



STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2016-2020

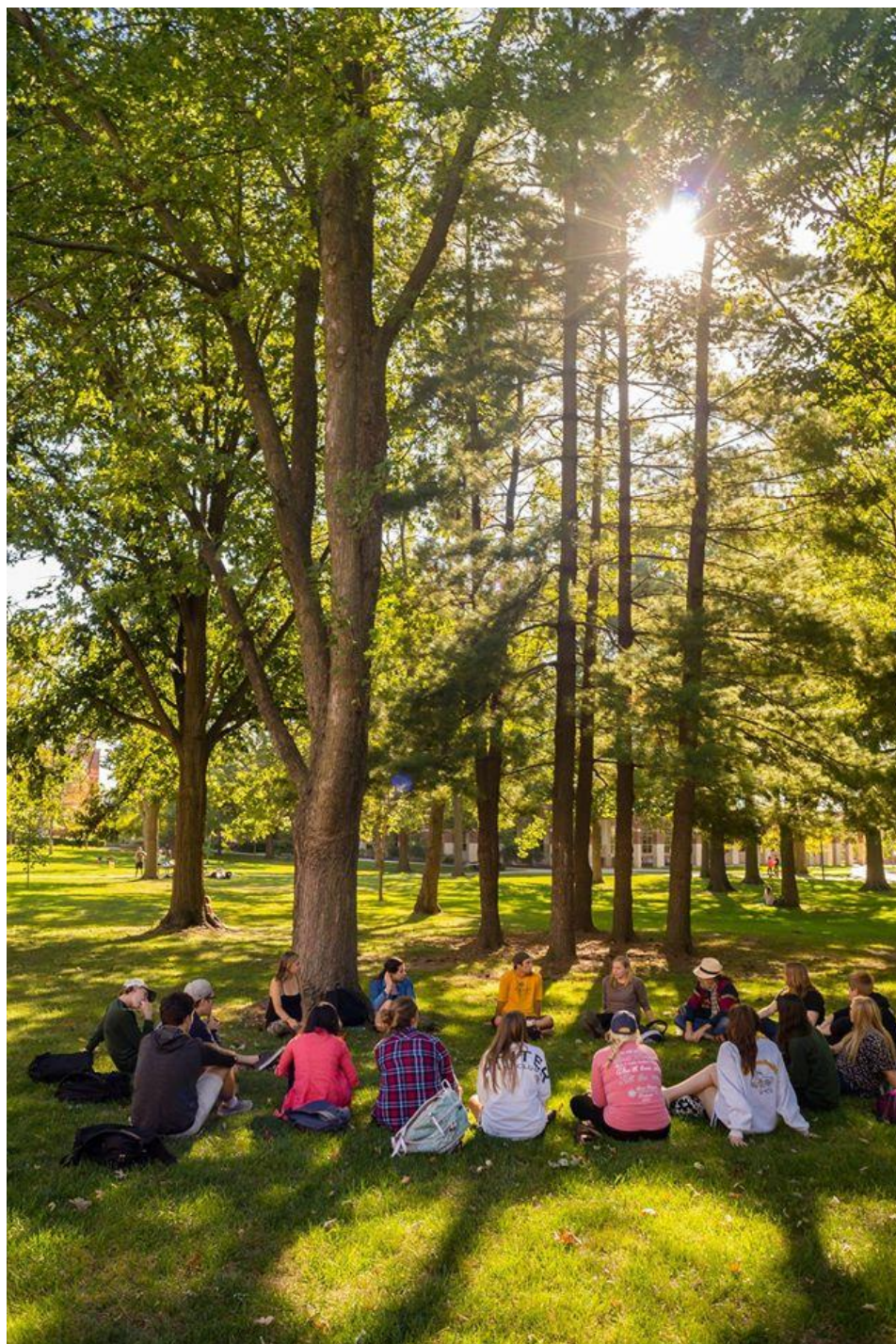
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**As of:
October 15, 2017**

Vision

Truman State University will create an ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable campus and community – a sustainable development model for the benefit of all life, present and future.

