

SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE at Ohio State

▶ Helping Business Build a More Sustainable and Resilient Future For All

The Sustainability Institute at Ohio State was launched in 2019 to help the university solve global sustainability challenges in collaboration with its many stakeholders. The institute brings together the expertise and resources required for world-class research, teaching and outreach to advance society's awareness and adoption of sustainability.

We seek to be a strategic partner to the business community. From the Business Roundtable's recent statement redefining the purpose of a corporation to the Conscious Capitalism movement, today's leading companies realize that a commitment to sustainability results in many benefits, including stronger stakeholder relations, better product innovation, greater operating efficiency, lower risks to health and safety, and enhanced reputation and brand.

The Sustainability Institute helps companies achieve their sustainability goals by:

- catalyzing research that drives innovation and solutions,
- preparing students to help employers transition to a more sustainable future, and
- leveraging the Ohio State campus as a living laboratory to test new ideas.

Catalyzing Research

The Sustainability Institute optimizes the experiences companies have with Ohio State researchers who are leaders in their fields.

- We work with more than 260 affiliated faculty from across the university representing a wide range of disciplines from engineering, natural and physical sciences, and design to public health, behavioral sciences, policy and the humanities.
- We align closely with our fellow Ohio State institutes and centers with specializations including materials research and data analytics.
- Our research program is organized into five areas (see box to right) that anticipate many sustainability priorities of the private sector.

Sustainability Research Priorities at Ohio State



Sustainable Energy



Circular Economy



Healthy Land, Water and Air



Sustainable Resources



Smart and Resilient Communities



Preparing Current and Future Employees

The Sustainability Institute helps companies navigate hundreds of programs at Ohio State to develop and recruit the talent they need to achieve their sustainability goals.

- The institute helps students gain valuable corporate experiences through internships, capstone projects and other engagement, providing potential future employers with opportunities to identify and recruit talent before graduation.
- We develop learning programs, such as a new graduate specialization in sustainable energy (see box to right), that match expected needs by the business community due to market transitions.
- We work with the Fisher College of Business to design training programs for current employees around sustainability topics such as supply chain resiliency.

Testing New Ideas

The Sustainability Institute facilitates opportunities for companies to participate in campus projects to test innovations as part of its commitment to advance sustainability research and learning.

- The institute serves as a “front door” for companies interested in university projects related to carbon emissions, zero waste, water conservation, ecosystems health, healthy foods and other sustainability issues.
- As a “city within a city,” the Columbus campus provides countless opportunities to test concepts and strategies in a controlled learning environment.
- The institute is developing a database of project-based learning opportunities related to sustainability across campus.

For more information, please contact:

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New Sustainable Energy Specialization

With input and support from many industry partners, Ohio State recently won a \$3 million award from the National Science Foundation to create a new graduate specialization to teach skills needed by future employees as energy markets become more decentralized and digitally driven. The Sustainability Institute helped convene and support the research team. Now, an advisory board of energy producers, consumers and others will help guide program development to ensure it addresses the expected needs of industry and government.

