

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Haab, Timothy](#); [Kress, Cathann](#)
Subject: Proposal to revise the Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability Minor
Date: Friday, May 29, 2026 4:00:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jeanne:

The proposal from the School of Environment and Natural Resources to revise the Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability Minor was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on May 28, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

No additional level of internal review/approval is necessary. This action will be included in the Council's next Annual Activities Report to the University Senate (July 2026).

The Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

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From: [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#)
Cc: [Reed, Katie](#); [Violet, Cynthia](#); [Lewandowski, Monica](#); [Fries, Sara](#); [Lower, Brian](#)
Subject: Proposed revision to the EEDS Minor
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 8:41:53 AM
Attachments: [EEDS Minor 2026 Combined Files.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Dr. Smith,

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science (CFAES) is requesting Council on Academic Affairs approval of the attached proposal for a revision to the Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability (EEDS) Minor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics.

The revision to the minor streamlines the minor, including a curated list of elective options for students to identify thematic paths so that they can pursue an interest area within the minor. These changes will not impact students currently enrolled in the minor as there are no changes to courses offered.

The proposal to revise the EEDS Minor was approved by the Academic Affairs Committees of the School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, and is approved by the CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed in support of this request.

Thank you,

Jeanne



Jeanne M. Osborne

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs
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'Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change' (Bob Kerrey)

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March 20, 2026

TO: CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs
FROM: SENR Academic Affairs Committee
RE: Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability (EEDS) minor

The School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics Department have reviewed and revised the joint EEDS minor. The EEDS Oversight Committee jointly worked on the revisions and submitted to each unit's academic affairs committee for review and approval: SENR AAC approved on January 13, 2026, and AEDE AAC approved on January 16, 2026. Attached you will find the original minor structure, the original with marked changes, and the new version of the minor. The changes to the EEDS minor include:

- A more streamlined version of the minor that includes 3 required courses all students must complete and a choice of 2 electives to allow students the opportunity to explore their interests within sustainability.
- The elective list has been condensed to better reflect the interests of students pursuing the minor and course availability. Thematic paths have been identified for students interested in tailoring their minor.

Students under the current version of the EEDS minor will have no difficulty in completing the minor as planned as all courses are still offered. The EEDS minor coordinator (in SENR) will continue to work with students to ensure understanding of the requirements, allowable overlaps, and completion of the minor.

Please let me know if there are any questions about our proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Lower, Co-chair AAC

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Undergraduate Minor in Environment, Economy, Development, & Sustainability

Pressing environmental issues such as climate change & water quality are fundamentally connected to human impacts & problems of resource scarcity, access & degradation. Sustainability requires integrated approaches that can improve the well-being of society without causing irreparable harm to the Earth's ecological systems. Solutions to these problems are based on knowledge of human & natural systems, which includes an understanding of the interdependencies among the economy, institutions, technology, society & environmental challenges such as climate change, renewable energy & water availability. Such problems call for a new generation of students with a strong understanding of sustainability issues, the practical skills to assess sustainable resource consumption & use, familiarity with the processes of social change & the knowledge to develop solutions.

The EEDS minor provides a multi-disciplinary approach with a focus on the economic, business & social change aspects of sustainability. This minor responds to the emergence of sustainability as an important competency for many types of jobs in the private, public & non-profit sectors. Through the EEDS minor, students obtain knowledge of sustainability concepts & methods that complement their major program of study in a variety of natural, physical, engineering & social science disciplines. The EEDS minor curriculum is comprised of core courses from the EEDS major & includes a range of courses that can be selected by students to count toward the minor degree. These courses are designed to provide a foundation in sustainability concepts & theory related to economics, business, sociology & community & international development. The EEDS minor will assist students in a wide variety of OSU majors to be even more "job ready" for the ever-changing employment marketplace.

A total of 16 semester hours are required for the minor.

Course number	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisites
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Required: Introductory Course

ENR/AEDECON 2501	Introduction to Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability	4	Sophomore standing
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Choose 1: Core Course (Economics & Business)

AEDECON 4310	Environmental & Natural Resources Economics	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
BUSADM 3640.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business: Concepts & Issues	3	ENR/AEDECON 2500 or 2501

Choose 1: Core Course (Community & Development)

AEDECON/INTSTDS 4597.01	Problems & Policies in World Population, Food, & Environment	3	Junior or Senior standing
ENR 3500	Community, Environment & Development	3	ENR 2300, RURLSOC 1500, or ENR/AEDE 2501
RURLSOC 3580	Social Groups in Developing Societies	3	3 or hrs in RURLSOC, SOC or related social science

