



STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

The Office of Energy and Environment will be a world-class example of comprehensive leveraging of sustainable energy and related environmental education, research, and resource management to the benefit of The Ohio State University and the citizens of Ohio, the region, the U.S., and the world.

Mission

The Office of Energy and Environment (OEE) leads the enterprise-wide integration and leverage of energy and related environmental education, research, and campus operational interests, with an emphasis on meeting these interests in ever more sustainable and resilient ways. OEE leverages relationships with key external companies, nonprofits and government agencies to enhance the learning experience for students, research opportunities for faculty and overall awareness about how Ohio State can and is meeting these global challenges.

OEE maintains a comprehensive view of the complex, multifaceted energy, environment and sustainability ecosystem at Ohio State. To maximize our effectiveness, we prioritize leading or supporting activities in the following three areas:

A Energy, Environment and Sustainability Academic Mission

The relationship between energy use and environmental risk in a world undergoing climate change coupled with global population growth demands innovative interdisciplinary solutions.

Teaching and Learning

- Support student involvement and exposure to sustainability issues through extra-curricular experiences and collaboration with other engaged units (*Key partners: Student Life, First Year Experience, Second-year Transformational Experience, P-12*)
- Provide research, travel, scholarship, and competition funding, and support for students in the EES areas (*Key partners: Office of Research, college research officers, curricular deans, Undergraduate Research Office, Student Life*)

Research and Innovation

- Model Discovery Themes principles and practices to nurture interdisciplinary research in ESS targeted areas that leverage existing strengths and assets (*Key partners: Office of Research, college research officers, business development officers, Energy and Environment center directors*)
 - Support a new community of interdisciplinary researchers in an untapped area such as Sustainable Mobility
 - Serve as an advisor to E&E centers such as the Subsurface Energy Resource Center and Global Water Initiative
 - Assist faculty leaders with organizing interdisciplinary teams of researchers to pursue large, opportunistic funding opportunities
 - Facilitate and leverage connections to internal and strategic external partners in business, government, and the NGO community

Outreach and Engagement

- Promote and market Ohio State's EES researchers (*Key partners: University Communications, OAA communicators, college communicators, Office of Research*)
- Lead, promote, and partner with other Ohio State units and key external partner events related to EES (*Key partners: Outreach and Engagement, OAA communicators, college communicators, Student Life; University Communications*)

- Strategically increase the use of Ohio State experts to inform decision-making in the public sector and plan and manage EES events with public officials (*Key partners: Government Affairs, deans, and University Communications*)
- Model and communicate effective energy enhancements/improvements to the general public and national academic community to drive Ohio State's notoriety as a creative energy consumer (*Key partners: University Communications, Administration and Planning, Business and Finance*)

Discovery Themes

- Three of the current Discovery Theme (DT) programs funded by OAA have a strong thematic tie to sustainability, energy, and the environment. OEE will provide focused support to these initiatives and support the core team in the Office of Academic Affairs nurturing these initiatives.
- More specifically, OEE will:
 - Collaborate with OAA and college efforts to enhance teaching and learning progress in DTs related to EES (*Key partners: Vice Provost for Curriculum and Institutional Relations, curricular associate deans*)
 - Support OAA and DT initiative leaders on strategic internal and external communication and outreach needs (*Key partners: Outreach and Engagement, Industry Liaison Office, Advancement*)
 - Partner on the development of seed grants or other targeted funding support to further leverage success
 - Support new interdisciplinary research groups on campus that involve new hires in the Discovery Themes with existing faculty to advance Ohio State's sustainability goals

B Energy Resource Management and Procurement

OEE will lead the development and ongoing updates of sustainable and cost-effective university energy policies and procurement operations to maximize market opportunities, meet operational goals, and leverage university assets to help attract research and other academic opportunities.

More specifically, OEE will:

- Serve as a leader on the Comprehensive Energy Management Project (*Key partners: Business and Finance, Administration and Planning, Legal*)
- Enhance Ohio State's management of energy through a more formal, organized, "one university" approach to energy procurement (*Key partners: Business and Finance, Administration and Planning, Wexner Medical Center, Student Life*)
- Encourage and facilitate effective faculty engagement in energy policy setting given Ohio State's shared governance model (*Key partners: Vice Provost for Capital Planning and Regional Campuses, deans, University Senate*)
- Leverage energy business relationships to support Ohio State's academic and research mission including use of the campus as a test bed for EES innovation (*Key partners: Business and Finance, Administration & Planning; vice provosts, Office of Research, deans*)

C Sustainability at Ohio State

OEE is Ohio State's sustainability hub. OEE will lead the development, implementation, and ongoing revisions of university-wide sustainability goals that span teaching and learning, research and innovation, outreach and engagement, and resource stewardship.

More specifically, OEE will:

- Design a user-friendly system to track progress with meeting university sustainability goals while advancing and promoting sustainability milestones and accomplishments (*Key partners: senior administrative, faculty and student leaders*)

- Facilitate the President and Provost's Council on Sustainability as the key advisory body on Ohio State's approach to enterprise-wide sustainability (*Key partners: senior administrative, faculty and student leaders*)
- Oversee the Ohio State Sustainability Fund project selection processes in support of the University's sustainability goals (*Key partners: PPCS Members, sustainability project leaders*)
- Promote university-wide sustainability awareness to educate stakeholders on sustainability actions and opportunities (*Key partners: University Communications, college and unit communicators*)
- Catalyze faculty engagement and maximize the outreach and engagement opportunities associated with Ohio State's operational "green initiatives," including, but not limited to: alternative energy installations, green buildings, our zero waste program and sustainable food programs (*Key partners: operational leaders, faculty leaders, Advancement*)