

Sustainability on Campus and Beyond



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Minnesota Waste Wise
College and University Sustainability
Workshop
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**What does
“sustainability”
mean?**

What does “sustainability” mean?

**How do you define
sustainability?**

“Sustainability” means:

- **Ecologically sound**
- **Socially just**
- **Economically viable**

Sustainability into Action

- **Develop a plan.**
- **Identify your goals.**
- **Plan will vary depending on your goals.**

Higher Education's Unique Role

“There is no better place than on our college campuses to make the changes in policy, action and learning that can set our entire society on a more sustainable path.”

Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)

www.scup.org

Higher Education's Unique Role

“We have systemic challenges that cannot be addressed by working on only one or two of the multiple, interdependent problems.

As Albert Einstein said, ‘We can’t solve the world’s problems at the level of thinking at which they were created.’

We need ‘out-of-the-box’ thinking—transformative change in thinking, values, and action.”

Higher Education's Unique Role

Why Higher Education?

Five main reasons:

1. Stability and longevity
2. Learning and Research
3. Operations & Policy

Higher Education's Unique Role

Why Higher Education?

Five main reasons:

4. Industry Demand
5. Collaboration

Sustainability on College Campus and Beyond

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

1. Neutralize greenhouse gas emissions
2. Accelerate research and educational efforts to equip society to re-stabilize the earth's climate
3. Provide a forum for sharing information, best practices, case studies

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

President of the institution signs a pledge to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions over time:

1. Complete an inventory.
2. Set target date and interim goals to become climate neutral within 2 years.
3. Take immediate steps to reduce emissions (list of short term actions).
4. Integrate sustainability into curriculum.
5. Make action plan, inventory, and progress reports public by providing them to AASHE.

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American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

“Higher Education has a unique role in America. It has been granted tax-free status, the ability to receive public and private funds, and academic freedom, in exchange for educating students and producing the knowledge that will result in a thriving civil society. For this reason, higher education has a moral and social responsibility to rise to this challenge.”

www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org

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Thank you!