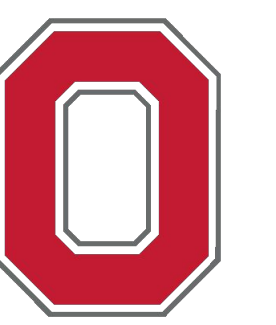




Advancing Sustainability at Ohio State

Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability Capstone Project

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction

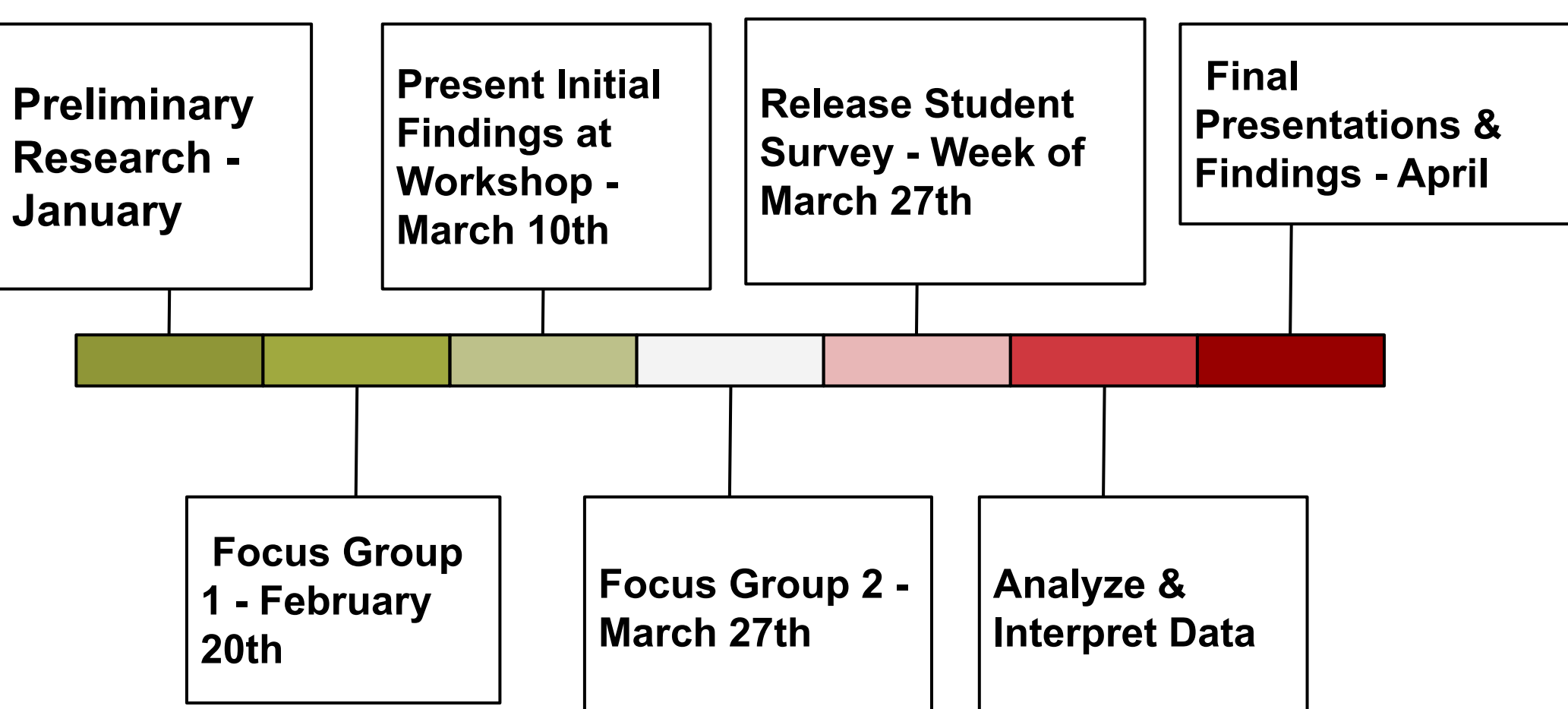
The Ohio State University Sustainability Institute initiative, Advancing Sustainability at Ohio State (ASOS), is creating a comprehensive plan of sustainability at the university. We were tasked with researching curriculum.

