



SUSTAINABILITY

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

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Land Acknowledgement

West Chester University campuses reside within the borders of the traditional homelands of the Lenape Nations. A University Land Acknowledgement is in development in partnership with the Lenape represented by three federally recognized tribal nations: 1) Delaware Nation, Anadarko Oklahoma; 2) Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville Oklahoma; and 3) Stockbridge Munsee, Bowler Wisconsin.

Get Involved



WCU's Sustainability Council

The [Sustainability Council \(SC\)](#) is the premier forum for advancing environmental, social, and economic sustainability at West Chester University. Comprised of students, faculty, staff, and community members, the SC is a volunteer force helping lead WCU in its sustainability efforts, aligning with WCU's Strategic Plan, WCU's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, and the work of WCU's Office of Sustainability.

- The Fall 2022 meetings of the SC will take place on the following Fridays between 1:30-3pm: September 16, October 14, and November 11. All new faculty are welcome to attend.
 - Contact [SC Chair Aliza Richman](#) for more details and/or [click here](#) to receive emails from the SC.
- We encourage new faculty to join the SC, attend monthly meetings, and work with our committees. SC Committees include:
 - Teaching, Learning, & Curriculum
 - Sustainable Food Systems and Green Spaces
 - Transportation
 - Scholarly and Creative Activities
 - Campus Tree Advisory
 - Buildings and Energy
 - Green Fund
 - Zero Waste

Office of Sustainability

The [Office of Sustainability \(OoS\)](#) serves as a resource to faculty, students, staff, and community members on campus for environmental, social, and economic sustainability initiatives.

- Major OoS initiatives include:
 - Implementation of WCU's Carbon Neutrality by 2025 commitment in its [Climate Action Plan](#).
 - Reporting to the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System](#).
 - Planning film and lecture series.

- Contacts:
 - [Bradley Flamm](#), Director (610-436-2053)
 - [Amy Maxcy](#), Administrator (610-436-2736)
 - Office located at 114 West Rosedale Avenue.
- Sign up for the [weekly email newsletter](#) to stay up to date on learning, teaching, and research opportunities.
- Social Media:



Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar

WCU and invited faculty and staff from disciplines such as Chemistry, History, and Economics as well as departments such as Facilities speak about ongoing sustainability-related research, practices, and campus initiatives.

- When? Every Wednesday starting September 7th, 12:00pm to 12:50pm.
- Speakers and topics announced every week in the Office of Sustainability newsletter and the Academic Affairs bulletin.

WCU's Sustainability-Focused Curricula

Do you teach a sustainability-focused course? If so, consider adding it to existing programs in sustainability. They include:

- 18 Credit Minors:
 - [Interdisciplinary Minor in Sustainability and Resilience](#)
 - [Applied Community and Environmental Sustainability \(ACES\) Minor](#)
- 12 Credit Certificate:
 - [Sustainability Pathway Certificate](#). This certificate offers students the opportunity to schedule their general education courses with a concentration on sustainability. To be considered for the pathway certificate, courses must be part of the general education program, either a distributive (e.g., behavioral and social science) or an attribute (e.g., speaking emphasis) course.

WCU Resources

The Gordon Natural Area and Campus Gardens

The Gordon Natural Area (GNA) and WCU Campus Gardens are used for learning, research, and recreation. Faculty from departments all over campus - English and Biology, Geography & Planning, Earth & Space Sciences, and many more - have included time in the GNA and campus gardens as part of their classes.

- Contacts: [Nur Ritter](#), GNA Stewardship Manager (610-436-2722) and the [Campus Gardens Team](#).

Brandywine Project Faculty Workshop

The [Brandywine Project Faculty Workshop](#) promotes sustainability-focused curriculum development. This two-day workshop provides faculty from any discipline a deeper understanding of sustainability and helps faculty incorporate these concepts into their teaching, research, and service. This workshop operates on a two-year schedule with the next iteration scheduled for January 2024.

- Contacts: [Cheryl Wanko](#) and [Michelle Kensey](#)

National and State Organizations/Resources

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#)

- Resources related to curriculum, research, and much more.
- WCU is a member institution and you have *free access* to AASHE resources by registering with your WCU email address.

[Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability \(DANS\)](#)

- Sustainability resources organized by academic discipline.

[Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium \(HEASC\)](#)

- Sustainability resources organized by higher education associations.

Second Nature

- WCU is a signatory to the Carbon Commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate campus contributions to climate change.

Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)

- WCU is a member of PLAN and you have *free access* to the PLAN member hub resources by registering with your WCU email address.

Sustainability, Racial Equity, and Social Justice

Advocates, including West Chester University, have long defined the concept of sustainability in terms of environmental, social equity, and economic components (sometimes referred to as “the three Es”). But many argue that the *social equity* component has been underrepresented in campus initiatives. At WCU, we want to acknowledge this and initiate campus conversations to address it. We invite new and long-time faculty to be part of the dialogue.

- Related resources:
 - AASHE’s [Racial Equity and Social Justice](#) resources
 - Yale Environment 360’s [Environmental Justice](#) resources
 - The Edge Effects series on the [Plantationocene](#)
 - The Sierra Club’s [People and Justice](#) pages
 - The [Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#)

Sustainability and COVID-19

- As the COVID-19 pandemic nears its three-year mark, it continues to impact lives in countless ways, including the work that sustainability advocates and professionals do. AASHE has documented some of the discussions on this topic on their [COVID-19 website pages](#).