

St. Olaf College
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Committee Charter

Reviewed by Committee: February 15, 2023

PURPOSE

The Environmental Sustainability Committee serves to centralize discussion related to environmental issues, share information on sustainability topics, and promote environmental awareness on campus that leads to collaborative action.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The Environmental Sustainability Committee will:

- Invite and collaborate with students, faculty, and staff to reduce the campus' environmental footprint by leveraging the college mission and using our sense of place in this landscape to live, work, eat, play, perform and engage resources sustainably.
- Promote sustainable energy use, increase efficiencies, and reduce demand such that the College becomes carbon neutral.
- Teach sustainability and environmental justice as a pervasive principle for public good.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Discuss environmental planning and use of college land
 - a. Review sustainable practices in campus construction and renovation
 - b. Review agricultural practices on college land
 - c. Promote the college lands, especially the Natural Lands, as a living, learning laboratory
 - d. Work with local units of government on land use planning (City of Northfield, Bridgewater and Greenvale Townships)
2. Review and discuss campus environment and sustainability policies, practices and metrics
 - a. Energy policies and practices
 - b. Material policies and practices
 - c. Sustainable investment plans of the college
 - d. Health and safety practices and student/faculty/staff training
3. Review other issues as they come up

MEMBERSHIP – All members of the Committee are voting members. Committee members will annually elect a Committee Chair.

- Faculty Representatives – three (3)
Selected by the Faculty Governance Committee; staggered two-year terms to be determined by Faculty
- Student Representatives – two (2)
SGA's Environmental Senator (Ex Officio) and one appointed in consultation with SGA. One-year terms
- Staff Representatives (Ex-officio)
 - Director of Facilities
 - Curator of Natural Lands
 - Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
 - Director of Campus Recreation
 - Director of Environmental Health and Safety

MEETINGS and REPORTING

The Committee will meet as needed, but at least two times per semester. A quorum of any meeting of the Committee shall consist of a majority of members for the purpose of taking any action other than adjourning the meeting. If a quorum of committee members is not present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting.

The committee chair, in collaboration with the Vice President/CFO, shall establish the agendas for meetings. The agenda and any other relevant materials shall be provided to committee members in advance of each meeting. The committee shall maintain minutes of its actions to be published on a committee website. The committee shall also prepare an annual report that is communicated to the Faculty Governance Committee and published on the committee website for access by the broader St. Olaf community.

COMMITTEE CHARTER REVIEW

This charter shall be reviewed regularly by the committee. Approval of substantive revisions to the charter requires a simple majority of voting committee members.