We have assisted by:

1. Conducting two focus groups
2. Distributing a campus wide survey

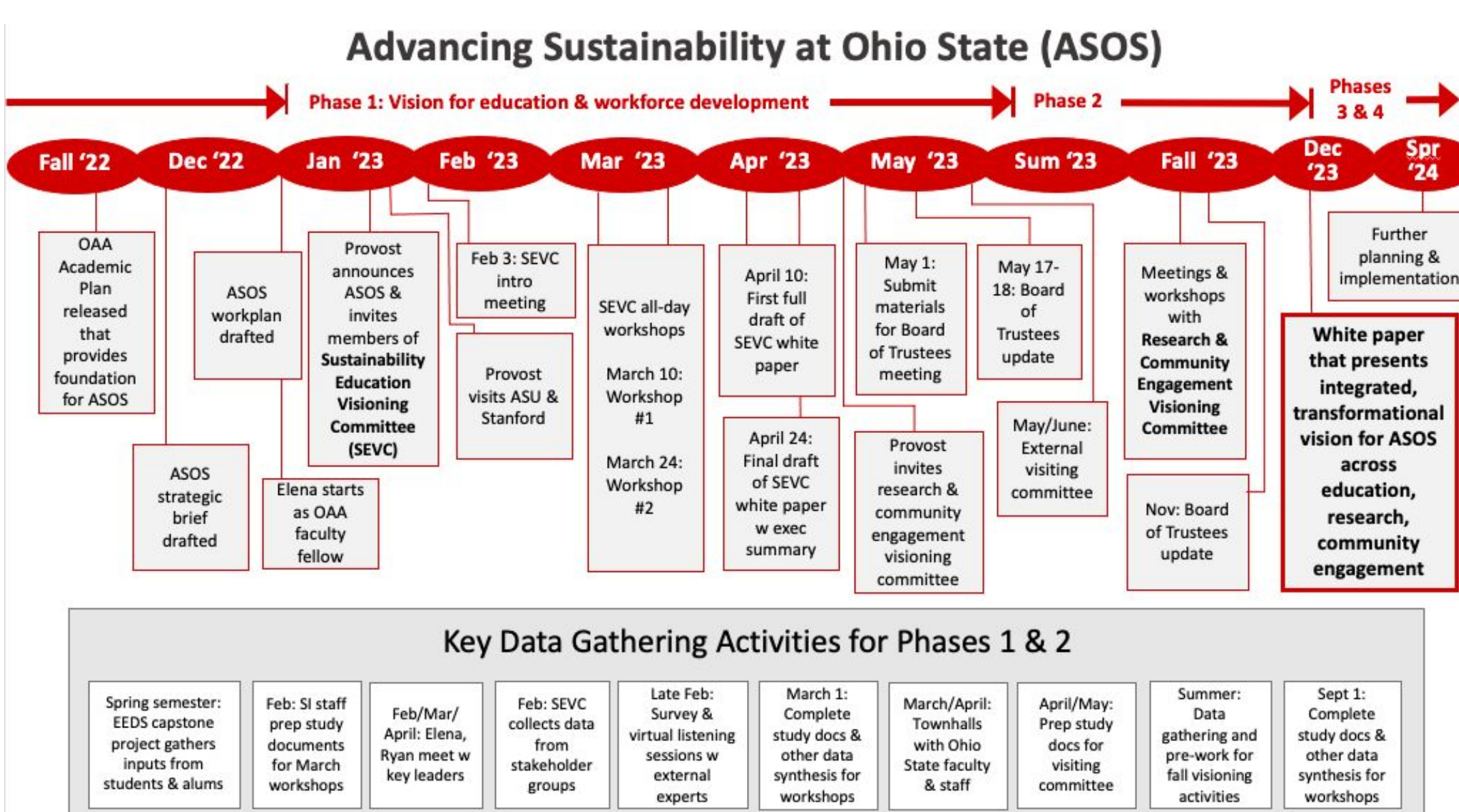
Context

Our Timeline



- We presented preliminary findings from Focus Group 1 to the ASOS Sustainability Education Visioning Committee (SEVC) on **March 10th**.
- We are also presenting synthesized findings from Focus Group 2 and early survey results on **April 21st**.

The ASOS timeline extends beyond our own, having commenced in Fall 2022 and leading to a white paper presentation in December 2023.