Sustainability Principles - As members of the Truman State University community, we commit ourselves to:

- **Acknowledge the interdependence of humanity and nature.**
Human well-being is inextricably embedded in the natural world.
- **Embrace inter-generational stewardship.**
Continue the tradition for caring for the land and future generations.
- **Account for triple-bottom line practices.**
Optimize long-term ecological, social and economic values, while fostering creativity for revenue-generating projects.
- **Invest in collaborative community-based projects.**
Enhance our sense of place by building social capital.
- **Develop a closed-loop local food system.**
Engage regional farmers, community members, and our own farm resources in our sustenance by integrating local, environmentally sensible food production, responsible consumption, and waste reuse
- **Conserve natural resources.**
Air, water, land, species, and energy represent our posterity.
Reflect our regional, natural environment via the built environment (architecture and pedagogy).
Incorporate resource-efficient materials and technology that reduce our ecological impact.
Transition from non-renewable to renewable resource use as soon as possible.
- **Strive to eliminate waste.**
Reduce, reuse, recycle and reinvest back into the community.
- **Promote multi-modal transportation.**
Foster community health by freeing ourselves from dependence on cars, embracing public transportation, biking, and walking.
- **Innovate – Evolve – Educate.**
Learn from the past, constantly improve, and teach others about sustainability through interdisciplinary curricula, research and service learning.

Plan Assessment

This Plan is a guiding document that prioritizes the work we do at the University to enhance sustainability across all of our operations: academic, physical, administrative, and collaborative. We will systematically document what we're doing, assess its effectiveness and impact, and reflect on how these efforts may be improved in the future.

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the leading professional organization on sustainability for colleges and universities, has developed a comprehensive and versatile tool called STARS: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System. STARS provides a standardized and widely endorsed means for Truman to document and assess its current and future work on all sustainability initiatives, and to benchmark itself against the many community colleges, four-year institutions, and comprehensive universities currently using the system.

The STARS assessment covers five major areas, each of which contains several subcategories. The scope of these categories allows an institution to analyze its progress on sustainability measures across every facet of its operation.

- **Academics:** curriculum and research
- **Engagement:** campus and public engagement
- **Operations:** air & climate, buildings, dining services, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water
- **Planning & Administration:** coordination & planning; diversity and affordability; well-being & work; and investment
- **Innovation & Leadership:** innovation and exemplary practices

Plan Implementation

Goals and initiatives for each of the STARS assessment area have been identified, and the President's Sustainability Action Committee will work with others on campus and in our community to implement these initiatives between now and the plan completion date of 2020.

Academic Goals and Initiatives

Category	STARS value	Goals	Initiatives
Curriculum (academic courses, learning outcomes, undergraduate program, immersive experience, sustainability literacy assessment, incentives for developing courses, campus as a living laboratory)	40	Establish Truman as a leader in sustainability education among COPLAC universities by investing in sustainability-related academic programs.	<p><u>Priority 1 - Sustainability in the Curriculum:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and staff a “Sustainability Fellowship” position through APDC, modeled after similar “fellows” positions (civic engagement, flipped classrooms) to provide consultation on how to incorporate sustainability in new and existing courses. Develop and offer a course (Campus Sustainability 101) to inform students of components and considerations related to sustainability at Truman and to challenge their thinking about individual and campus behavior related to conservation and sustainability. Revisit the inventory of sustainability courses and determine the best way to keep it updated. Recommend that ‘sustainability’ be considered as a ‘theme’ in the new thematic links effort. Stay apprised of development with the Truman common seminars (“Identity” and “Ideas and Inquiry”) and identify opportunities for sustainability concepts to be incorporated in course design, as appropriate. <p><u>Priority 2 – Build Faculty Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create opportunities for interaction and community-building among interested faculty (e.g. a “Sustainability Caucus” among faculty members modeled after the approach used with Interdisciplinary (JINS) faculty; a list of faculty teaching courses approved for the ENVS minor and Sustainability Certificate would provide a starting point, with an invitation issued for other interested participants). <p><u>Priority 3 – Sustainability in Orientation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a service/service learning component to Truman Transformation orientation (coordinate with the SERVE center and existing Saturday service activities). Develop a brochure on the ENVS minor, sustainability certificate, and other sustainability-related curricular components to be included with summer orientation and/or Truman Transformation packets.
Research (research & scholarship, support for research, open access to research)	18	Encourage and support research on sustainability, science, and policy that supports Truman’s mission and fosters sustainability.	<p>Establish funds for small research proposals focused on sustainability and environmental issues. Mini-grant sources - Missouri Campus Compact – usually these funds are ~500 for faculty/staff to apply for usage in the classroom or other opportunities (http://missouricompact.missouristate.edu).</p> <p>Combine SRC and ENVS conferences to have a specific section focused on ENVS/Sustainability (thereby reducing resources/efforts for a second conference).</p>

