

Binghamton University Sustainability Plan (2017 – 2022)

Purpose

Binghamton University is becoming greener! The purpose of this plan is to cultivate a community culture that values sustainability and will incorporate sustainability into all aspects of campus life. Binghamton will live, learn and engage in practices that will have a positive impact on the environment.

Sustainability implies environmental, economic, and equitable social actions that make for a healthier, stronger community. The community's success is predicated on support from informed and active leadership, and an engaged campus community. Sustainability creates benefits that minimize environmental degradation, maximize economic opportunities, and improve quality of life for everyone.

Pursuing sustainable initiatives reinforces Binghamton University's commitment to research and education. The Binghamton University Strategic Plan, also known as the Campus Road Map outlines goals and objectives for Binghamton University that encompass the equity and economy dimensions of sustainable communities as well as research, education, and engagement. Therefore, this plan focuses largely on the environmental aspects of sustainability.

Sustainability Goals

The following goals are informed by an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to becoming a more sustainable campus that was conducted by students in PAFF 516: Performance Management in Spring 2017. Goals are ideal states that an organization hopes to achieve and may not, therefore, be attainable in the near future. Objectives, on the other hand, should be SMART—Specific, Measureable, Ambitious, Realistic, and Time-bound. Targets in the objectives have been researched and are based on existing data at Binghamton University, interviews with those responsible for their achievement, and benchmarking against other universities. We believe they are both ambitious and realistic to be achieved within the time frame noted. We used a default 5-year time-frame unless a reasonable rate of change for the objective necessitated a longer or shorter time frame.

Goal 1: Binghamton University's students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community will have the knowledge to address sustainability problems at the local, state, national and global levels.

- Objective 1a: Increase number of the faculty conducting research in sustainability from 15% to 20% of faculty members by 2022. (Sustainable Communities and Smart Energy Steering Committees)
- Objective 1b: 30% of graduating students will have taken a sustainability course by 2022. (Sustainable Communities TAE Steering Committee)
- Objective 1c: 100% of faculty, staff, and students will receive sustainability training by 2022. (Joe Schultz, Martin Larocca)

Goal 2: Binghamton University will become carbon neutral. (Sandy DeJohn)

- Objective 2a: Binghamton University's electricity supply will include 50% of renewable energy by 2022 and 75% by 2030.
- Objective 2b: Greenhouse gas emissions per weighted campus user will be below two metric tons of CO2 equivalent by 2022.
- Objective 2c: By 2022, the University will establish a web-based energy / carbon emission dashboard to publicly share real-time data on all building electricity, heating energy and water usage. Additional sub-meters will be installed in student housing to identify lighting and plug loads.

Goal 3: The Binghamton University community will use sustainable commuting options as its primary method of transportation. (Sue Crane)

- Objective 3a: Reduce single occupancy commuting to campus in a fossil fuel-based vehicle by employees and students to 75% by 2022.
- Objective 3b: Reduce intra-campus single occupancy driving in a fossil fuel-based vehicle by 25% by 2022.

Goal 4: Binghamton University will incorporate "cradle-to-grave" considerations into all purchasing and waste management practices. (Martin Larocca)

- Objective 4a: Maintain 30% recycling rate, per year, on campus through 2022.
- Objective 4b: Decrease cross-contamination on campus by 5% by the end of 2022.
- Objective 4c: Increase purchasing of biodegradable or reusable products by 15% by the end of 2022.

Goal 5: Binghamton University will become a leader in innovation in sustainability practices.

- Objective 5a: By 2022 Binghamton University will be ranked in the top 50 Green Universities by the Sierra Club. (Campus Climate Committee)
- Objective 5b: Binghamton University will receive a Gold rating on AASHE STARS for the 2018-2019 school year. (Campus Climate Committee)
- Objective 5c: By 2022, Binghamton University will own and operate a certified Living Building. (President's office, Pam Mischen)

Goal 6: Binghamton University's infrastructure will regenerate the natural environment

- Objective 6a: Binghamton University will treat 100% of its new impervious surface runoff in a sustainable manner by 2022. (Physical Facilities, Sally Oaks)
- Objective 6b: By 2022, 10% of Binghamton University's non-athletic landscaping will be naturalized to be a habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. (Physical Facilities, David Green)
- Objective 6c: By 2022, Binghamton University will have a complete environmental assessment. (Sustainable Communities TAE)