

**Washington State University**  
**Sustainability Task Force Guidelines**

In accordance with Washington State University's (WSU) Commitment to Sustainability, a Sustainability Task Force shall be established and begin working on goals, policies and initiatives beginning Fall Semester, 2023. The Task Force is committed to providing recommendations to the System Leadership Collaborative (SLC) by the end of the Spring 2024 semester. The task force will include an Executive Committee and sub-committees focused on four core targets: Research, innovation, and creativity; Student experience; Outreach, extension, service, and engagement; Institutional effectiveness and infrastructure. The Executive Committee will include one non-voting Ex-Officio representative for system-wide communications.

- Research, innovation, and creativity:
  - Foster and promote cutting-edge, innovative, and impactful research and solutions that address local, regional, and global sustainability challenges.
- Student experience:
  - Provide transformative learning experiences that successfully prepare students and communities to make significant impacts in a rapidly changing world.
- Outreach, extension, service, and engagement:
  - Encourage and support our students and partner with broader communities in developing skills to lead initiatives that foster sustainable and just futures.
- Institutional effectiveness and infrastructure:
  - Operations- Reduce operational environmental impact with latest technologies; encourage researchers to use campuses and communities as a living laboratory; mandate that all new construction be as carbon-neutral as possible and prioritize replacement of infrastructure to update least carbon-efficient infrastructure first.
  - Administration- Create and facilitate efficient, transparent opportunities and pathways for WSU to make meaningful contributions to a sustainable future locally and globally.
- System Wide Communications (Ex-officio)

Committees shall be comprised of faculty, students, and staff from throughout the WSU system and will focus on core areas for improvement in alignment with the WSU strategic plan serving the entire system and every community we serve.

**Task Force Executive Committee:**

By invitation of the President, the Executive Committee will be comprised of 6-10 individuals from across the system including the Task Force Co-Chairs, administrative support from the President's Office, and Subcommittee leads. The Executive Committee will be responsible for developing guidelines and expectations for subcommittees, and compiling information to develop recommendations for the SLC.

**Task Force Subcommittees:**

Subcommittee members will have expertise or interest in their primary core target area but will collaboratively provide recommendations in all target areas. Community and corporate partners may also be engaged to support the subcommittees. The subcommittees will consist of 8-10 individuals and a lead representative that reports committee progress directly to the Executive Committee.

The subcommittees will provide recommendations on WSU actions or initiatives to advance institutional commitments to sustainability and are aligned with the WSU Strategic Plan. Additionally, the subcommittee will recommend a mechanism to track progress, and propose reasonable timelines.

Consideration for committee membership will be as follows:

*Faculty:* Application to Faculty Senate providing brief overview of area of expertise, and why there is interest in participating. Faculty Senate and Executive Task Force will select faculty based on subcommittee needs.

*Staff:* Recommendations by administration based on an individual's expertise and current involvement in commitment areas. Supervisors will need to approve participation on the task force.

*Students:* Recommendations by Student Involvement via current levels of engagement or role individuals have within ASWSU.

## Commitment to Sustainability at Washington State University

Washington State, as a state-wide institution for higher learning, and committed to our foundation as a land-grant university, is dedicated to pursuit of a sustainable and just future for our System, our partners, and our global neighbors.

The WSU System Strategic Plan, assures a commitment to “the principles of practical education for all, scholarly inquiry that benefits society, and the sharing of expertise to positively impact the state and communities.” It is the obligation of this university as a state-wide institution to embrace this commitment through a **culture** of sustainability and regenerative practices.

The system's strategic plan is built on three guiding principles:

- WSU's educational mission is to help students become more aware, engaged, and creative.
- WSU's scholarly mission is directed toward the betterment of human existence through the uncovering of new information, the discovery of how to use that information to solve problems and the creative expression of the human experience.
- WSU's outreach mission is to serve the needs of Washingtonians by sharing its expertise and helping residents integrate that knowledge into their daily lives.

Within each of these guiding principles, this commitment to sustainability serves to incorporate key areas of focus:

1. **Reduce emissions across the WSU System** throughout all dimensions of operations by both direct reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and indirect actions to reduce goods, services, and activities that contribute to carbon pollution.
2. **Discover, promote, and invest in regenerative practices** that conserve and rebuild natural resources and sustain ecosystem services, via research, academic programs, and extension/outreach.
3. **Build a working culture of sustainability across the WSU system** by engaging with our diverse partners in tribal, extension, and other statewide efforts.

4. **Engage with other land-grant institutions** to rapidly share and disseminate ideas and explore collective actions that promote the reduction of emissions and adopt regenerative practices.