Choose 2: Elective Courses in Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability

AEDECON 3680	Regional Economics & Sustainable Growth	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON 4310	Environmental & Natural Resources Economics	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4320	Energy, the Environment, & the Economy	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON 4330	The Sustainable Economy: Concepts & Methods	3	AEDECON 4310 and ENR 3900
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4532	Food Security & Globalization	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001

Continued on reverse

Course number	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisites
AEDECON/ INTSTDS 4535	International Economic Development	3	ECON 4001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON/ INTSTDS 4597.01	Problems & Policies in World Population, Food, & Environment	3	Junior or Senior standing
AEDECON 5330	Benefit-Cost Analysis	3	AEDECON 4310; or ECON 4001 or AEDECON 4001
BUSADM 3640.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business: Concepts & Issues	3	ENR/AEDECON 2500 or 2501
BUSADM 3642.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business: Applications & Solutions	3	BUSADM 3640.02
COMLDR 4430	Leadership in Teams & Community Organizations	3	
CRP 3400	Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
ECON 4547	Economics of War	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001 & ECON 2002
ECON 4500	Economic Development	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001 & ECON 2002
ECON 4553	Economics of Population	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
ECON 4560	Cooperation & Conflict in the Global Economy	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001 & ECON 2002
ENR 3500	Community, Environment & Development	3	ENR 2300, RURLSOC 1500, or ENR/AEDE 2501
ENR 3200	Environmental & Natural Resources Policy	3	ENR 2100 & ENR 2300
ENR 4400	Law & Legal Process	3	
ENR 5210	Evaluation of Environmental Impact	3	Junior or Senior Standing
ENR 5211	International Environmental Impact Assessment	3	Junior or Senior Standing
ENVENG/FABE 5310	Ecological Engineering	4	Junior standing
RURLSOC 3580	Social Groups in Developing Societies	3	3 credit hours in RURLSOC, SOC or a related social science
RURLSOC 4500	Leadership & Community Development	3	ENR 3500
RURLSOC 5500	Diffusion of Innovations	3	
RURLSOC 5580	Social Impact Assessment	3	
SOCIOL 3460	Environmental Justice	3	

Restrictions and General Information

1. A maximum of 3 approved study abroad credits (ENR 5797 or a related study abroad experience as approved by an ENR advisor) may be used toward the *Elective* category of the minor.
2. A minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio is required in the minor course work; and a minimum grade of a C- is required for each course used to complete the minor.
3. A minor should be declared at the time a student accumulates 60 hours.
4. A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.
5. The minor must contain a minimum of 12 credit hours distinct from the major and/or additional minors (i.e. if a minor requires more than 12 credit hours, a student is permitted to overlap those hours beyond 12 with a major or with another minor).
6. The minor must include at least 6 hours of upper-level or upper-division course work (3000 or above).
7. Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count in the minor, and no more than 3 credit hours of course work graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor.
8. A student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.
9. No more than 3 credit hours of xx93 may count toward the minor.

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE

Undergraduate Minor in Environment, Economy, Development, & Sustainability

Sustainability challenges are among the most important issues shaping our future. Issues related to energy, water, housing, land use, climate resilience, and community well-being are not driven by environmental change alone. They are also shaped by human decisions—how we design policies, organize economies, govern resources, operate businesses, and build communities. These decisions play a central role in determining whether communities are resilient to these challenges. Understanding sustainability therefore requires attention to the dynamic relationships among communities, economic systems, businesses, and the natural environment.

The **Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability (EEDS) minor** focuses on the economic and social dimensions of sustainability. Students examine how real-world environmental challenges are addressed through markets, public policy, business practices, and social change at local, national, and global scales. The minor emphasizes systems thinking and helps students to see the interconnections among the “people, planet, and economy” dimensions of sustainability.

Through the EEDS minor, students develop practical skills for analyzing complex problems, weighing tradeoffs, and evaluating solutions in real-world contexts. Coursework introduces core sustainability concepts while engaging students in questions of resource use, institutional decisionmaking, inequality, community development, and economic tradeoffs. These perspectives are especially valuable for students interested in careers related to business, public policy, economics, agribusiness, conservation, community development, and other social and behavioral sciences. The minor also complements majors in the natural sciences and engineering by deepening student’s understanding of how social and economic systems shape environmental problems and solutions. Students in the humanities may also find the EEDS minor valuable for exploring the ethical, cultural, historical, and communicative dimensions of sustainability challenges.