Waste and Natural Resources Goals and Initiatives

Category	STARS value	Goals	Initiatives
Waste (waste minimization & diversion, hazardous waste management)	10	Educate students, staff, and faculty about waste reduction opportunities, and promote and sustain recycling and composting efforts.	<p><u>Review and improve the recycling and composting programs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current recycling drops and add/update locations where needed and relate to STARS requirements. Actively participate in the city's glass recycling program by establishing collection points on campus. Consider using student workers who are trained to drive University vehicles to pick up glass around campus. Check STARS requirements when developing a plan. Track compost amounts and improve process to insure bins are cleaned, etc. Establish consistency in the collection process of recycled items Develop a method of weighing waste/recycle, etc., by converting volume to pounds. Establish a building or cover to protect the scale but provide accessibility. <p>More communication and advertising. Sodexo's marketing person can assist with advertising.</p>
Grounds (landscape management, biodiversity)	3-4	<p>Sustain Truman's involvement in the Tree Campus USA and Tree City initiatives.</p> <p>Continue landscape projects that address restoration and reclamation efforts.</p>	<p>Consider working with Grounds to develop new sites for sustainability projects on campus (an example would be considering whether one or more existing flower beds could be converted to improved pollinator habitat using native, perennial plants).</p> <p>Create more awareness of community garden opportunities at the Farm.</p> <p>Maintain the Campus and City tree care plans, and establish additional educational materials for the Truman arboretum.</p>
Energy (building energy consumption, clean & renewable energy)	10	<p>Reduce energy usage through participation in the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project.</p> <p>Expand usage of clean & renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>American Campuses Act on Climate - Committed to reducing our energy consumption by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce natural gas consumption by over 50,500 MCF annually Reduce electrical consumption by nearly 7.5 million kWh annually <p>Review and update the Energy Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Continue energy reduction strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address light pollution on campus Add lighting sensors where appropriate Add LED lighting where appropriate Implement vending misers <p>Support hiring an energy manager with savings from the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project.</p>
Air & Climate (greenhouse gas emissions, outdoor air quality)	11	Focus on reducing the university's carbon footprint	<p>Reduce our carbon footprint through implementation of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, including a plan for ongoing monitoring activities.</p> <p>American Campuses Act on Climate - Committed to reducing our annual carbon footprint by 20,900,000 lbs of CO₂.</p>
Food & Dining	8	Continue local food efforts at	<p>Resurvey students in Spring 2017 to improve rate of response and</p> <p>"Local food" is defined in STARS as food provided by a</p>

(food & beverage purchasing, sustainable dining)		<p>Truman that support hands-on education and a greater understanding of food security issues.</p> <p>Secure liability insurance</p> <p>Create opportunities and capacity to grow produce year-round.</p>	<p>gather information about “clean” food and “local” food desires. Potential survey date is February 22, 2017 with the idea that 2018-19 would be the next time different food options could be offered to the students.</p>	<p>producer within 250 miles. Continue to educate students, faculty and staff about what is considered local food.</p> <p>Establish storage for farm foods, as well as investigate what it would require to have hoop/green houses in use during non-produce growing months.</p> <p>Consider selling flowers/plants at the Farm Stand.</p>
Purchasing (sustainable procurement, electronic purchasing, cleaning & janitorial purchasing, office paper purchasing)	6	Adopt the use of recycled paper in the residence halls and for all academic printing.	In coordination with the 2016 Sustainability Fee Committee, pilot the use of recycled paper in the residence halls in 216-2017, and expand use of recycled paper as appropriate.	Regularly review the cost of cleaning and janitorial products to determine if some cleaners are no longer cost-prohibitive.
Transportation (campus fleet, student commute modal split, employee commute modal split, support for sustainable transportation)	7	<p>Provide more bicycle amenities.</p> <p>Provide more support for renewable forms of transportation.</p>	<p>Focus efforts on promoting more use of bicycles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the City for additional bike lanes. • Coordinate with the City on bike/motorist presentations (Alex Tetlac seminars). • Invite community members to the bike advisory committee to help establish goals. • Broaden the reach and awareness of the bicycle co-op. • Continue to work with the student sustainability fee committee for covered parking. 	<p>Work with the City to establish an electric vehicle charging station in Kirksville, along with at least one on campus.</p> <p>Promote KirkTran public transportation to the campus community (Kirktran has stops on campus, and would like to install a covered stop).</p>
Water (water use, rainwater management)	6-8	<p>Reduce water consumption.</p> <p>Raise awareness of water conservation efforts.</p>	<p>American Campuses Act on Climate - Committed to reducing our water consumption by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Truman’s water consumption by over 8 million gallons annually through the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project. 	Monitor the Sustainability Fee Committee’s rainwater collection efforts at the Farm.

