

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.

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

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)