The minor combines required foundational courses with flexible electives, allowing students to tailor the program to their interests while building a strong sustainability toolkit. Students gain knowledge and competencies that are increasingly valued across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. The EEDS minor provides a practical, interdisciplinary lens that can prepare graduates to work effectively in businesses, governments, and organizations navigating complex environmental, economic, and social change.

A total of 16 semester hours are required for the minor.

Course number	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisites
Required Core Courses			
AEDECON/ENR 2501 or AEDECON/ENR 2501E	Introduction to Sustainability	4	
AEDECON 4310	Environmental & Natural Resources Economics	3	
ENR 3500 or ENR 3500H	Community, Environment and Development	3	ENR 2300, RURLSOC 1500, SOCIOL 1101 or AEDECON/ENR 2501
Choose 2: Elective Courses in Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability			
AEDECON 3680	Regional Economics and Sustainable Growth	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4320	Energy, the Environment, and the Economy	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON 4321	Sustainable Energy	3	
AEDECON 4330	The Sustainable Economy: Concepts and Methods	3	AEDECON 4310
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4597.01	Food, Population, and the Environment	3	Junior or Senior standing
BUSADM 3640.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business I: Principles and Concepts	3	Junior or Senior standing
BUSADM 3642.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business II: Applications, Solutions and Project Experience	3	BUSADM 3640.02
CRPLAN 3400	Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001

ENR 3900	Sustainability Metrics	4	ENR 2000 or AEDE 2005 or other GE Data Analysis course
ENR 5480	Local Peoples and International Conservation	3	
ENR 5797.02	Study at a Foreign Institution: Australia: Sustaining Human Societies & the Environment	3	Permission of Resident Director
RURLSOC 4500	Community Development in Practice	3	ENR 3500
RURLSOC/ENR 5500	Diffusion of Innovations	3	
RURLSOC 5580	Social Impact Assessment	3	

Thematically related elective courses

Environmental Economics: AEDECON 3680, AEDECON 4330

Energy Economics: AEDECON 4320, AEDECON 4321

Business & Sustainability: BUSADM 3640.02, BUSADM 3642.02

International Development: AEDECON/INSTDS 4597.01, ENR 5480

Community Development and Planning: CRPLAN 3400, RURLSOC 4500

Restrictions and General Information

1. A minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio is required in the minor course work; and a minimum grade of a C- is required for each course used to complete the minor.
2. A minor should be declared at the time a student accumulates 60 hours.
3. A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.
4. The minor must contain a minimum of 12 credit hours distinct from the major and/or additional minors and certificates (i.e. if a minor/certificate requires more than 12 credit hours, a student is permitted to overlap those hours beyond 12 with a major or with another minor/certificate).
5. The minor must include at least 6 hours of upper-level or upper-division course work (3000 or above).
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AEDECON 4310	Environmental & Natural Resources Economics	3	
ENR 3500 or ENR 3500H	Community, Environment and Development	3	ENR 2300, RURLSOC 1500, SOCIOL 1101 or AEDECON/ENR 2501
<u>Choose 2: Elective Courses in Environment, Economy, Development & Sustainability</u>			
AEDECON 3680	Regional Economics and Sustainable Growth	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4320	Energy, the Environment, and the Economy	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001
AEDECON 4321	Sustainable Energy	3	
AEDECON 4330	The Sustainable Economy: Concepts and Methods	3	AEDECON 4310
AEDECON/INTSTDS 4597.01	Food, Population, and the Environment	3	Junior or Senior standing
BUSADM 3640.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business I: Principles and Concepts	3	Junior or Senior standing
BUSADM 3642.02	Introduction to Sustainability in Business II: Applications, Solutions and Project Experience	3	BUSADM 3640.02
CRPLAN 3400	Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	3	ECON 2001 or AEDECON 2001

ENR 3900	Sustainability Metrics	4	ENR 2000 or AEDE 2005 or other GE Data Analysis course
ENR 5480	Local Peoples and International Conservation	3	
ENR 5797.02	Study at a Foreign Institution: Australia: Sustaining Human Societies & the Environment	3	Permission of Resident Director
RURLSOC 4500	Community Development in Practice	3	ENR 3500
RURLSOC/ENR 5500	Diffusion of Innovations	3	
RURLSOC 5580	Social Impact Assessment	3	

Thematically related elective courses

Environmental Economics: AEDECON 3680, AEDECON 4330

Energy Economics: AEDECON 4320, AEDECON 4321

Business & Sustainability: BUSADM 3640.02, BUSADM 3642.02

International Development: AEDECON/INSTDS 4597.01, ENR 5480

Community Development and Planning: CRPLAN 3400, RURLSOC 4500

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