Engagement Goals and Initiatives

Category	STARS value	Goals	Initiatives
Campus Engagement (student educators program, student orientation, student life, outreach materials & publications, outreach campaign, assessing sustainability culture, employee educators program, employee orientation, staff professional development)	21	<p>Create a sustainability-minded culture and conservation ethic among students, staff and faculty.</p> <p>Increase awareness of and engagement with sustainability initiatives by Truman students, faculty, and staff.</p>	<p>Develop a system for organizations, offices, faculty members, departments, classes, or other entities to take ownership and responsibility for maintenance and continuation of sustainability projects (the "Adopt-a-Highway" program is the conceptual model).</p> <p>Publicize existence of and responsibility for sustainability projects through a "Tag Day" similar to that used by the Advancement Office (signage publicizing projects can also be considered where appropriate, but involves additional expense and maintenance; the "Tag Day" would provide virtual signage by promoting awareness via social media).</p> <p>Work with Staff Council to propose a Staff Development program related to Sustainability themes (could address issues such as conservation/ sustainability in your department/office and tours of existing sustainability projects.</p> <p>Utilize the NSSE Exemplary Practice in Innovation and Leadership to help assess the sustainability culture of Truman students.</p> <p>Create a <i>Sustainability@Truman</i> Facebook page with PSAC members as administrators</p> <p>Establish a partnership with Health & Exercise Science to co-host Campus Sustainability Day every October.</p> <p>Utilize ENVS committee budget or other funding sources to bring in a prominent speaker for sustainability week, consider a screening of a current, popular sustainability-themed documentary in addition to, or in combination with, or as an alternative to a speaker.</p> <p>Develop and maintain a comprehensive list of sustainability "projects" at Truman. This should include course programs, organizations, student groups, committees, and faculty engaged in sustainability or sustainability-related topics.</p> <p>Define a small series of events to serve as a student orientation program in sustainability.</p>
Public Engagement (community partnerships, inter-campus collaboration, continuing education, community service, participation in public policy, trademark licensing)	20	<p>Develop strong partnerships with local organizations to advance sustainability.</p>	<p>Publicize Truman initiatives - Provide more information to the Kirksville community regarding projects at Truman that also impact the community (compost, bulldog biodiesel, rot riders, green thumb, etc.)</p> <p>Cultivate and publicize engagement activities with the GreenTumb Project, the Possibility Alliance, Take Root Café, and other local initiatives.</p> <p>Publicize activities at the Farm; provide more awareness of bulldog biodiesel; co-host sustainability event in late Sept/Oct for week-long celebration of Truman's sustainability i.e., Farm Tour.</p>

Economics and Planning Goals and Initiatives

Category	STARS value	Goals	Initiatives
Coordination & Planning (sustainability coordination, sustainability planning, participatory governance)	8	Strengthen the promotion of sustainability efforts on campus. Provide leadership to ensure related university programs, student organizations, and departments, are active partners in achieving the university's sustainability principles.	Establish a Student Sustainability Office, staffed by student interns, who will work with the President's Sustainability Action Committee to help promote existing programs and efforts, provide information to others on sustainability-related efforts, and assist in inter-organizational communication and coordination. Foster synergy and linkages among various campus constituencies. Update: In progress.
Diversity & Affordability (diversity & equity coordination, assessing diversity & equity, support for underrepresented groups, affordability & access)	10	Support Truman's mission of ensuring access to an increasingly diverse student population. Support the establishment and ongoing activities of the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Council.	Work with the Inclusive Excellence Advisory Council (when formed) to assist them in achieving their strategic objectives.
Investment (committee on investor responsibility, sustainable investment, investment disclosure)	7	Establish a fundraising account for sustainable activities at Truman. Review divestiture options with the Foundation Board on an annual basis.	Explore and secure funding sources for the Student Sustainability Office interns and other efforts identified by the President's Sustainability Action Committee. Monitor the efforts of the Student Government Environmental Affairs committee with regard to divestiture options regarding fossil fuels.
Wellbeing & Work (employee compensation, assessing employee satisfaction, wellness program, workplace health & safety)	7	Participate in efforts that measure employee satisfaction. Promote health and well-being programs with Human Resources, Student Affairs and the President's Wellness Committee.	Promote the goal that all employees should receive at least a living wage. Coordinate appropriate activity associated with the Great Colleges to Work For survey.

Innovation & Leadership Goals and Initiatives

Category	STARS value	Goals	Initiatives
Exemplary Practice (can submit multiple times) or Innovation (can submit only once)	4		