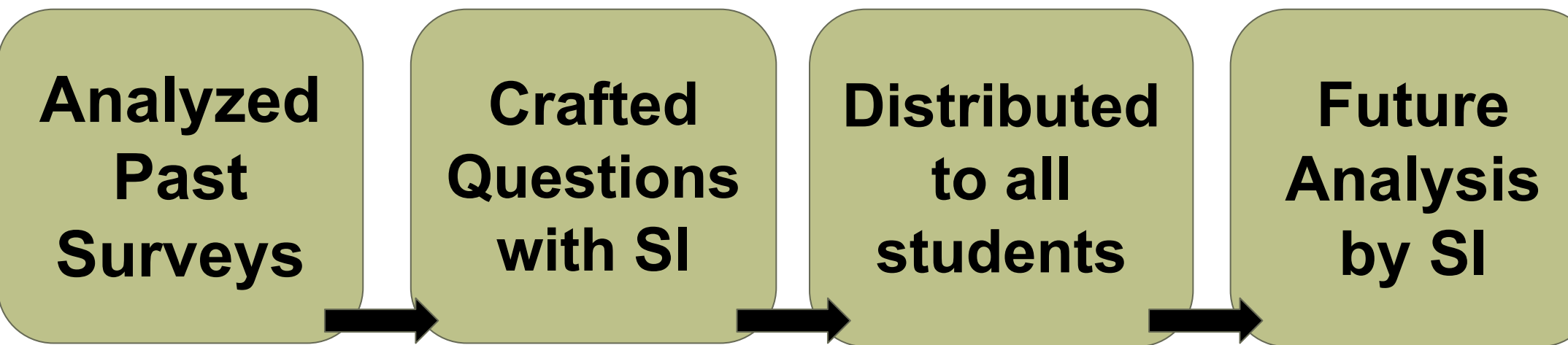


Source: Elena Irwin



Scan the QR Code for our appendix that includes more information and our data results.

Survey



In the future, how would you prefer for Ohio State to integrate sustainability into its curriculum? (select all that apply)

Results from Most Familiar with Sustainability Concepts



Results from Least Familiar with Sustainability Concepts



- Integrate sustainability curriculum into elective courses for all majors
- Develop a required sustainability GE for all majors
- Develop a required sustainability GE that is major specific
- Integrate sustainability curriculum into major course for all majors
- Develop sustainability focused programs for future student enrollment
- Other (please specify in your own words)

Participant Attraction & Selection

Attraction

Focus Groups

- Free Dinner (Chipotle)
- E-Mails
- Flyer (Only group 1)
- Specific group targeting

Survey

- Emails to all OSU students
- Prize drawing for participants

Selection

Focus Group 1:

- 36 responses to our intake survey
- 15 selected
 - Looked for diversity in major, race, age, and gender
 - Those involved in sustainability but had a major outside of SENR were given priority

