operational objectives.
• Taking positive actions to promote continual improvement in the environment and quality of life, both locally and globally.
• Setting and achieving clearly defined sustainable development goals and objectives that encourage social and environmental stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner.

As a starting point, the university has adopted the following objectives:

• Achieve a 30% reduction in waste requiring landfill disposal by the year 2010.
• Dedicate a minimum 2% of the overall capital costs on new projects to incorporation of sustainable design principles.

Furthermore, The Ohio State University will be a signatory to the Talloires Declaration developed by the University Presidents for a Sustainable Future. The spirit and intent of the Talloires Declaration have been incorporated into the doctrine below. These principles will play an integral role in fulfilling The Ohio State University’s sustainability mission.

APPLICATION

Our principles and practices apply to all activities undertaken by or on behalf of The Ohio State University including those of its students and contractors.

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

1. Waste Management

• Reduce waste generation using educational and cost-effective waste prevention, reuse, and recycling programs
• Seek alternative means of waste disposal, including food composting
• Minimize waste during renovation, construction, operation, or demolition of buildings, landscape, or infrastructure elements
• Use the educational assets of the university to raise awareness of the global impacts of waste generation to change individual and institutional behavior

2. Energy Management

• Reduce dependency of university operations on non-renewable energy sources
• Investigate cost-effective options for use of renewable energy
• Identify and implement energy use measurement, management, and conservation projects
• Utilize the research assets of the university to develop and test new technologies for energy systems
• Investigate the use of cleaner fuels in the campus vehicle fleet

3. Resource Conservation

• Strive to conserve energy, water, and other resources
• Make efficient use of the university’s limited land, facility, and infrastructure resources
• Promote sustainable land use to ensure continued vitality of Ohio’s agricultural and recreational resources
• Facilitate pedestrian travel, bicycle use, and other modes of transportation that minimize environmental impact; provide affordable housing on campus to reduce commuter travel
• Respect historic landscapes, buildings, rooms, and architectural elements
• Balance short- and long-term costs, including maintenance, life cycle, and environmental costs in purchasing goods and services
• Give preference to local providers of products and services

4. Campus Planning and Design

• Incorporate energy efficiency and other sustainability principles into the planning, financing, design, construction, renewal, maintenance, operation, space management, facilities utilization, and decommissioning of facilities and infrastructure while balancing budgetary constraints, aesthetics, regulatory, and programmatic requirements
• Consider life-cycle costs in the project planning and design process, recognizing the importance of long-term operations, upgrading, and maintenance requirements in the financial performance of university facilities
• Incorporate flexibility in program and design to allow change in facility use with minimal alteration and minimal damage to historic fabric, thereby providing a long functional life
5. **Stakeholder Well Being**

- Protect the health, safety, and well being of university faculty, staff, and students and promote improved quality of life
- Work with public and private institutions to improve educational, cultural, and socioeconomic well-being in local communities and in the society at large
- Support the protection of diversity and human rights within the university’s sphere of influence and ensure ethical conduct of business
- Build capacity for economic development in the local communities and in Ohio

6. **Sustainability Awareness**

- Develop accounting procedures that clearly measure and reflect the long-term benefits of sustainable development
- Ensure that the university community is aware of the Sustainability Principles and Practices and understands each group’s role in successful implementation of these principles
- Build partnerships and create local information and learning networks for sharing experiences and knowledge regarding sustainability issues with all stakeholders
- Establish a culture that seeks to embed sustainability into all aspects of university life
- Recognize, celebrate, and reward sustainability achievements to promote awareness of the sustainability commitment throughout the university

7. **Sustainability Education and Research**

- Integrate social, ethical, and environmental responsibility and the understanding, definition, and investigation of technological and policy strategies for sustainability into curriculum development in all university colleges
- Support and encourage interdisciplinary research that addresses challenging issues of sustainable development
- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to consider sustainability issues in the context of their work, to become active advocates of sustainability
- Use the university campus as a living laboratory for research, practice, and development of innovative and responsible ways of meeting the university’s sustainability principles and practices