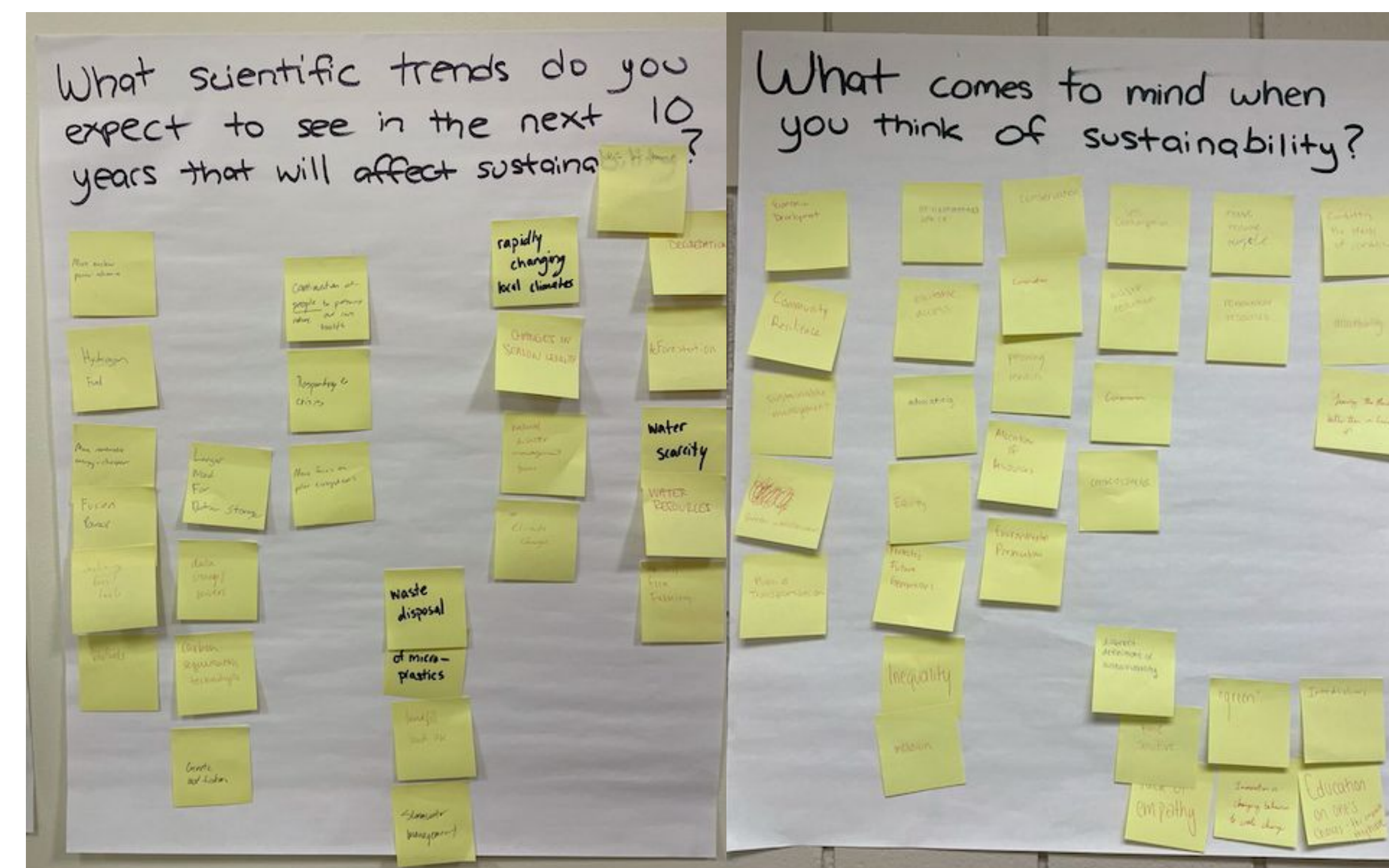
Focus Group 2:

- 9 responses to our intake survey
- All respondents were selected

Focus Group Methods

Student focus groups were held on Monday, February 20th and Monday, March 27th. During each focus group, we engaged students in two ways:

1. Interactive Post-It Note Activity



2. Conversational Q&A Session



Results and Major Themes

01
Lack of Sustainability Accessibility

02
Integrate Sustainability into Courses

03
University Transparency

04
Incentives for Involvement

05
Deeper Career Development

Both Groups

- Integrate sustainability as common sense into existing courses
- Credit for SENR/AEDE classes within other majors
- Noticed decentralization & lack of transparency of sustainability information
- Sustainability treated as niche on campus

Focus Group #1

- Need incentives for widespread involvement in sustainability initiatives
- Desired minimum sustainability standards for OSU's partners

Focus Group #2

- Desire for stronger sustainability career development
 - More certificates
 - More direct alumni network
 - Earlier exploration of career options
- Understood the wider social and political aspects of sustainability

What is not working in terms of Ohio State's sustainability efforts?

"Lack of shared information - we are not on the same page" - Focus Group 1 Participant

"Transparency on goals and progress" - Focus Group 2 Participant

"Disconnect between SENR students efforts and the rest of campus" - Focus Group 2 Participant

In your perfect world, what would Ohio State offer in terms of sustainability education?

"Better advertising for campus sustainability initiatives" - Focus Group 1 Participant

"Integrated sustainability into classes rather than requiring or making new ones" - Focus Group 2 Participant

"Relating all classes to sustainable development goals" - Focus Group 2 Participant

Future Work

- Share our findings and recommendations with SEVC to inform their final white paper draft completed by April 24th.
- **The detailed data analysis of all survey responses is beyond the scope of our project and will be conducted by the Sustainability Institute.**